



## Dallas N. "Buzz" Davenport

November 20, 1939 - July 18, 2016

Rye, New Hampshire - Dallas "Buzz" Nathan Davenport, 76, peacefully passed away on Monday, July 18, 2016, surrounded by loved ones.

Dallas entered the world in Akron, Ohio, on November 20, 1939, the first son of the late Eugene and Irene (Snader) Davenport. He was raised in Akron and graduated from Buchtel High School in 1957. Dallas worked his way through the University of Akron as a US Postal Worker, a carhop at the Flagpole Drive-in, and a piano-playing dynamite at honky-tonk bars on Howard Street. As a young adult, Buzz took to the stage in local musical theater and as part of a 4-piece rock-and-roll band.

In 1965, his dancing shoes met their match in Paula Jean Cooper, of Mansfield, Ohio. They married in 1966.

Dallas was a sales-man. In Ohio, he developed and marketed medical products for Faultless Rubber Company and later, for General Tire and Rubber Company. Dallas dramatically improved the products available to patients with ileostomies and colostomies. His position with General Tire brought him to New Hampshire, where he went on to work for Paul Revere selling life and disability products to professionals. In 1968, he and his wife discovered the draw of the ocean and moved to the seacoast where they would raise their family.

When their children were still young, Buzz became a friend of Bill's. That friendship lasted 37 years.

Dallas's risk-taking, entrepreneurial spirit led to his start-up of The Davenport Organisation, founded in 1978, and still existing today. Through this upstairs boutique, he designed one-of-a-kind jewelry pieces, dealt gems across the globe, and shared with the world the beauty of diamonds, fancy-colored diamonds, and colored sapphire.

As his own boss, Buzz had the freedom to pursue his other passions as well. A wielder of

words, he wrote the weekly column “Hard Alternatives” for The Hampton Union, published from 1981-1987. He attended services and sang in the choir at the United Church of Christ in North Hampton. For decades, he shared his inspirational singing at weddings and funerals, in the grocery store and his car, and with the seacoast’s own Funky Divas. Dallas spent the evenings and weekends of 20 years coaching his own children and the seacoast’s kids in soccer as well as in the art of TP-ing. Buzz was a teller of irreverent jokes and a playful flipper of “the bird,” all in the spirit of fun, and right up to his last hours on Earth.

This year marks the 50th year of marriage for him and his wife. Dallas and Paula shared an enduring friendship, a unique attraction of the minds, a loyal partnership, and the sanctified secrets of over 50 years together.

In addition to his wife, Buzz leaves his four children: Joshua Cooper Davenport and his wife Anna of Newmarket; Shannon Davenport Clifford and her husband Jamie of Hampton; Elijah Yoon Davenport and his wife Inkyung of Portsmouth; Isaac Eline Davenport and his wife Kristi of Kittery, Maine; six wacky grandchildren: Eloise, Caroline, Maitri, Moxie, Tatum and Aiden; two brothers, David Davenport and his wife Sandy of Norton, Ohio; Mark Davenport and his wife Robin of Wooster, Ohio; and a gaggle of in-laws, nieces, nephews, and friends. All beloved, of course.

Visiting hours will be on Friday, August 5th, 2016 from 4-7 P.M. at the Remick & Gendron Funeral Home-Crematory, 811 Lafayette Road, Hampton, NH. Services will be held on Saturday, August 6th, 2016 at 11A.M. at the United Church of Christ, 295 Atlantic Avenue, North Hampton, NH. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Shriners Hospitals for Children [https://secure2.convio.net/shfc/site/Donation2?df\\_id=8427&8427.donation=form1&gclid=CPauyaTfp84CFcRkhgodAXoHcQ](https://secure2.convio.net/shfc/site/Donation2?df_id=8427&8427.donation=form1&gclid=CPauyaTfp84CFcRkhgodAXoHcQ)



# Comments

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“ Paula, sending heartfelt prayers for you and your family. Buzz will always hold a special place in my life's memories. Edie Argo

edie argo - August 17, 2016 at 11:21 AM

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“ To Paula and the Davenport Family,

No one knew Dallas Davenport better than his best friend James Lawrence Caraway. Our families were extremely close over the years and Dallas and I go back to grade school-high school and college. "Dallas, with all the things that we have done over our years together, I hope you make Heaven." "If you do, maybe I have a chance someday." I have always considered Dallas as my best friend and we have never lost that bond over the years. Even though we lived miles apart, we always communicated either email or phone. I missed his annual birthday call to me on August 15 when I turned 77 and will always cherish his humor, wit and intelligence. This is extremely hard for me to put into words my love for Dallas, for we were pals for over 70 years. I loved Irene and Gene for they were like my parents. Irene, when her little face got red, Dallas and I knew that we were in trouble. Gene Davenport gave me my first job at the Post Office and that enabled me to graduate from the University of Akron 8.5 years later. Paula, you got great man when you and Dallas met. I remember Dallas speeding around in his Corvette, showing off like all us hot-rods from Akron. At 12 years old Dallas and I were aloud to drive at church and we use to drag race in the Akron Baptist Temple parking lot while our parents were in church. The money we were given to put in the church offering was spend on hot fudge sundaes across the street from the church. For sure we were not saints, did some crazy things, but I cherish each and every memory until the day I join Dallas in Heaven. (I hope).

