



## James Edward Ryza

November 19, 1948 - July 27, 2020

James Edward Ryza, 71, of East Bernard, Texas passed away on July 27, 2020 in Richmond. He was born on November 19, 1948 in LaGrange, Texas to Rudolph J. Ryza and Erlene Horecka Ryza. He was a member of Holy Cross Catholic Church in East Bernard. Through his church membership, James was involved with the Knights of Columbus, the church Choir and he often helped with the Acts Retreats. James proudly served his country in the U.S. Army. He was a member of the American Legion, Post # 226. He held many positions within the American Legion including Post Commander and Financial Officer. James worked for Imperial Sugar for over 30+ years. His hobbies included drumming, gardening, beekeeping, hunting and fishing. This loving husband, father, grandfather, brother and friend will truly be missed.

In addition to his parents, James is preceded in death by his granddaughter, Leyna Grace Wasicek.

Survivors include his wife of nearly 50 years, Jane Shimek Ryza; son, Michael Ryza; daughter, Cheryl Ryza Wasicek (Dean Dodge); sister, Diane King (James) and Emily Batchellor; grandchildren, Carly and Mason Wasicek; along with a host of extended family and friends.

Visitation will be held at 9:00 a.m. with the Rosary starting at 9:30 a.m. followed by the service at 10:00 a.m., Thursday, July 30, 2020 at Holy Cross

Catholic Church in East Bernard. Burial with full military honors to follow at Holy Cross Cemetery in East Bernard.

For those wishing, in lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to American Legion Post 226 or Holy Cross Catholic Church of East Bernard.

Tributes and words of condolence may be left for the family at [www.davisgreenlawnfh.com](http://www.davisgreenlawnfh.com).

Arrangements are under the direction of Davis-Greenlawn Funeral Home, 3900 B.F. Terry Blvd., Rosenberg, Texas 77471, Phone: 281-341-8800.

# Tribute Wall

TB

“ Cheryl - Michael - So sorry for your loss. I am very saddened to hear of his passing.

-Thomas Bilicek, Pearland, TX

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**Thomas Bilicek** - August 04, 2020 at 05:11 AM

CM

“ Jimmy Will be missed by all. He wore many hats from Past Commander to current Financial Officer , he knew how to run this ship after all he was a proud 50 year member. He loved the East Bernard Community as well as his brothers and sisters in arms. He loved participating in everything that honored Veterans. He was really excited over the re-dedication of Memorial Stadium, we even practiced walking on the field and when it all came together he was lit up like a child on Christmas morning. I'm definitely proud of our community, you have no idea how sweet gestures really make Veterans proud to have served to give you the freedom you enjoy today. I'm glad to have known Jimmy and was able serve along his side on our extended duty for our sweet Brahma Family. God Bless and comfort the Ryza family. Y'all are always family. Cathie Matura. Commander of Post 226. East Bernard , TX



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**Cathie Matura** - July 31, 2020 at 09:33 PM

MR

“ James AKA Jimmy was a man I believe many talents. Jimmy was also a man of many words. But one of the most important things to me Jimmy was one of my brothers at Arms. I had the privilege of working beside him as the Post Adjutant for American Legion Post 226. He would move Heaven and Earth to make sure that the American Legion was ready for the community to use for all events. He was very passionate about fundraisers for different occasions. But I believe to Jimmy, the most important fundraiser was for the scholarships of the East Bernard High School seniors. Jimmy always looked forward to the Veterans Day program at the school. He would stand so proud because other than family and his garden, Jimmy had a love for his country. I could go on but all I can say is that Jimmy will be missed by all. May he Rest in Peace. May God keep Jane, Cheryl, Michael and the family strong.

