



James Edward Brao

July 27, 1938 - January 24, 2021

Brao, James Edward January 24, 2021 Age 82. Beloved husband of Judith (nee Coppola). Loving father of James (Paula) Brao and Stephen Brao. Proud grandfather of Kristen, James, Stephen, David, Maria, Sean, Giacomo "Buddy" and Ava. Dearest brother of the late Thomas Brao.

"A graduate of Pershing High school where he met Judi. But prior to graduation, Jim was an All State Baseball and football athlete and won the State football championship in his senior year. His 40 years at Ford Motor Company and Rouge Steel took him from an apprentice electrician upward to a general foreman overseeing all of the skilled trades. While at Rouge Steel, He was personally credited and recognized for saving the life of a co-worker trapped in an ore bridge crane. Jim taught adult community education (dog training) classes for over 3 decades. He explained it to his children this way: I'm not training dogs, I'm training people . Dogs are the easy part. When asked for child rearing advice after the birth of his first grandson, he replied " Raise him like you would a dog. Be consistent in love and discipline. Consistency is essential". Although he seldom spoke of his accomplishments, he was well known and loved in the dog training world. Jim was the first and only dog trainer to compete and certify a UD (utility dog) degree with a remarkably stupid breed... the afghan hound. They said it couldn't be done. So he did it anyway. In 1978 Jim was one of 13 Schutzhund III recipients training and competing the legendary German shepherd "Hakka" He and his dog were the highest rated team in the United States. In 1995, he was the United Schutzhund Club of America's Gold Metal and Master Gold Metal recipient. Jim continued schutzhund training throughout the years until the Covid pandemic prevented his travel. Jim and Judi built their dream home nearly 40 years ago. Jim retired 22 years ago and lived out his remaining years and final moments in its special bliss. It's the way he imagined it and it was his reality. He is resting in peace."

Additionally, in lieu of flowers, the family wishes contributions be made to: FAR
Therapeutic Arts and Recreation 1669 W. Maple Rd. Birmingham, MI 48009

Website Far-therapy.org (A link for donations in James Brao's name will be available on

their homepage.)

Due to the covid 19 pandemic visitation and service are private. A Celebration of Life will be scheduled later in 2021. Interment Van Hoosen Jones cemetery, Rochester Hills, MI. Share memories with the family at their "On-Line Guestbook" @ WujekCalcaterra.com

****Please be advised that social distancing and wearing a face covering is deeply appreciated and is mandated by the State of Michigan****

Tribute Wall

MC

“ I grew up dog training. While I had not seen Jim in several years, I will always remember those Wednesday nights and Sunday morning training days. I learned a lot from Jim over those early years of my life, some important lessons I try to live by every day. He was such a powerful mentor to me and I never realized it at the time. I will miss you, my friend.

Michael Collins - February 09, 2021 at 10:21 PM

 Ian Thomson

“ It is not often that in your lifetime someone comes into it and makes a difference outside of family and Jim was that person to me, not only of training but of life. We were lucky that his last 8-10 years Jim would drive 2 hours and cross the border to come and train with us, I enjoyed every visit the laughs and stories we would tell each other were priceless, after training we would have BBQ and some beers (not for Jim as he was concerned about a full bladder on the way home lol), he would look at his watch and say he needed to get home to Judy as they would be going for pizza and beer. Judy you were his soul mate, he will be deeply missed. Rest in Paradise Jim.

Ian Thomson

Ian Thomson - January 27, 2021 at 08:44 PM

WW

“ I am deeply saddened. My sincerest sympathy to all of Jim's family and friends. Our Thursday evening training nights have been greatly missed. They were always the highlight of my week. I enjoyed all of the deep analytical dog training conversations we shared and appreciated all the knowledge and experience he shared. He treated me with great kindness and respect, which meant a lot, and did so much for my confidence as a dog trainer. Jim will be greatly missed.

Wendy Wallace - January 26, 2021 at 10:43 PM

JH

“ *My heart is heavy.*

I had the privilege to train dogs with Jim in Windsor Ontario. He was always kind and encouraging to me in a once male dominated sport of Schutzhund. He was a master at problem solving. When he spoke you listened, because you didn't want to miss out on any valuable information!

I will miss seeing that black Ford F150 truck pulling up at our training club, although I will cherish his wise words of wisdom along with the many good laughs.

Sending my sincerest condolences to Judy along with his 2 sons and grandchildren at this difficult time ❤️



Jean Marie Howorth - January 26, 2021 at 08:45 PM

LM

“ *We are so sorry for your loss. Please know you're all in our thoughts. Linda and Gary Muzzarelli*

Linda Muzzarelli - January 26, 2021 at 05:50 PM

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Jean Marie Howorth - January 26, 2021 at 08:13 PM

PP

Jim was my friend and my mentor, I miss him greatly. I really expected him to have a long life like his mother, but life is so fleeting. Stay strong Judy, you are in our thoughts and prayers.

Paul Philips - January 26, 2021 at 11:41 PM

JE

My memories of Jim are those of a good man, a tough man but a good man.

Knowledgeable in many areas but none as loved as much as his dogs. Ready to share his knowledge once he knew were committed. Our dog training and trialing memories are highly valued and will always be. Heaven is getting a good man.

John Evans - January 27, 2021 at 10:27 AM

JB

I deeply appreciate your comments about my beloved Jim . he so loved all his Canadian friends..his stories after training filled our Saturday evening. I knew various people were doing with their dogs..Ian always made him laugh..I could go on and on..but I must stop now with what the girls will understand. I am crying. We are planning a Celebration of life if the shots are in us and borders can again be crossed.

judi brao - January 27, 2021 at 03:03 PM

DL

Long ago neighbors and friends. Days of small children, BIG hairdos and raising kids and dogs. We were blessed to share these with your family. Jim was a kind man. Our condolences to the family and his long time friends.

Diane & Vito

Diane & Vito Lentini - January 27, 2021 at 07:47 PM

JT

As circa late-1960s -- early'70s, neighbors of the Jim Braos, across from them on Virginia Drive in SW Warren (near Lentinis), we too knew them to be an outstanding family, including their dogs, and are sorry to learn of losing him.

Sadly, Joe Tomczyk (Blk Mtn, wNC)

Joseph Tomczyk - June 28, 2021 at 10:12 AM

JB

With borders closed still and Covid still raging no memorial would be considered safe even months later than my beloved's passing so I sadly announce none will be forthcoming. It breaks my heart to not have all our family and friends be able to eulogize Jim at a proper event but I cannot risk anyone else leaving this earth that I love.

Judith Coppola Brao - December 30, 2021 at 07:54 AM