



Albert J. "Butch" Zierak III

October 1, 1948 - March 1, 2026

Albert J. "Butch" Zierak, III, 77, of Midline Road, Amsterdam, passed away at home on Sunday, March 1, 2026.

He was born in Amsterdam on October 1, 1948, a son of Albert J. and Violet Dybas Zierak and was a 1967 graduate of Wilbur H. Lynch High School. Butch was a lifelong area resident who also enjoyed visiting and spending time at his home in Florida.

Butch was employed with the NYS Division for Youth at the Tryon facility as a supervisor for over 40 years retiring in 2002.

He was a member of the former St. John's Church in Amsterdam.

Butch was a member of the Elks Lodge #101 in Amsterdam.

He loved camping at Pop's Lake Campground in Galway, where he camped for over 35 years. One of his favorite activities there was giving hayrides to the children. He also enjoyed casino trips with his wife. Butch also loved the family tradition of making pierogis for the holidays. He loved spending time with family and friends, especially his grandchildren. Butch also loved taking his beloved dogs, Baby, Jake, Brutus, and his grand dogs, Oscar and Max, for car rides on Sunday.

For many decades, he portrayed Santa and visited homes and local businesses, including the Windsor Motel and Jackie's Diner. This always brought great joy to Butch knowing that he was making children and families, including his own, smile and leaving them with wonderful holiday memories.

In addition to his parents, Butch was predeceased by a brother, William Zierak

and his son, Albert J. Zierak IV.

Survivors include his wife, Beverly Eckler Zierak, whom he married on June 22, 1969; two daughters, Stacy Fisher (John) and Karie Zierak (Dylan Ippolito), all of Broadalbin; his daughter-in-law, Megan Zierak of Perth; two sisters, Mary Ann (Joseph) Margiotta and Alberta (Vic) Fondacaro, all of Rotterdam Junction; a sister-in-law, Sylvia Zierak of Perth; seven grandchildren, Daniel , Dylan, Dakota, Albert V, Anthony, Ethan, and Isabella; eight great-grandchildren; and several nieces, nephews, and cousins.

In accordance with Butch's wishes, the family will celebrate his life privately. Arrangements are by the Robert M. Halgas Funeral Home, Inc., Johnstown.

Tribute Wall

JK

“ *Condolences to the family . Maryann and Alberta, I have memories of all the good times shared on Reid St. Joyce Knapik*

Joyce F Knapik - May 14 at 06:31 AM

TD

“ *Dear Bev and Family,
Our deepest condolences and most heartfelt sympathy goes out to all of you at this time of sorrow. Butch was such a great person and would always go out of his way to say hello. May God be with all all of you and may Butch RIP 🙏🙏*

Tom and Kathy DiMezza - March 24 at 06:54 PM

OG

“ *My condolences to Beverly and family I am so sorry for the loss of your loved one. I have known Butchie for a long time it's sad to lose loved ones and I am sorry for the family he left behind*

Olga Green - March 23 at 06:37 PM

JS

“ I just heard today that Butchy passed .. there are so many fond memories, especially because we lived directly across the street from Kiddos ! Even as the years went on, there was never a time that I didn't run into a Butch and Bev when they didn't stop to say hello and share a word or two. Reid Street no longer has the significant meaning that it had back then it's not even home any longer but I will always treasure the memories! To Butchy' family my dearest and deepest condolences to you all. My prayers are with you. Butchy, now u can dance n sing your heart away !! I can hear your mom whistling from heaven.calling your dad to come home n eat dinner !! Kiddos. Oh, All the wonderful memories & jukebox full of polka music !! Godbless Joyce Zarecki Smith

Joyce Smith - March 16 at 05:12 PM

CT

“ So sorry for your loss. My husband and Butch would reminisce about growing up on Pollack hill and camp. My condolences to the whole family. Now they can reminisce some more.

Coni Tracki - March 08 at 12:45 PM

MS

“ our condolences to BEV and the family of butch

michael r schmidtman - March 07 at 08:45 PM

JN

“ My condolences to the Zierak family.We started at Tryon the same time and worked together for quite a few years. He will be missed.
Jim Nicosia

Jim Nicosia - March 05 at 03:40 PM

SP

“ I remember the first time I met Butch at Pops lake. He was my neighbor and he just sat there and took everything in. He welcomed my Husband and I with open arms and we become really close. He became my and Vals' camp daddy and at one point he and Andy gave me my nickname of Sunny as according to Butch my name Margaret didn't work because he had a teacher named Margaret who wasn't very nice and I just couldn't share the name with her. We spent many nights playing poker or just sitting at the fire. We would sit on his deck and play trivia on my phone or sing until the wee hours of the morning. I can see Butch with his cigar giving instructions to Jenn on that day on the lake. Same as he did with me the day he was teaching me to operate the Kobata to dig a ditch for a elec. line. He also had the look when he showed me how to repair an electrical box that needed replacing. We would cook many dinners at his camp. Too many memories to list. Each one will hold a special memory in my heart. I will greatly miss you. May you rest in peace. Till we meet again. I love you

Sunny Patterson - March 05 at 10:26 AM

JB

It makes me smile in utter delight knowing that I wasn't the only one who knew that devious smile he had when "giving instruction" as if we were there purely for his entertainment and he loved every minute of it!! 😊 I'm going to miss him dearly!