*Maria Roldan  
Post Adjutant  
American Legion Post 0226*

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**Maria Roldan** - July 31, 2020 at 06:34 PM

MK

“ James Ryza will certainly be missed especially at American Legion Post 226 in East Bernard. Prior to his passing, he was the leader who kept the Post together, serving in many capacities. He served as Post Commander, Finance Officer, Bingo Chairman, Bar Chairman, and he was in charge of booking the hall for different occasions. He managed to do anything else asked of him especially maintenance of the hall. James always had a smile on his face and an outgoing personality. He was loved by all of the members of the American Legion Post 226, the community of East Bernard, all of his friends in his music world and all of his acquaintances far and near. James was a family man who cherished his family. I can say he was always nice to me since I became a member of American Legion Post 226. Heaven has gained a wonderful person and I hope we meet again someday in God's Kingdom. May he rest in peace.

Mary Lou Krenek  
Egypt, Texas  
Staff Judge Advocate  
American Legion Post 226

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**Mary Lou Krenek** - July 31, 2020 at 04:13 PM

EC

“ Elaine Cook lit a candle in memory of James Edward Ryza



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**Elaine Cook** - July 31, 2020 at 04:28 AM

DS

“ Cheryl - Michael - So sorry for your loss. Heaven gained a good man 🙏❤️

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**Diane Schneider** - July 30, 2020 at 10:48 PM

CC

“ Jimmy and I played together in *The Texas Mavericks* band and also a group in Hillje that played at a nursing home. He was a good friend and a good drummer. We met at a 50s and 60s dance in Hungerford about 7 years ago and he told me he was a drummer. I told him I was a singer and guitar and bass player. He told me he was playing at a dance in El Campo and invited me to come and sing and play a few songs. I even played a dance with Michael's band. Jimmy I will miss you. We will play again some day in Heaven. My prayers and sympathy go out to his family. RIP Jimmy



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**Chuck Cook** - July 30, 2020 at 05:57 PM

NS

“ We were saddened to hear this news of a musician gone too soon. All of you are in our closest thoughts and deepest prayers as you learn to live with Jimmy in this new way. Take comfort in God's promise that you will see him again. 🙏💙  
Nita & Al Sulak

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**Nita Sulak** - July 30, 2020 at 08:30 AM

DD

“ Well Pop, what can I say? You've completed your journey through this thing they call life. Regardless of the obstacles in your path, the ups, the downs, and the all arounds; you kept the pedal to the metal and never slowed down. I guess God needed a great, hard working man in heaven. Now that you're gone, all I can do is pick-up where you left off by loving and caring for your daughter Cheryl, along with helping Mom and Michael all I can. You know you're going to be dearly missed by all!!! The hardest thing for me personally, will be walking into your house on Sundays and looking for you to walk down your hallway in your shorts & T-shirt to welcome us into your home. Then remembering all the laughs we shared on those Sundays in East Bernard & Lissie. You've proven to me that you would've taken a bullet for me when the swarm of bees started attacking the dozer that hot summer day in Lissie. Thanks to your unselfish bravery, I walked away without a single bee sting, yet you did not while trying to protect me. That's just one of countless examples of you putting others' health and safety before your own. We know how much you loved your family, and we all love you back more than words could describe. Rest In Peace POP, and please try to convince my Mom to be easy on me if I make it there one day!!!! Tell her I'm already paying dearly for my mistakes, because Cheryl hasn't missed a beat in being Bernadette Jr. Lol... I can already hear you and my Dad cracking up laughing in heaven, at the short leash Cheryl has around my neck. Love always and forever, Dean Dodge.

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**Dean Dodge** - July 30, 2020 at 08:03 AM

OM

“ "Jimmy" had a huge song list in his head. The Odessa Band would end one song and go right into another without a word as to what song we were playing. Within the first three notes you'd hear him roll those drums and be right on beat with the song. Jimmy was a huge part of Odessa's success. Prayers sent to his family.

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**Odessa Band Members** - July 29, 2020 at 10:03 PM



GK

“ Jimmy’s big smile matched his big heart. Drumming was a huge part of his life and he always seemed happiest with drumsticks in his hands and drums in front of him.

Clem shared a memory with me about Jimmy’s love for our country. He happened to see Jimmy in his dress uniform at Riverside hall at a dance. He was so impressed by him and his uniform that he decided to also join the service. Shortly after seeing him, he volunteered for the Army.

