



Joda Bess

August 9, 2009

Joda Lee Bess, proud husband, father and grandfather and long standing businessman in southeast Missouri, died August 9, 2009 at his home. With his family surrounding him, Joda went peacefully home to be with his heavenly Father. Joda was born November 20, 1927 in Blodgett, Missouri. His parents, Mary and Joda William Bess, moved to Poplar Bluff, Missouri in the fall of 1927 to establish a fresh fruit and vegetable business, Bluff City Produce Company. Joda grew up in Poplar Bluff on the corner of Tremont and Mill Streets with his brother, Buddy; and sisters, Betty and Dianne. On a beautiful autumn day, Joda married Charlotte Arlene Frueh on October 1, 1960 at Holy Cross Episcopal Church in Poplar Bluff. Each year on his wedding anniversary Joda would remark that October 1 was the luckiest day of his life. Joda graduated from Poplar Bluff High School in 1946. Joda served a two year stint in the U.S. Army Engineering Division and attended Southeast Missouri State University. Joda's true education occurred in the produce markets of St. Louis and on beer delivery trucks in southeast Missouri as he worked at Bluff City Beer and Produce Company with his grandfather, William; father, Joda William; uncle, Herschel; and brother, Buddy. In 1958, Joda moved to West Plains, Missouri where he owned J & L Distributing. Joda and Charlotte returned to Poplar Bluff in 1966 to work again with family at Bluff City Beer Co. In 1972, Joda and Charlotte moved to Cape Girardeau, Missouri. Bluff City Beer Co. remains in the Bess family today and is managed by Joda's children, David and Kathy; and by his nephew, Billy Bess; and his niece,

Margaret Ann Guettermann. Joda took great pride in being a business owner and the relationships built through the beer business were a big part of Joda's life. Joda believed that a glass of cold beer was one of life's simple pleasures and that a day spent on a delivery truck was an honest day's work of which a man could be proud. Joda was a past member of the Miller Brewing Company's Distributor Council, National Beer Wholesalers Association and a past president of the Missouri Beer Wholesalers Association. Joda served on the boards of the Cotton Exchange Bank in Kennett, Missouri, and the Commerce Bank of Cape Girardeau. Joda held many positions at Christ Episcopal Church and most recently served on the vestry council. After fifty years in the beer business, Joda retired from Bluff City Beer Co. in 1999. To the amazement of his family, Joda became an involved and vibrant grandfather to Joda Keith and James. No adventure was too big or too small for Grandpa. He read stories to his grandsons and rocked them and chauffeured them and lectured them and fed them and loved them with his whole heart. As his grandsons grew older, Joda even became a soccer enthusiast and a basketball fan. Joda was at his very best with his grandsons, and they will carry Joda's lessons and love for them through time. Joda is survived by his wife of forty nine years, Charlotte (Frueh) Bess; two children, Kathy (Keith) Holloway and David Bess of Cape Girardeau; one sister, Dianne (Tom) Sites of Blackwater, MO; and two grandchildren, Joda Keith and James Holloway of Cape Girardeau. Joda was preceded in death by his parents, Mary Margaret (Smith) and Joda William Bess; his brother, Alvin H. "Buddy" Bess and one sister, Betty Bess. Friends may call 9 to 11 AM, Wednesday, August 12, 2009 at First Presbyterian Church. A memorial service will be held at 11 AM at the church with the Rev. Bob Towner officiating. During his lifetime, Joda supported Christ Episcopal Church, Trinity Lutheran School and Notre Dame Regional High School. The family requests that in lieu of flowers to consider a donation to any of these wonderful institutions.

Tribute Wall

BM

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with your family during this time of loss. Losing such a close family member is hard and this is a time to rely on your Christian faith. Keep those great memories in your heart and mind.

Bud and Becky McMillan - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BM

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Bud and Becky McMillan - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

PD

“ sorry to hear about joda, was out of town last week just saw on line.

phil davis patti jo davis - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

FW

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. May you find comfort in your happy memories.