Jennifer (Fleszar) Borst - March 05 at 12:44 PM

DR

“ Dear Bev, Stacy, Karie and family,
I am so very sorry for your loss of Butch. Hold on to your memories of this life well-lived. My sympathy and thoughts are with you all.
Darlene

Darlene Rogers - March 05 at 10:05 AM

KL

“ *Butch was a great guy and will be missed by many. I had a lot of good times and many laughs with him and play cards at pops lake r.i.p my friend i will see you on the other side*

Ken LaFountain - March 04 at 04:06 PM

DE

“ *Beverly, Stacey and Karie - I am saddened by Butchie's passing. I have many fond memories of Butchie and Bevy Sue on Midline Rd. My second family for many summers. Heaven has gained another angel. With love, Denise*



Denise - March 04 at 04:05 PM

SZ

“ *Sherri Zayicek lit a candle in memory of Albert J. "Butch" Zierak III*



Sherri Zayicek - March 04 at 01:49 PM

RT

“ *Beverly, Stacy, Karie, and all of the family, I was so saddened to hear of Butch's, I have so many memories of him..I stayed with he & Bev for awhile my senior year of high school...I babysat Stacy & Kiddo ...Karie & my oldest went to school together..sooo many fun times at their home..may God watch over you all... Sending you love and hugs, Becky Belfance Trombetta*

Rebecca J. Trombetta - March 04 at 10:19 AM

TI

“ Reading the passing of "Butch" has left a true sadness in my heart. He and Beverly were the true examples of true love, family and community to me. As a husband, dad, grandpa, and always a true friend. He was a HERO as a man is. I thought he was the perfect male example of everything that I wish I could have had in a DAD. I am very thankful that Butch, bev and family were a big part of my life. Ive always kept awesome memories close in my heart and thoughts. Butch always went above & beyond for all everyday. May he finally be with Kiddo and rest in peace. Watching over his family always.
Always in my heart.
Fondly, Tina & Stan novak

Tina - March 04 at 10:07 AM

JB

“ I was a fresh 16 year old when I first started working at Pops Lake. Butchy was my “go to” guy if I ever needed anything, If there was a problem or if I needed any help if I was working solo on any given day.

One day in the spring prior to opening I was asked put the buoys in at the swimming area of the lake. This was a one line buoy system that had a few connecting lines to a Cinderblock which anchored the main line in place.

Butchy was my ward that day - I remember this very cheeky almost sly smile he had behind his cigar as he gave me very short instructions. “Put the buoy line in the row boat, put the cinderblocks in the row boat, row over to the swimming area and I’ll tell ya where to drop em”

Never rowed a boat in my life up until that day, had a hard enough time pushing the boat out and quickly making the jump inside of it as I rocked it back and forth trying to sit and grab the oars and hold onto something for dear life.

I rowed to the swimming area of the lake and there stood Butch on the beach watching with his cigar- when I went to drop the first cinderblock my row boat was fighting the tension of the line pulling me left to right and moving me from my underwater target, every time I went to toss over a block I thought for sure as the boat tipped over with the weight I was a goner. I could hear Butch from shore yelling out to me words of “advice”?

I was so frustrated and scared of capsizing i failed to notice what was really going on at shore as a camper or two had also arrived to the shore.

After a way too much time had passed- and somewhat successfully getting the buoys in I came to shore. Only to see Butchy red faced laughing about the hysterical show he just witnessed on that lake.

He let me know I did a good job not getting wet and was taking bets on my capsized. It was at this moment I realized this task - although important and necessary- was primary set up on this day for Butchys entertainment - HAHA!! 🤪

I love ya Butchy!!! You were a staple at pops lake - at times my saving grace, and I will never forget that cheeky smile behind the cigar yelling out to me "Hey Dolly!!" Thank you for MANY years of memories ❤️

*-Jenn
Prior Pops Lake Staff*

Jennifer (Fleszar) Borst - March 04 at 09:46 AM

BK

“ So very sorry



Betty Kilinski - March 04 at 09:19 AM

BE

“ Brad Ecker lit a candle in memory of Albert J. "Butch" Zierak III



Brad Ecker - March 04 at 06:54 AM