Jane our hearts go out to you and the family. He was an icon in so many ways to so many people that you will never know about. Just know y’all were loved by so many people and our deepest sympathies go out to all of you. Hugs to all of you. Love Clem and Grace.

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Grace and Clem Korenek - July 28, 2020 at 11:18 PM

CW

“ There's not enough room, nor is there enough time to share all the WONDERFUL things about my dad! First of all I wouldn't know where to begin! This man loved beyond measure and lived his life out loud! And I can honestly say he's left some mighty big shoes to fill because he gave 110% in everything he did! I know he's living it up in Heaven with his family & friends who've gone before him. But I seek comfort in knowing he had a beautiful granddaughter welcoming him with open arms! There's no doubt in my mind he's saddling up his beloved horse, Maverick, for Leyna to ride! That is after he's given her all the piggy-back rides he missed out on with her! And after sharing his big glass of tea with her and singing "chug-a-lug" over & over & over again! Then he's gonna beat on those drums like there's NO tomorrow! And Heaven will be having the biggest polka party EVER! I love you, daddy! And I can't thank you enough for all you've given me and our family!

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Cheryl Wasicek - July 28, 2020 at 08:56 PM

JD

“ Cheryl I send my deepest heartfelt condolences to you and your family. I met Mr. James many years ago when I drove Daisy to your house to pick you up and Mr. James greeted me as if he'd known me forever. I honestly don't think he knew no stranger. Daisy always spoke very highly of him and your mom. I'm certain Daisy is at the pearly gates awaiting his arrival. Sending hugs my dear and you and your family are in my thoughts and prayers.



Joe & Jeannie Decker - July 28, 2020 at 08:15 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of James Edward Ryza.



July 28, 2020 at 08:02 PM



“ An eternal salute to Mr. James Ryza...I am saddened to hear about his sudden passing. We had both been recently introduced to each other via Facebook and often commiserated about the current state of politics and our country. We were suppose to get together for a beer the next time I made it down to East Bernard. I guess we will have to defer that beer until like James I make it up to heaven. James was a gregarious man and principled with a high degree of integrity. I know his family and the good citizens of East Bernard will miss him, as will !! He was a character! I will robustly cast my vote on November 3, 2020 in James honor and memory! Rest In Peace, James, my friend! You have earned it! My sincere condolences to James family!

Scott Smaistrila - July 28, 2020 at 07:10 PM

LD

“ Cheryl, and the entire Ryza family, my deepest condolences to you all in the loss of a great man! I'm sorry I can't be there for the service, but I'll be there In spirit! May you be comforted by God's loving arms during this time.

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**Leigh Bowlin Davis** - July 28, 2020 at 06:55 PM

LS

“ Leroy And Marilyn Stavinoha lit a candle in memory of James Edward Ryza



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**Leroy and Marilyn Stavinoha** - July 28, 2020 at 01:46 PM

LS

“ Cheryl,

*Our heartfelt sympathy to you and your entire family. May God grant you all His comfort and peace.*

*Blessings and love ~  
Leroy and Marilyn*

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**Leroy and Marilyn Stavinoha** - July 28, 2020 at 01:45 PM

PK

“ I want to send my sincere condolences to Cheryl and the entire Ryza family. Mr. Ryza was always very nice to me and welcomed me with a smile and firm handshake whenever I was around him. A quote from St. Francis of Assisi states "Remember that when you leave this earth, you can take with you nothing that have received, only what you have given." I know Mr. Ryza gave much for his family and community and will be missed tremendously. I will keep Cheryl and all of the family in my thoughts and prayers. May he rest in peace and rejoice in the eternal happiness and salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Patrick S King - July 28, 2020 at 12:28 PM

TG

“ Jane and the Ryza family, our condolences, prayers and thoughts are with you as we mourn the passing of James. He was a good friend and co-worker for many years. It puts a smile on my face as I think about the times we had back in the day. "Barney" will be missed by all. Travis and Gloria Gandy

Travis Gandy - July 28, 2020 at 12:22 PM

PK

“ Patrick S King lit a candle in memory of James Edward Ryza



Patrick S King - July 28, 2020 at 10:54 AM