



John Cameron Gezel

September 20, 1946 - November 15, 2011

John Cameron Gezel, age 65, of Livingston, Texas passed away on November 15, 2011 after a courageous battle of fighting chemotherapy/radiation complications at in Pharr, TX.

He was born September 20, 1946, in Oskaloosa, Iowa, and grew up in Pella, Iowa, a Dutch community. After graduating Pella High School in 1964, he attended American Institute of Business (AIB) in Des Moines, Iowa, in the field of computer programming/data processing.

In February 1966, he entered the Air Force and served in Denver, CO, Texas, and Little Rock Air Force Base. He served with the Air Force for 3 years, 10 months. He was a member of the American Legion Post #89 of Pella, Iowa.

He was a Senior Systems Analyst for 40 years in his career in computer programming with BNSF Railway (formerly Burlington Northern). Prior to that, he worked for C&S (Colorado & Southern) Railroad. He enjoyed helping any and all that he worked with. They would always look to him for assistance and he gladly gave it.

Having retired in 2005, he and his wife, Sherry sold their home and pursued their dream of travelling full-time in their motor home (RV). He loved to travel and meet new people. John enjoyed seeing his children and grandchildren.

He wanted them to share in his knowledge of life. He was their protector. John taught them how to fish and put on worms even instead of fishing himself. He was everyones handyman and enjoyed fixing things around the house. If there was a stubborn problem, he always figured it out. Other hobbies he had throughout his life were, boating, water skiing, attending Sprint car races, scuba diving.

John was a very caring, devoted, loving father, son, brother and husband. No one would ever forget him and strangers would always come up and talk to him, he was so personable.

He married Nancy Kay (Hiddleston) Gezel in June 1966 with whom he shared 19 years of marriage. They brought two precious daughters, Amy and Melanie, into the world.

He was later united in marriage with Sherry LuCreta (Wade) Gezel at Silver Dollar City, Missouri, in October 1986.

John was preceded in death by his mother, Dorothy (Findlay) Gezel in 2004.

He is survived by his wife, Sherry; two daughters, Amy Ann Gezel of Apple Valley, MN; Melanie Kay Gezel-Rangel and husband John Andrew Rangel of Shakopee, MN; grandchildren Brandon Justice Gezel, Cameron Jelis Gezel, Victoria Ann Gezel; Jasper Zane Rangel; and, his father Gary Walter Gezel of Pella, IA. He is also survived by his sister Linda Ann (Gezel) Sutton and husband Robert William Sutton of Jamestown, RI; and Janet Kay (Gezel) Sharp of Pella, IA; several nieces, nephews, cousins and a multitude of friends and relatives.

Visitation will be held on Sunday, November 20, 2011 from 1:00-2:30pm at the Butler Funeral Home in Bolivar, Missouri. Graveside services will be held at

10:00am, Monday morning, November 21, 2011 at the Greenwood Cemetery in Bolivar, Missouri under the care and direction of the Butler Funeral Home. AMVETS Post #114 of Flemington, Missouri will provide full Military Honors and Pallbearers at the cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society or the American Institute of Business (Des Moines, IA) c/o the Butler Funeral Home, P.O. Box 11, Bolivar, MO. 65613. John has always been a supporter of this charity and business.

Friends and family may sign the guest book or send private condolences at www.butlerfuneralhome.com.

PDF Printable Version

Tribute Wall



“ *John Cameron Gezel*

October 05, 2023 at 05:18 AM



“ *John Cameron Gezel*

January 26, 2023 at 04:15 PM



“ *Janet lit a candle in memory of John Cameron Gezel*



Janet - September 19, 2019 at 08:49 AM



“ *John Cameron Gezel*

Janet - November 15, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *I am greatly saddened to hear of John's passing. His sister, Linda, and I were best friends in high school. I always liked and respected John and have fond memories of him. May the Lord provide the members of his family with the strength and love needed to carry them through this challenging time. I pray that all will rely on His grace, mercy, and salvation to cover them.*

Sue Dykstra Proulx - November 27, 2011 at 12:00 AM

LG

“ Sherry, I was so very saddened to hear of John's passing. I know what you are going through. I know how grateful you must be to have had those retirement years together.

Linda Gustafson - November 23, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ Sherry, I am so sorry to hear about Johns passing. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this very difficult time.

Janet Mack - November 22, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BL

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with your family. May the thought in Isaiah 57:15 give you hope and comfort.

