



## James Robert Best, III

*November 2, 1958 - April 24, 2021*

James Robert Best, III of McKinney, Texas passed away April 24, 2021 at the age of 62. He was born on November 2, 1958 to James Robert Best, Jr. and Rubye Cox McClain in Monticello, Arkansas. James married the love of his life, Janell Hayner, on December 30, 1994 in Kauai, Hawaii. James was a hard-working IT Executive for 30 plus years working for EDS, HP, and DXC. His work led him and his family to live overseas in Tokyo, Japan, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, London, England, in addition to California, and for the past eleven years, they resided in McKinney, Texas.

James was a master in his field, holding titles such as Senior Vice President, Chief Sales Officer for the Americas, Europe, Middle East, Africa, and in most recent years, working in Global Integration as Sales & Growth Leader. Throughout his successful career, he achieved numerous awards and accolades for his professional achievements. During his career, James developed lifelong relationships with his colleagues and all those who crossed his path in life.

He was a devoted husband to the love of his life, Janell Best for almost three decades. Their relationship ignited so much joy and laughter within their family. From living overseas, raising children in foreign countries, traveling the world to all the experiences in between, they both always faced life together side by side wherever the adventure awaited. Most importantly, they loved unconditionally, respectfully, and had so much fun together. James truly adored Janell as much she loved and adored him. He put her first above everything. With that love, they were blessed to have three beautiful children, Natalie, Emily, and Henry. Each one had their own special relationship with their father.

James gave so much to his family, work, and friends. A "giver" of many things, but one of his special gifts was giving everyone a funny nickname. His nickname was "Big Daddy"; one that fit him due to the size of his enormous heart and the way he liked to do everything, BIG and the Best!! Whether it was food, wine, or parties, James was the best.

He had several hobbies that included hunting, fishing, cooking, traveling, and playing music. James loved to cook.

James was such an integral part of his immediate and extended family; the Patriarch that can never be replaced.

He was a self-made man from the age of seventeen. James put himself through college where he attended the University

of Arkansas where his son, Henry will continue his legacy this fall. James was a jack of all trades and a master of all! He was the type of man that had an answer for everything and could do anything for you. If James didn't know how to do something, he was going to figure it out. James made the simple things in life feel extraordinary! His energy and quick-wittedness will be missed by his family and friends. He always said people won't remember what you give them, but they will always remember how you made them feel. James was deeply loved and will be incredibly missed by so many all over the world, and his legacy will live on forever.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 27 years, Janell Best of McKinney, Texas; daughters, Natalie Best and Emily Best, son, Henry Best all of McKinney, Texas; and daughter, Alexis Best of Little Rock, Arkansas; mother, Rubye McClain of North Little Rock, Arkansas; mother-in-law, Kay Hayner; sisters and brothers-in-law, Teresa and Doug Moore, Janean and Tim Patrick, and Janette and Ronnie Boorman; nieces and nephews, Claudia Patrick, Grace Patrick, Jordan Maness, Tripp Boorman, Hayner Boorman, Jacklyn Boyce, and Jake Boyce; and loving pets, Bobby (Bob Barker), Thomas (Boss Bubbas), and Ricky (Rollin Rick).

A funeral service will be held at 4:00 p.m., Saturday, May 1, 2021 at Turrentine-Jackson-Morrow Funeral Home Chapel, 2525 Central Expressway North, Allen, Texas. The service will also be live-streamed at TJMfuneral.com on James' obituary page by clicking on the following link: [Celebrationoflife.tv](https://celebrationoflife.tv). After the service, the recorded live stream will be available for viewing at the same link location. The family has also invited friends to a reception following the service to be held at 1244 Gray Branch Road, McKinney, Texas 75071.

Should the maximum number of guests be reached, those who would like to honor James and show their support to his family may remain at the funeral home in your vehicle, where you can watch the live-streamed service on your personal device (laptop, tablet, or smartphone). Link to service: <https://celebrationoflife.tv/blog/james-robert-best-iii>

A graveside service will be held at 2:00 p.m., Sunday, May 2, 2021, at Memory Park Cemetery, 2823 East Marshall Ave., Longview, Texas 75601.

