



## James Lee Buskirk

August 11, 1938 - April 15, 2026

James Lee Buskirk, 87, of Independence, Missouri, passed away on Wednesday, April 15, 2026. He was born on Thursday, August 11, 1938, in Holden, Missouri, to Russell and Virginia (Barnett) Buskirk. James was raised in Holden until the eighth grade, when his family moved to Sedalia, Missouri, to be closer to his father's employment with the Missouri Pacific Railroad. While in Sedalia, he graduated from Smith-Cotton High School in 1956. Following graduation, he proudly served two years in the United States Army. After his military service, James lived in Warrensburg, Missouri, where he worked while earning his Bachelor of Arts degree in Business. He shared a close bond with his mother, Virginia, often styling her hair. At her encouragement, he pursued training at the House of Heavilin Beauty College. Combining his business knowledge with his cosmetology license, James opened "James' Salon." Over the years, he successfully owned and operated three salons in the Independence and Raytown areas. James was known for his calm and gentle demeanor, forming meaningful connections with both clients and employees. In 1990, he met Jeffrey Elliot, who became his business partner and lifelong friend. Together, they owned and operated businesses in Independence, Missouri. He was preceded in death by his parents, Russell and Virginia Buskirk and his sister, Linda Castillo.

James is survived by his niece, Caroline Castillo-Jolly and her husband, Steve Jolly; great-nephews, James and Ian; his nephew, Victor Castillo and his wife,

Teddi; and his cousin, Mike Roberts, whom he fondly remembered from his childhood in Holden.

James also cherished friendships across the country, including in New York and San Francisco, formed through his frequent travels. Throughout her life, he took his mother, Virginia, on many trips, including journeys to Egypt, Spain, Mexico, and beyond. He cared for her devotedly as she aged and remained by her side through her passing. James will be remembered as a loyal son, a dedicated businessman, and a true friend.

A graveside service will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, April 27, 2026, at Holden Cemetery 1369 SW 400th Rd. Holden MO 64040.

# Cemetery Details

## Holden Cemetery

1369 SW 400th Rd.  
Holden, MO 64040

# Previous Events

## Graveside Service

APR 27. 2:00 PM - 2:30 PM (CT)

Holden Cemetery  
1369 SW 400th Rd.  
Holden, MO 64040