Barb & Tom Layton - November 21, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CP

“ Sherry, my heart goes out to you in your sorrow on the passing of your husband. May God bless and comfort you and your family.

Carla (Carson) Parker - November 20, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ My dearest Sherry, I am so sorry that you lost your love, John. I remember our time together and what a wonderful man John was to be around. We went with you to take a picture of one of the capitals - and I remember how courteous you both were when we were in Biloxi. You invited our grandson, Garrett, to join us at your RV for dinner. There will always be a plae in my heart for John.

Don and Barbara Berg - November 19, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ I was a classmate of John and new his father. Sorry to hear of his passing.

David Vanden Beard - November 19, 2011 at 12:00 AM

TB

“ Sherry,
We were so sorry to hear that you lost John. He was a truly kind and wonderful man and we enjoyed visiting with you both when we ran into you at Breezy Pt. Mn a few years back.

We send our condolences to you and the family. You are all in our prayers.

Thera and Phil Burttt

Thera Burttt - November 18, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MC

“ Sherry - We are thinking of you. We know what you went through this year and the last week, but your love for John sure shone through. We will miss "the old fart" BUT - we still have you and all of our memories. John will be with us in our thoughts and our words. Looking forward to your return. We are there in spirit with you. We will proudly hang out the flag for John on Monday. Love You

Martin & Carolyn - November 18, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BH

“ Sherry, I was so very saddened to here the news of John passing. What a great guy. I will miss his travel updates and all the RV tips he gave me. My thoughts and prayers reach out to you at this time of your loss. Your friend and BNSF co-worker. Brad

Brad Hanson - November 18, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BB

“ *My deepest sympathies Sherry.*

Bruce Baer

Bruce Baer - November 18, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SD

“ *Sherry*

My thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time.

Sally

Sally Daniel - November 18, 2011 at 12:00 AM

GW

“ *John was a awesome friend. He will be missed very much.*

gene n georgia weller - November 18, 2011 at 12:00 AM

KO

“ *Dear Sherry,*

My condolences to you and your family. I remember John's big smile, and hope that your wonderful memories of him will bring you comfort and peace.

Thinking of you.

Kristen

Kristen O. - November 18, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BS

“ 5Dear Sherry and family, It is so sad to have only known the two of you for a few short months and now John is not with us anymore. I am so sorry for your loss and hope you can find some comfort in the fact that he is not still suffering, but at peace. I'm so glad that you had these years to travel together and enjoy life. The picture is great, always remember him that way.
God bless you and keep you...
Your Texas Trails friends,
Bobbie and Roger

Bobbie Starr - November 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JL

“ Sherry, I was so sorry to hear of John's passing. I know how you are feeling right now, and I am so sorry for you. John was indeed a great guy, you were both so wonderful to work with. I enjoyed it when you got to St. Paul and would visit me.

Take care yourself, all my love

Judy

Judy Larson - November 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CB

“ I was so sorry to hear about your loss. I did not know John but I lost my husband last year so my heart goes out to you. My thoughts and prayers will be with you in the coming days.

Carrol Graves Ball - November 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JZ

“ A very likeable man, quality person, and wonderful person to work with. May he R.I.P.

Jim

James Zachau - November 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM

KS

“ I was so sorry to hear of John's illness and death. My thoughts and prayers are with you during this time. My husband, John, died in 2007 so my heart is with you. Please feel free to contact me if you need anything. HUGS!!!

Karen Webb Searcy - November 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM

AK

“ Sherry, I was so very saddened to hear of John's passing. I always enjoyed working with you both. I'm so glad you and John had time to travel and see our beautiful country. I know you both brought joy and friendship to all with whom you came in contact.

When I think of John, I will always see his remarkable smile, and remember his gentle and kind spirit. He truly was one of a kind.

Sherry, thank you for being John's best friend. I know the time you two spent traveling with comfort you and make you thankful for the special times you two had.

May God bless and keep you. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

Ann Klein - November 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM

RR

“ *My deepest sympathy on your loss. I enjoyed working with John at BNRR, his smile always made the day a little brighter.*

Ron Ronchak - November 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BS

“ *Sherry: I am so very sorry to hear about John's passing. I will always remember his quick smile whenever I saw him.*

How wonderful that the two of you could pursue your dreams of travel. Those will be nice memories forever.