James Lawrence Caraway  
Baytown, Texas

James Caraway - August 16, 2016 at 07:29 AM



“ Sorry for the loss of your best friend Larry and happy belated birthday. He loved telling us so many great stories about the two of you from over the years.

Elijah - August 17, 2016 at 02:27 PM

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“ I meet Buzz in 2008..He always made me laugh even when I thought I'd never laugh again...He has helped so many friends straighten out their lives...I will always hold a special place in my heart for a beautiful Man... Thanks for sharing Buzz with so many sick and suffering human beings...Thanks for helping me laugh and love again..

**Kim Dodier** - August 06, 2016 at 12:59 PM

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“ I was so sadden to hear about Buzz this morning. We were such good friends for so many years, I can't believe he has past so suddenly. My thoughts and prayers are with Paula and the family. I will truly miss him.

Tim Gilbert

**Tim Gilbert** - August 05, 2016 at 01:18 PM

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“ My thoughts and prayers are with you. May Buzz rest in peace.

Kathleen Collyer (Ward)

**Kathleen** - July 25, 2016 at 04:06 PM

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“ Dear Paula,

I have known Buzz ever since I was a little girl sitting in the pews at North Hampton Congregational Church listening to the choir. Buzz's amazing voice accompanied and often carried the songs. Later in life, I married. All I wanted was to be married in my childhood church and to have Buzz and the choir sing. Although they had never been asked to sing at a wedding, they accommodated. I asked Buzz for a solo. Well, not only did he sing for us, he went out of his way to choreograph an upbeat version of "Just a Closer Walk With Thee". He stood on the balcony in the back of the church and sang, while the choir echoed from the alter. WOW! Everyone was tapping their feet, clapping their hands, and even singing it on the way out of the church!!!

Just two years ago, I lost my dad. He and Buzz did business together, and my dad always respected his investment advice. I called on Buzz to sing that song, one more time.

Without hesitation, Buzz said, "certainly". He came to the service at Remick's, sat in the back, and delivered a more somber, yet beautiful, rendition of "Just a Closer Walk With Thee". I so appreciated that.

Buzz had a way to make everyone around him feel good. He was a very thoughtful and generous man.

Paula, please know that my heart breaks for you. 49 years of marriage and a beautiful family is a blessing, but it is so hard to say good bye.

I hope that knowing that Buzz is absolutely walking very close to our lord gives you comfort.

With love, Linda LaPorta

Linda LaPorta - July 25, 2016 at 03:35 PM

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“ Dear Paula and family:

When we moved to the Seacoast in the early 1990s, our third grader son Casey wanted to play soccer. The teams were chosen randomly and we were notified the coach was Buzz Davenport. I remember waiting with Casey and his younger brother Tyler in the Rye Soccer Field parking lot when this old Jeep rumbled in and a bigger-than-life Santa Claus look-alike gets out and begins directing his son Isaac and any other kid in earshot to unload the balls, cones and water out of the car. When I introduced myself, I asked: "Do you need any help?" Buzz said, "Do you know anything about soccer?" I answered: "Not much." "Great, you're the guy I'm looking for." And, that began a terrific on and off the soccer field relationship for the next six or so years. I coached youth baseball and basketball in Rye in those same years. If you only had two words to describe me and most of the other coaches in those sports it would be "huge egos". We somehow thought the Rye leagues were part of the NBA or the Majors and coached with a "gotta win", "near life or death" mentality. Buzz was the anti-thesis of this style. He knew the game, taught it well, used a mistake on the field as a means to instruct, but seldom allowed a negative thought or its partner, emotion, to ruin the reason the game was the game: "Fun". This energy was contagious and the kids paid him the ultimate complement: They loved him. I only saw Buzz once or twice a year over the last decade but we always greeted each other in the moment like we were together yesterday. When I think of him now, a smile forms on my face. I know his body is gone, but the legacy of love for his family and all of us lives. I so honor that.  
May your grief be short.

Sincerely,  
The Shingleton Family  
Michael, Bonnie, Casey and Tyler

Michael Shingleton - July 25, 2016 at 12:38 PM

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“ Dear Paula and family, although we left Rye 23 years ago, we'll always hold you, Buzz and your family dear to our hearts. We extend our deepest condolences to all of you. God bless!  
Barbara & Bill Buchawiecki

Barbara Buchawiecki - July 25, 2016 at 08:39 AM

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“ Hi Paula and family...you (Paula) may remember me and my mom...Norma Gill-Thompson...from the days when Buzz worked for the rubber company that manufactured ostomy products. I remember him coming to our home along with other manufacturers' reps to discuss new product innovations with mom. One day he took me for a ride in his new Corvette and scared the heck out of me! I have often wondered how you both were and am so sorry for your loss. I just wanted to tell you how much I thought of Buzz and you and know your wonderful family will help you get through this. Warm regards, Sally Gill-Thompson.

