



James "Tom" Butler

February 14, 1961 - September 5, 2025

James "Tom" Butler, 64, of Kansas City, KS, passed away on Friday, September 5, 2025, at his home surrounded by family. He was born on February 14, 1961, in Kansas City, MO, the son of James Robert and Zelma G. Butler. For 14 months, Tom battled extensive-stage small-cell lung cancer that metastasized into other organs. Together, Tom and Cheryl fought it with everything they had.

Tom was a man of little words though his looks told it all. He found joy in the simple pleasures of life - building anything from wood, riding motorcycles and photographing. Tom had the unique ability to do anything that involved his hands, whether simple or complex, with no drawings or measurements. The true test of his creativity and skills were exemplified upon the completion of 'his home' in 2003. He was the general contractor, laborer, supervisor and financier. He did it all except drywall and molding installation.

Tom cruised highways and curvy back roads on his bike (and auto) with his "brothers" for thousands of miles across the US and Canada. He enjoyed the 'ride' - the sights, sounds, smells and freedom of the open road.

Tom's family was not limited to his blood family. He developed deep lifetime bonds with Rosedale families/kids that span from childhood to end of life – the Clark's, the Romero's, the Casteel's, the Burkholder's, Kevin and Debbie Taylor, and numerous others. And then he had his Payless family from Store

#35 NKC and #251 Kansas City, KS – too numerous to list. He was known at PCI as “Tommy B” and his famous Rosedale parties.

He is preceded in death by his parents; his brother, Butch; his sister, Janie; his “brothers” – George Romero and Daniel Clark; and father-in-law – Eugene “Shorty” Millard. Survivors include his wife of 36 years, Cheryl. Also surviving are “sister”, Tina Romero, two brothers – Larry Butler and Carson Butler; sister-in-law, Cindy (Pat) Waldron; mother-in-law, Deanna Millard; nieces, Taylor Forbis and Courtney Romero; nephews Stephen Tadlock and Bobby Butler; and as well as other numerous nieces/nephews.

Visitation will be held from 5:00 to 7:00 PM on Wednesday, September 10, 2025, at Maple Hill Funeral Home. Funeral services will take place at 10:00 AM on Thursday, September 11, 2025, also at Maple Hill Funeral Home, with burial to follow at Maple Hill Cemetery. Informal dress is encouraged. Blue jean and shorts are welcome.

In leu of flowers, please consider contributing to the American Cancer Society in memory of Tom.

After the burial, the family will gather in Kansas City, KS near 78th Street & Kansas Avenue. Please bring a covered dish, a lawn chair and drink. Address will be provided at the visitation/service or message/text Tina Romero for details.

Cemetery Details

Maple Hill Cemetery

2301 S 34th St
Kansas City, KS 66106
(913) 262-6610
info@maplehillfuneralhome.com

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP **10**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Maple Hill Funeral Home
3300 Shawnee Dr
Kansas City, KS 66106
(913) 831-3345
info@maplehillfuneralhome.com
<https://maplehillfuneralhome.com>

Funeral Service

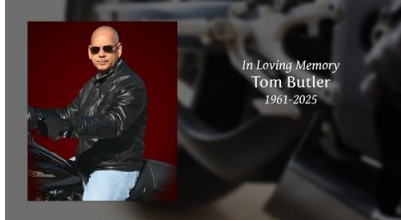
SEP **11**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Maple Hill Funeral Home
3300 Shawnee Dr
Kansas City, KS 66106
(913) 831-3345
info@maplehillfuneralhome.com
<https://maplehillfuneralhome.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Maple Hill Funeral Home and Cemetery created a Tribute Video in memory of James "Tom" Butler*



Maple Hill Funeral Home and Cemetery - September 10, 2025 at 02:21 PM

DC

“ *Tom was a great person everything he put his mind to he would do it to perfection Tom helped me get my first job he was already working at interstate Body Shop down on Southwest Boulevard almost across from Rosedale BBQ he was able to get me on with him we work for the summer had to quit when school started back up in the fall we'd ride our bikes to and from work each day he was a very hard worker check one of my first vacations with him it was Tom myself and Danny Clark we went to Galveston Texas the following year we all went to Daytona Beach for vacation anytime I think of Tom it was always good the only thing ever regretted was not staying in touch with him throughout our lives thank you for the good memories you will be missed*

Dan Casteel - October 24, 2025 at 10:20 PM

DW

“ *Denise Warren lit a candle in memory of James Butler*



Denise Warren - September 11, 2025 at 07:26 AM

DW

“ *Dear Cheryl-*

I am so sorry for your loss. I want to share this poem with you I found.

Until We Meet Again

The world feels quiet, strangely bare, An empty space beside my chair. Our years together, a cherished dream, Now only echoes in life's stream.

Your laughter's gone, your gentle touch, I miss them, oh, I miss them much. Each memory, a bittersweet art, A constant presence in my heart.

The path ahead feels long and cold, A story waiting to unfold. But the love we built, it will not cease, It brings my grieving soul some peace.

I'll look for signs in sun and star, And know you're never truly far. Until the day our paths align, Your memory, my love, is mine.

Denise Warren - HRB Family

Denise Warren - September 11, 2025 at 07:24 AM

GH

“ Gregg Hall planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James "Tom" Butler.

Gregg Hall - September 10, 2025 at 05:04 PM

GH

“ Gregg Hall purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of James "Tom" Butler.



Gregg Hall - September 10, 2025 at 05:04 PM

CR

“ May you feel the love of family and friends that surround you today and all the days forward. So sorry for your loss Cheryl.



Cherylene Ramos - September 09, 2025 at 02:20 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of James "Tom" Butler.

September 09, 2025 at 12:57 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of James "Tom" Butler.



September 09, 2025 at 12:57 PM