My thought & prayers will be with you and your family.

with love, Bobbie

Bobbie Severance-Roach - November 16, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SR

“ *Sherry: Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this very sad time. John was a good co-worker and a great friend, and will be missed by many. May you find comfort with your friends and faith as you grieve John's passing. God's blessings to you.*

Steve & Donna Retter - November 16, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ *Sorry to hear about your loss.*

Jane & Delwin Mullins - November 16, 2011 at 12:00 AM

AH

“ Sherry,

I was so sorry to hear about your loss. You and your family will be in our prayers. I know God will surround you with His love and comfort.

Allen

Allen Hines - November 16, 2011 at 12:00 AM

KN

“ *I am a high school classmate of John's PHS class of 1964. I have some great memories of John from our high school years. I'm so sorry to hear of his passing. Please extend my condolences to all of John's family and friends.*

Ken Nollen - November 16, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CA

“ *Sherry, sorry for your loss of John. He was a great guy.*

Curtis & Jan Arnold - November 16, 2011 at 12:00 AM

GC

“ *Sherry, my condolences to you and your family. My prayers are with you during your time of loss.*

Gilbert Cashion - November 16, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SD

“ *I am so sorry to hear of John's passing. I know he fought hard thru all of this.*

John and I go way back from RR days. He was a great friend who always gave a helping hand and loved to laugh. He will be missed!

Sandy Denault - November 16, 2011 at 12:00 AM

LS

“ We send our deepest thoughts and condolences to John's family at this very difficult time. John was so many things to so many people, and to me was always an uncle that, when we were together, spent time talking with me and my wife, taking us to the race track, sharing in our life and we in his. We will miss him.

Larson Sutton - November 15, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ Sherry, Amy, Melony and all of John's family -
I was so saddened to see Sherry's email saying that John had passed away. I know there is a hole left in all your hearts.

John was a great friend and a wonderful person. I'll always remember his great big smile and cheery, positive, uplifting attitude.

I hope you find comfort knowing that he isn't suffering, and in the many, wonderful memories of him. He'll live on in you and is now your angel watching over you all.

*With sympathy, love & hugs -
Donna*

Donna Staloch - November 15, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ Sherry,

I am so sorry for your loss of John. Although I did not know him very well, I have enjoyed the emails and travel updates for the past few years. If you are in the area anytime around the ROF lunches, please stop by. We would love to see you.

Jimmy Maxwell - November 15, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ Sherry,
My heart goes out to you. John was such a great guy. We will miss receiving his emails informing us where you are at and what your next adventure will be. Sherry, please take care.

Sandy and John Schiefelbein

Sandy & John Schiefelbein - November 15, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DK

“ Sherry,

I am so glad that we got to spend time together last year. It was such fun seeing you and John after so long a time. It's hard to believe how life changes in such a short time.

John was a wonderful guy. He will be missed by so many, however, I know you are going to be very lost without him. The two of you were so great together. From day one of you meeting him I knew he was the one and only for you. The two of you were truly a great couple.

You are in my thoughts, prayers and heart. I'm just a phone call away.

My deepest condolences to you, the girls and all John's family.

Love you both.

Donna Kullmann - November 15, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JD

“ Sherry:
*My deepest sympathy to you for the loss of your best friend, John!
What a wonderful obituary and picture of John. He truly was a
fabulous guy...always smiling, and, yes, always helping. This world
was a better place because of John. May he rest in peace. God
Bless You!*

Jill DuRose (BNSF)

Jill DuRose - November 15, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DG

“ *I know first hand of John's willingness to help others and his giving
spirit. It was a pleasure to know and to work with John. Our
thoughts and prayers are with you during this time of loss.*

Davalin Gunter - November 15, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JR

“ *I'm shocked and saddened to hear the news regarding John. He
was a friend and mentor while we were working on the same team
at BNSF.*

He is one of the good guys and will be missed greatly.

jay

Jay Russell - November 15, 2011 at 12:00 AM

GA

“ *I am very sad to hear about John. John and I worked together when
he was in the Reference Files group at BNSF. John was a very nice
person. May he rest in peace.*

Glenda Allen-Norris - November 15, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MP

“ Sherry, I'm so sorry to hear this news. It was always a joy to work with John. He was truly one of the good guys. We were sad to see you both leave BNSF, but we were very happy for you both to have the chance to share some retirement joy. He will be remembered by all who knew him. Your family will definitely be in our hearts and prayers. May God grant you His peace, and may you know love and comfort from friends and family in your sorrow.

Mike & Belinda Potter

Mike Potter - November 15, 2011 at 12:00 AM