Frank and JoAnne Wylie and Kati Wylie - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RC

“ Charlotte, Kathy, Keith, David, Joda Keith, and James: I know our life will be less joyful without the physical presence of Joda Lee. We were truly blessed to receive his love and friendship. I also know you never really lose someone you love because their memory comes to visit often. Death cannot win because it cannot take our memories. All of you are in my thoughts and prayers. Love, Rhonda

Rhonda Campbell - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ My brother Jack Weeks and I send our deepest sympathy to the family. Jack has many fond memories of Joda in their younger years in Poplar Bluff.

Jamie Ruth (Weeks) Stone - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BB

“ Our condolences to Charlotte and the Bess Family...Joda was a good friend. Bill and Shirley Brown

BILL BROWN - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

GW

“ We will miss you so much. you have been a good friend and it was always a pleasure to visit with you.our memories of you are delightful.goodby good friend.

george and emma wright - December 08, 2009 at 12:00 AM

GH

“ David and Kathy and the Bess Family : I am deeply Sorry For the lose, If their is anything i can do Please Let me Know God Bless

Greg Haas - December 08, 2009 at 12:00 AM

KG

“ *Kathy, my heart goes out to you and your family with the loss of your beloved father... with much love and sincerity.*

Kathy Pledger Gregory - December 08, 2009 at 12:00 AM

PD

“ *Charlotte, Kathy and David, So many years and so many memories. We will remember all of them with a smile on our face. What a wonderful man. He will be greatly missed. We love you all, Patrick and Leslie Downey*

Patrick and Leslie Downey - December 08, 2009 at 12:00 AM

PB

“ *Charlotte, Kathy & David you are in our thoughts & prays. Joda was such a inspiration to all of us, he was be missed.*

Paul & Tammi Babcock - December 08, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MH

“ *Bess Family, Please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers, that the Lord will be your comfort and strength. You were truly blessed with Joda's life and love and I pray that your memories of him will sustain you in the coming days. Peace and blessings, Michael Hutchins (classmate of Kathy Bess'*

Michael Hutchins - December 08, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ *Kathy and Keith, we both have experienced the loss of a father. Emotions surface at the strangest times. Please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers as you adjust to life without Joda. He has left a remarkable impact on all who were fortunate enough to get to know him. Our condolences to Charlotte as well. Sincerely, Jay and Ruth Ann Brickell*

Jay and Ruth Ann Brickell - December 08, 2009 at 12:00 AM

RW

“ *Kathy and family my thoughts and prayers are you. Kathy your father was a great man and one that I know you looked up to for years. God Bless and stay strong. Robin Williams*

Robin Williams - December 08, 2009 at 12:00 AM

LE

“ *Loyd and I are so sorry to hear about Joda's passing he was a very special man and will be missed by our entire family. We will be thinking of you all.*

Loyd and Jayne Ervin - December 08, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DD

“ *Sending my condolences to the family. We never lose a loved one, We gain an angel. God Bless you all & you are in my prayers*

Deb Dodd - December 08, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JL

“ *A great next door neighbor on Hildale Circle for the 20 years we lived there. Our condolences to the family...*

Joe and Sue Lincecum - December 08, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MH

“ Kathy and family - My thoughts and prayers are with you. Joda had a full and joyful life. May his joy now bring you peace.

Michelle Hepper - December 08, 2009 at 12:00 AM

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“ Kathy and family - My thoughts and prayers are with you. Joda had a full and joyful life. May his joy now bring you peace. (classmate of Kathy's)

Michelle Fraser Hepper - December 08, 2009 at 12:00 AM

KM

“ Kathy and family sending blessings and condolences over the loss of your father. May God be with You. (a central high classmate)

Kelli McMackins-Stewart - December 08, 2009 at 12:00 AM

RH

“ Joda Lee and I were friends in High School and my Aunt Esther worked for the Bess family for some time. Joda Lee was a truly warm people loving gentleman. I had not seen him in 50 years but time does not dim friendship.

