



# John Steven Butorovich

April 19, 1963 - January 8, 2026

## OBITUARY MATERIAL FOR JOHN STEVEN BUTOROVICH

John Steven Butorovich, beloved father, grandfather, brother, and friend, passed away peacefully in his sleep. His passing was unexpected, and he will be profoundly missed by all who knew and loved him.

John was born on April 19, 1963, in Bozeman, Montana, and was raised in Butte, Montana, a place that shaped his grit, honesty, and unmistakable character. He was the son of Robert Butorovich (deceased) and Rosalie Butorovich, and he carried forward the values of resilience, hard work, and loyalty throughout his life.

John was a man of deep integrity and rare openness. He never pretended to be perfect—he spoke honestly about his failures, shortcomings, and lessons learned, believing that truth was the greatest teacher. His courage was quiet but unwavering, especially in the face of significant health challenges. Through it all, John maintained an enduringly positive outlook and a sense of humor that could lighten even the heaviest moments.

John possessed a unique intelligence that went far beyond academics. He

had an exceptional ability to understand people, situations, and life itself—often seeing truths others missed. He listened deeply, spoke thoughtfully, and had a way of distilling complex or heavy subjects into words that mattered. When John shifted his tone, people paid attention—not out of fear, but out of respect—because his insight carried weight. His intelligence was paired with humility, curiosity, and humor, and it showed naturally in the way he mentored, taught, coached, and connected with others.

John's strength, discipline, and competitive spirit were evident throughout his life, both on and off the field. He earned a full-ride football scholarship to Utah State University, a testament to his athletic ability, determination, and work ethic. In addition to football, he was a state champion in discus, an exceptional shot put athlete, and a talented basketball player, excelling across multiple sports.

His love for athletics naturally extended into coaching and mentorship. John coached traveling basketball, youth football, high school football, and high school discus, dedicating countless hours to teaching young athletes not only the fundamentals of sport, but also the values of accountability, teamwork, and perseverance. He had a rare gift for connecting with kids—earning their respect while encouraging confidence, discipline, and resilience.

John earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Science, reflecting his deep interest in people, learning, and community. He continued giving back through education by serving as a substitute teacher at elementary, middle, high school, and alternative schools, where his steady presence, humor, and authenticity left a lasting impression on students from all walks of life.

Above all else, John was a devoted father and grandfather. He made sure his children always knew how proud he was of them—not just for their achievements, but for their strength, perseverance, and hearts. He was a

steady presence in times of hardship, a safe place to land, and a source of laughter when it was needed most.

John married Susan Vian on August 24, 1986, and though life later took them on separate paths, in recent years they found their way back to one another. They rekindled a bond built on love, shared history, growth, and mutual understanding. Their renewed relationship was a meaningful chapter in John's life—one marked by care, companionship, and the comfort of truly knowing one another.

John is survived by his mother, Rosalie Butorovich; his wife, Susan Vian; his brother, Dan Butorovich, and sister-in-law Gina Butorovich; and his children and grandchildren, who were the center of his world: Daniel Butorovich and his daughter Rosie Butorovich; Sarah Butorovich and her significant other Chris Burt, and her children Elizabeth Mazzolla, Jacob Mazzolla, Murphy Butorovich (deceased), and Parker Burt; Hannah Butorovich and her children Jaxsen, Harper, and Theodore Jaeger; and Nick Butorovich, his wife Jordyn, and their children Gaia Butorovich and Rocky Butorovich.

John will be remembered for his bravery, his honesty, his athletic excellence, his unique intelligence, his mentorship, and his ability to make people feel seen, encouraged, and valued. His legacy lives on through his family, the countless young lives he influenced, and the strength and humor he shared so freely.

A Vigil Service will be held on Tuesday, January 13, at Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Church, with visitation beginning at 5:00 p.m. and the Vigil Service starting at 6:00 p.m.

Funeral services will be held on Wednesday, January 14, at 10:00 a.m.,

followed by entombment at Mount View Cemetery.

All are invited to a reception at the Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Church Parish Center following entombment.

Memorials are suggested to Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Church, 2100 Continental Drive.

May his memory be eternal.

# Cemetery Details

## Mountain View Cemetery

3910 Harrison Avenue  
Butte, MT 59701

# Previous Events

## Vigil Service

JAN 13. 6:00 PM (MT)

Holy Trinity Orthodox Christian Church  
2100 Continental Dr  
Butte, MT 59701-6367  
(406) 723-7889

## Funeral

JAN 14. 10:00 AM.

