



## James "Buster" Mondello

July 6, 1917 - January 27, 2011

Memorial services for Mr. James F. "Buster" Mondello, 93 of Henderson, Texas will be 2:00 p.m., Monday, January 31, 2011 at the Hawthorn Funeral Home Chapel with Father Michael Adams and Rev. Sarah Barbaree officiating. Mr. Mondello died January 27, 2011 in Henderson, Texas. Mr. James Frank "Buster" Mondello was born January 6, 1917 in Woburn, Massachusetts. He was one of five children born to the marriage of Francesco "Frank" and Ethel Koulos Mondello. Buster was raised in the Catholic faith and attended schools in Boston, Mass. Somewhat of a musical prodigy he started early performing in speakeasies with his father at the age of 13. A gifted musician he served his country through the U.S. Army playing in a stage band and later the USO in Texarkana where he met Jamie Faye Brown. Buster and Jamie married November 18, 1946 and celebrated 63 years together before she preceded him in death in 2010. His career lead him to play with the Buzz Messner Trio, Mal Hallett Orchestra, Scotty Holmes Orchestra, radio showspots and years of professional studio work as well as the Petroleum Club of Longview for many years. Buster is also preceded in death by his sister Dorothy.

He is survived by his sons, Vincent Mondello and wife Karen of Longview, Gregory Mondello and wife Debbie of Austin, brother, Frankie Mondello of Florida, sisters, Lillian Hanley of Mass, Patricia Manzo of Mass, six grandchildren, Christina Sharretts and husband Kenneth of Austin, Meredith Mondello of Austin, Erica Renee Mondello of Austin, Jannice Hyden and

husband Brian of Austin, Jessica Dickenson and husband Josh of Austin,  
Joshua Futrell and wife Michelle of Austin, five great grandchildren, numerous  
nieces, nephews and a host of friends.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Il mio nome e ANGELO CINCAVALLI abbitavo pochi passi dalla casa di BASTER, ricordo una persona stupenda , quando parlavamo eravamo sempre allegri con tante risate una bravissima persona che non dimentichero piu ,Ciao BASTER una preghiera per te.*

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**Angelo Cincavalli** - May 02, 2023 at 05:17 AM



“ I grew up always knowing Buster, he and our Dad(Eddie Axberg) played music all over East Texas after War. Our dad a piano-man an Buster a bass-man were always in demand everywhere. The Petroleum Club was mentioned in Buster's Obit., it was an awesome club.

The back over-looking Lake Lamond, my brother Jim an I would hang out the back and feed the ducks(late '50's) while dad and Buster would rehearse with the band.

When I was in Longview High Stage Band('68) Buster would drop by and offer pointers to the rhythm section.

When I as in college at KJC, Jim and I had a band working at the Holiday Inn-The Captian's Cove, 6 nights a week. Buster would come by and listen( still giving pointer). He was a major influence in our lives.

In the '70's Dad operated the Shakey's Pizza Parlor...he played piano and Buster was "The Banjo-man" that drew crowds in every weekend.

In the mid-eighty's Bobby Waldron had the Levee Club, he booked out dad-piano, Buster-banjo, Art Sweeney- trumpet, Ron Shepherd sax and me- drums. He named the band "The Joplin Street Ramblers" to play an afternoon matinee. It brought in every "blue-haired" fan of theirs from miles around Longview. I nick-named them the "GOD-FATHER'S OF SWING", they played more Big Band tunes than Dixie-Land.

In '95 our Dad turned 80 yrs old, we had a jam session/pizza party that Buster and Art came to help celebrate.

Our Dad just had his 95th birthday we invited Buster...Vincent said he'd try, but was having good and bad days. I never got to see Buster again. I have great memories though.

Buster loved to sing and entertain, he was a master of both. He always had a joke...usually one that would start out fast and get faster, until he was laughing before the punch-line. That would erupt in to laughfter that you didn't know what you were laughing at.

There will never be another "Buster" Mondello...he was a Class-Act. If you didn't get to meet him, you just missed out! From all the Axberg Family to all of the Mondell Family thanks for sharing Buster

*with us.##imported-begin##John Claude Axberg##imported-end##*

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February 08, 2011 at 04:29 PM



“ *We are going to miss him.  
He was the Greatest.  
He was always Happy & upbeat With A great sense of humor & Lots  
of Love.##imported-begin##Eddie Mondello##imported-end##*

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February 05, 2011 at 10:43 PM



“ *I am personally saddened by the passing of Buster Mondello. My  
husband and I , along with many of our friends, were in regular  
attendance when Buster and Eddie played at Shakey's Pizza Parlor  
in Longview. They gave us a lot of enjoyment as we stayed until  
closing time many weekends.*

*In addition, I was Jamie's hairdresser for several years.*

*Our sympathyes are with you at your loss.*

*Morris and Judy Pierson Williams##imported-begin##Judy  
Williams##imported-end##*

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February 05, 2011 at 06:14 PM



“ *My sweet dear Brother  
From the baby of our family. Buster was the oldest and I was the youngest. The 2 blonde, blue eyed children of Ethel & Frank. May you rest in peace. I am sure you are there playing with the Mondello Band at the Dance Hall in the sky. What a sound that must be. Toots, Uncle Victor, Daddy and all the other Mondello musicians with a few East Bostonians Joe White, Sonny Dee, Johnny Guitar & so many others you played with all these years. Play one for all of us left behind. I am sure the Angels Chorus and Gabriel will want to add their talents to the melody.  
RIP  
Love  
Pattie###imported-begin###Patricia (Mondello) Manzo###imported-end##*