Richard L. Halferty - December 08, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MB

“ Kathy and your family is in my thoughts and prayers. It is never easy to lose a loved one especially our dads.

Mendi Engleman Black - December 08, 2009 at 12:00 AM

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Mendi Engleman Black - December 08, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DP

“ *david and family, i am so sorry to hear about your dad. you are in my thoughts and prayers.*

debbie and chuck pobst - December 08, 2009 at 12:00 AM

RG

“ *Joda will be sadly missed not only by my wife and myself but by all the employes for Bluff City Beer. I work out of the Herky warehouse and will miss talking with him at the company Christmas party this year. I remember how hard he laughed last year when I showed him my Miller Lite Tattoo on my arm. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Bess family,(Kathy David). Russ and Tara Grayson*

Russ and Tara Grayson - December 08, 2009 at 12:00 AM

CM

“ *The entire Mirgeaux family sends its condolences.*

Chris&Rhonda Mirgeaux - November 08, 2009 at 12:00 AM

KB

“ *Charlotte, Kathy & David, Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time. Joda was a very special person. Loved by all. God Bless, Kathy and Danny Barks*

Kathy & Danny Barks - November 08, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ Bess family, My deepest condolences to you all. Joda was a true gentleman. I enjoyed my visits with him during my career at Cedar Street. He was always quick to smile and share a story. The world has lost one of the "good ones"! God bless you all Beth "Spike" Seabaugh

jBeth "Spike" Seabaugh - November 08, 2009 at 12:00 AM

WS

“ My sincere condolence for your loss but thanks be to God that we also know the joy of having one more soul in heaven. He was such a sweet, wonderful person. It was such a joy to have him join us for field trips, etc. at school. Those are special memories for me. May God grant you His peace and love to help you through this loss.

Wanda Steffens - November 08, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DP

“ Dear Bess and Hollaway Family, Our sincere condolences for your loss. Mr. Bess was no doubt a great man, father and grandfather. He was always so positive and happy when we were around him. He was so diligent in bringing James and Joda to lessons and always seemed to enjoy listening to the boys piano lessons and recitals (especially the Christmas recitals). You are in our prayers. Sincerely, Don, Janet and Lucas Presson

Don, Janet & Lucas Presson - November 08, 2009 at 12:00 AM

AB

“ Mom and I would like to send our sympathies to Joda's family. Mom got to meet Joda when she was putting in the phones to the Bluff City Beer Building in Cape. She always told me what a treat it was to talk to Joda. I didn't get to meet Joda because Mom and I moved up north because of her job. But I did get to talk to Billy earlier this year. From what my grandpa, A. Keith Bess and mom have said Joda was a good man and he will be missed by many. Mom and I will keep you in our prayers.

Andrew Keith Bess and Debra Bess Bailey - November 08, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MC

“ David, Charlotte and family, our whole crew is saddened at the passing of Joda. I know you have a heavy heart because it is tough to let go of someone you love so much. He did enjoy a good life and has a great family to show for it. As hard as I try to ease your sadness, words have little affect but they will have to do for now because I am unable to give you a hug. Hugs help lots of things. May God continue to bless you and your family. If there is anything any of us can do for any of you please ask. Mike

Mike & Cheryl Crouch - November 08, 2009 at 12:00 AM

RF

“ We are sad to know that Joda has left us to be with the Lord. We have such a deep respect and appreciation for him and know that our lives and the lives of our children are better as Joda gave Bob the opportunity to be a team member. We are forever grateful for our friendship with Joda, Charlotte and the entire Bess family. Each of you have our deepest sympathy. The Robert Berck family

Robert, Jennifer Berck and family - October 08, 2009 at 12:00 AM