Holy Trinity Orthodox Christian Church  
Butte, MT

# Tribute Wall

JM

“ Sincere sympathies to all of John’s family and friends. John was a gentle person and a very decent man. Rest in Peace Bubba.

Jeff Miller - January 17 at 09:27 AM

JS

“ After knowing John in high school we got to spend time with John and Susan during Lamaze classes. He was a wonderful person and will be missed.

Jim & Stephanie Stenbeck

Jim Stenbeck - January 16 at 10:33 PM

ML

“ Milana L. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Steven Butorovich.

Milana L. - January 15 at 12:22 PM

JY

“ John/Cindy Gilbert and David Young purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of John Steven Butorovich.



John/Cindy Gilbert and David Young - January 13 at 11:11 AM

JY

“ John/Cindy Gilbert and David Young planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Steven Butorovich.

John/Cindy Gilbert and David Young - January 13 at 11:11 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Wayrynen-Richards Funeral Home - January 12 at 02:26 PM

JK

*I have known John for many years. Although I'm 11 years his senior, we kept in touch over the years as our ships passed and we pursued our own dreams. In the last 7 years, our friendship and brotherhood has deepened to a wonderful place where I'm so thankful to the LORD to call him Brother and friend. If you know John, you know he is the teller of tale tales, the eternal optimist, and a man of great love and faith...a man who understood his place in life...and his future in heaven with his Lord. I miss you my Brother...BUT...we will meet again! Love to all the family, may the LORD our GOD make His face to shine upon thee and grant thee peace!*

J A Kennedy - January 13 at 07:01 AM

PG

“ The world just lost a best friend. Bubba was certainly mine. No judgement just acceptance. May heaven be full of Big Hole floats. Love and rest in peace. Phil and Kim Gregory

Phil Gregory - January 12 at 10:40 AM

NF

“ Nancy Bjeletich and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Steven Butorovich.

Nancy Bjeletich and Family - January 11 at 10:38 PM

NF

“ Nancy Bjeletich and Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of John Steven Butorovich.



Nancy Bjeletich and Family - January 11 at 10:38 PM

LF

“ Larry Kolb and Family purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of John Steven Butorovich.



Larry Kolb and Family - January 11 at 10:08 PM

LF

“ Larry Kolb and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Steven Butorovich.

Larry Kolb and Family - January 11 at 10:08 PM

SS

“ I went to grade school and jr high with John he was a great friend although we haven't seen each other for a long time , I still have fond memories lol of John in jr high science class having 30 min long heated discussions with MR. Coon about science and theory . I also remember the few times my mother drove us back and forth to school . God bless the butorovich family .

scott schonsberg - January 11 at 08:16 PM

CR

“ Coralee and Virginia Rogers purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of John Steven Butorovich.



Coralee and Virginia Rogers - January 11 at 07:06 PM

LL

“ John was my nephew and we have so many great memories. We love you John. May his memory be eternal.

Lunda Larson - January 11 at 12:24 PM

SP

“ To the entire Butorovich Family...  
John was an exceptional human being and friend. Truly enjoyed every interaction that we've had over the past 5 decades. He will truly be missed by many! Please accept my wife Cindy's, and my, most sincere condolences. Much love to you all.  
Scott & Cindy Paffhausen

Scott & Cindy Paffhausen - January 11 at 10:40 AM

PO

“ To John’s family, I am so sorry for your loss. John was a great guy. Really enjoyed the times we spent together at Butte High School and summer job at Metro Sewer. We had to move a few manhole covers, and he would pick them up, carry them behind his head and place them in the truck. He told some great stories at our high school reunions which had everyone in stitches. God Bless John, and your entire family.

*Pat O’Connor*

---

**Pat O’Connor** - January 10 at 10:08 PM

JS

*Growing up on Carolina Street together we had known each other for most of our lives, John was always such a joy to be around. Rest in Peace my friend. Jenny McGetrick Swan*

---

**Jenny McGetrick Swan** - January 11 at 08:41 AM

DM

*To Johns family I am so sorry for your loss. John was bigger than life. One of the great ones. He will be missed. God speed Bubba*

---

**Don Merzlak** - January 12 at 11:05 AM