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February 04, 2011 at 11:23 AM



“ *I work at a dr's office in Henderson. I always loved to see Buster (he wouldn't let us call him Mr. Mondello) come in. It would always brighten my day to see him. I loved for him to sing me a song...and he always would. He was a very special soul.###imported-begin###Susie Grigsby###imported-end##*

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February 02, 2011 at 07:39 PM



“ *Dear Vince,  
We went to school together in Henderson many years ago and I wanted to say how sorry I am at the death of your father. My father died in 1994 at the age of only 56, you were very blessed to have had your mom and dad till their 90's. God's blessing upon you and yours, Connye###imported-begin###Connye Poovey Guy###imported-end##*

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February 02, 2011 at 11:24 AM



“ Dear Mondello Family,  
I was sorry to read of Buster's death. He was a very good friend to my dad (Bob Green), especially after my mom's death. Buster took time to call and visit Daddy on so many occasions, and after Daddy moved to an assisted living home, Buster still came by and even took him out for rides and just to talk. I was fortunate enough to be a part of some of their conversations centered around the early days in East Texas and the music they played. The stories were so much fun, and the men really seemed to enjoy revisiting the good old days. I appreciated all the things he did for my dad, and wanted you to know that your family is in my thoughts. Buster will be sadly missed.##imported-begin##Cathy Kovschak##imported-end##

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February 01, 2011 at 11:35 PM



“ My heart goes out to Buster's family. He was a very dear man. He came to visit the Hospice Shoppe often. He was a ray of sunshine. He would sing to me and the voluteers and always had a joke. Buster would also save me a seat next to him at church. I am proud to have know him.##imported-begin##Cathy Oliver##imported-end##

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February 01, 2011 at 10:28 AM



“ I am also Adeline Mondello's granddaughter. (Frank Mondello's sister).  
I just want to say that Buster was a wonderful and sweet person. I kept in touch with him for many years after uncle Frank and aunt Ethel passed. He was fun loving and always had something to say. I will miss him and will always keep his memory close to my heart.##imported-begin##Adriane Iasbarrone Fitzpatrick##imported-end##

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February 01, 2011 at 07:02 AM



“ To The Mondello Family: I'm so sorry for yall's loss. I remember Mr Buster from going to Kroger picnics with my grandmother. My grandmother was Gloria Mayfield. She worked at Kroger with Mrs. Jamie. My grandmother thought a lot of them both. If I'm not mistaken I think he played a harmonica for my brother and I. May God be with you all.##imported-begin##Morgan Dailey Christian##imported-end##

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January 31, 2011 at 08:33 PM



“ To the Mondello Family,

You don't know me, but I am your cousin. My grandmother Adeline Mondello Decristoforo was Buster's aunt. She was Frank Mondello's sister. I wanted to express my condolences for Buster's passing. I only met him a few times many years ago, but I remember him as a very sweet and fun loving man. May he rest in peace.##imported-begin##Marguerite (Iasbarrone) Cambria##imported-end##

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January 31, 2011 at 04:50 PM



“ just wanted to let ya'll know that buster was always a big upbeat whenever he came into the shop and get his haircut and "always" had a really good story to tell or something to show.

*Anthony Clifton*

*Clifton's Barber Shop###imported-begin###anthony clifton###imported-end##*

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January 31, 2011 at 01:39 PM



“ *Uncle Buster,*  
*You and Auntie Jamie were never far from my thoughts all these years. May God hold you both in his arms as he brings you back together again.*

*Your Niece Francine (Mondello) Mazzeo & Family*

*Revere, Ma.###imported-begin###Francine Mondello###imported-end##*

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January 30, 2011 at 08:23 PM



“ I GUESS BUSTER KNEW ME SINCE THE DAY I WAS BORN....MOMMA TOLD ME ABOUT WHEN WE LIVED IN THE SOUTH GREEN TRAILER PARK, AND BUSTER AND JAMIE WERE CLOSE FAMILY FRIENDS. AS I GREW UP IN LONGVIEW,..I'D SEE BUSTER AROUND AND HE ALWAYS PICKED ME UP WITH HIS STORIES AND JOKES. AS A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT WE ALL GATHERED AT SHAKEY'S PIZZA AFTER THE FOOTBALL GAMES TO SING ALONG WITH BUSTER & EDDIE. SOMEWHERE ALONG ABOUT 93? MY OLDEST DAUGHTER AND I ATTENDED THE CHARITY BALL AND SHE GOT TO MEET HIM, TOO. HE WAS PLAYING WITH BUZZ. HE'D BE PROUD TO KNOW MY SONS ARE BOTH DEEP INTO MUSIC....I HOPE THE PAIN OF HIS LEAVING EASES QUICKLY AND YA'LL REMEBER THE FUN TIMES! BUSTER WAS ALWAYS A TREAT FOR ME TO GET TO TALK TO....ONE OF KIND! THANKS BUSTER!!##imported-begin##CARL DAVID "DAVE" BAKER##imported-end##

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January 30, 2011 at 06:26 PM



“ *Greg and Vinnie*  
*you are in our thoughts and prayers.*  
*“When someone you love becomes a memory, the memory becomes a treasure. “##imported-begin##Bryan Brennon##imported-end##*

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January 30, 2011 at 08:10 AM