**Sally Thompson** - July 24, 2016 at 06:42 PM

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“ I attended Crouse Grade School, West Jr. High and Buchtel High School with Buzz. He was always a great friend and very funny to be around. Always the life of the party. We sat together at our 50th Class Reunion and had a good time reminiscing I was really looking forward for our 60th Reunion in 2017 and hoped he would attend. I frequently sent him emails on various subjects.

Sincere Condolences to his Family.



**Arnie Krause** - July 24, 2016 at 10:32 AM



“ KNEW BUZZ WAY BACK WHEN( IN AKRON), WHEN WE WOULD HANG OUT @ THE "WHITEHOUSE" IN PORTAGE LAKES...BUZZ WOULD BANG OUT ROCK & ROLL TUNES ON THE PIANO, & EVERYONE WOULD SING ALONG ! GREAT MEMORIES, & A GREAT GUY ! DICK HART

**DICK HART** - July 26, 2016 at 02:42 PM



“ Paula and the entire Davenport Family,

My sincere condolences upon hearing of "Buzz's demise. I would like to share two thoughts that have helped me through times of loss. The first thought is by- Nancy Byrd Turner and is entitled "Death Is A Door." It reminds me of Paula and my grandmother's home in Norwalk, OH.

"Death is a Door"

Death is only an old door  
 Set in a garden wall  
 On gentle hinges it gives, at dusk  
 When the thrushes call.  
 Along the lintel are green leaves  
 Beyond the light lies still;  
 Very willing and weary feet  
 Go over that sill.  
 There is nothing to trouble any heart;  
 Nothing to hurt at all.  
 Death is only a quiet door.  
 In an old (garden) wall."

and the second thought parallels that idea. It is by Vigo:

"Death is but a doorway, time is but a window, I'll be back".

I remember so vividly Buzz's booming laugh and larger than life personality; He will be missed by all who ever had the privilege of getting to know him. Forty nine years of marriage appears to be a long time, but perhaps not long enough to capture all the "Buzz" memories. Treasure those memories for someday you will sit by a warm New England fire remembering and these moments remembered and most of all shared... will bring a smile to wipe away today's tears.

With loving thoughts, from your cousin, Bonnie Berkley Pigman

**Bonnie Berkley Pigman** - July 28, 2016 at 11:25 AM



“ Paula - The heart will go on....deepest sympathy, love and peace to you and your family.  
Pat O'Keefe

**Pat** - August 01, 2016 at 07:28 PM



“ Dear Paula and Family,

Paula, back in the early 80's you may recall you and Buzz came

into my family's life through the United Church of Christ when

things were not so good. I think I was

18 when I met you and Buzz and things were pretty much

upside down for me and I guess you could say that I was "at

risk". I was accepted and attended UNH in the fall of 1980 but

struggled very much. At some point over the next year Buzz

invited me to go out to lunch and to speak with him about what

was going on in my life. I have no doubt that my Mom, whose

life at that time I believe that Buzz saved, arranged that

meeting. I told Buzz that I saw an opportunity to work in

Yellowstone park that coming summer and that I was

interested. He told me that, " It's settled then and that was

what I was going to do." Buzz told me that I was going to fly to

Denver Colorado, stay with friends of his and hitchhike to

Yellowstone Park! I was shocked but very curious. I had never

been on a plane and certainly not hitchhiked. As it turns

out, I did all the things that Buzz laid out in this plan and the trip and summer was a turning point for me in my life. What I will never forget though was the way that he got involved with my family and I, as though it was what he was supposed to do. His commanding presence and booming voice made you sit up and take notice. His confidence and positive attitude will always be the strongest memory for me. I mentioned earlier that I feel as though Buzz saved my mothers life in the early 80's. She was a determined person but was headed for a dark place. She never said it much but I know she loved him and was forever thankful. The last time I saw him was at her funeral. I am very sad at his passing but thankful for having known him and how he touched my life.

God Bless you Buzz!

My sincerest condolences to you and your family Paula.

- Stan Martin

**Stan Martin** - August 04, 2016 at 12:19 PM



“ Paula, Shannon and the family,  
I am so sorry for your loss. The memories are so many and rich, they exceed what I can say here.

Woody and Judy Sponaule

**Woody Sponaule** - August 05, 2016 at 07:54 AM



“ Knew Buzz at Buchtel High School and sang with him. So sorry to hear he has passed.  
Nancy Flee McCormick

**Nancy Flee McCormick** - August 12, 2016 at 09:35 AM