## Memorials

*James, you were loved - Never shy to speak up, never shy to test, but always with a kind heart. Until we all meet again!*

**JOERI VAN HAREN, MAY 13, 2021**

*James, we miss you dearly. God named you correctly - you were truly one of the Best. What I most admire and miss is your willingness to sit down and think through something with me regardless of the circumstances. You were a great mentor, a strong coach, and truly believed in teams. My sincere condolences to your family during these very difficult times. With heartfelt sympathy, Cindy Falschlehner*

**CINDY FALSCHLEHNER, MAY 10, 2021**

*So very sorry to hear of your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with all the family. I fondly remember working for James in Europe during his time here.*

*James was an amazing leader, coach and mentor. He was a formidable sales leader, whilst always maintaining the deal focus from the eye of the salesman. There are too many good stories to recount - he will be sorely missed. RIP James.*

**DOMINIC LEAR, MAY 7, 2021**

*Sending my deepest condolences to James' loved ones and our DXC family. He was an integral part of our Americas team. The shock and impact will last a long time. I hope you feel surrounded by much love and support.*

**KRISTINE GERSABECK, MAY 6, 2021**

*I am very sorry to hear the news re James. I worked with him at EDS and enjoyed getting to know him better when he came to London. He was always a cheerful positive go get em kind of guy. My condolences to the family.*

**SEAN FINNAN, MAY 5, 2021**

*Just learned of his passing. My thoughts are with the Best family. James was the ultimate leader, razor sharp, a coach, a supporter and driven to win. Those 'smarts' seem to apply in all areas and he was so much fun to be around in often difficult situations. He will be fondly remembered and missed by all he came across and impacted throughout the many countries he lived in and travelled to. RIP James.*

**NEIL THORNE, MAY 5, 2021**

*From our hearts to Janell and the entire family ... our deepest sympathy on the passing of a man who was friend to all! May God give you peace and comfort in just the right amount in the coming years.*

**CRAIG MEADOR, MAY 3, 2021**

*Please know that James is in our hearts forever. A beautiful family, an accomplished, talented and loving man. What an honor to know all of you. With every strum of the guitar and wind that blows through the East, Texas trees, James lives on. Love to all.*

**SANDY MAYBERRY, MIKE, SARAH, SAMANTHA, NICK & GEORGIA., MAY 2, 2021**

*So many memories working with James at EDS and HPE. He truly was one of the BEST leaders I have had the pleasure to work with and learn from. He was*

*amazing at what he did, he helped mentor and grow everyone and he pushed the envelope to strives everyday for excellence from his teams. My sincerest condolences to the family. Know that your husband and Dad touched so many of us at work in those long days he worked sometimes. He is gone way too early and my thoughts and prayers are with you all during this difficult time.*

*Sincerely, Caroline Belfoi-Woodland*

**CAROLINE BELFOI-WOODLAND , MAY 2, 2021**

*So blessed to have been able to honor you and your legacy today in song Uncle James. Love you deeply.*

**EMERSON COX, MAY 1, 2021**

*The years fly by and you always think there's time for it all but now we will never get that chance. When James left London it was my privilege to organise his leaving party and sadly that amazing celebration has become the last moment we spent together. However, I feel it's fitting to remember him like he was that night, larger than life and at the centre of it all. James will always be in my thoughts and I use your sayings in daily life. Like you used to, I still call things a "cluster" when things are going wrong! He was an amazing man and will never be forgotten. I send you all my prayers, love, and kisses at this very difficult time. With all my love and Gods blessings, Katherine Jones (nee McHugh) For James's/Seamus here is a traditional Irish blessing: "May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face; the rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand."*

**KATHERINE JONES, MAY 1, 2021**

*James was clever and hardworking with a razor sharp wit but what made him so endearing was how supportive he was to everyone around him. He was also generous to a fault and would always push the boat out to make everyone feel special and create good memories out of moments that would otherwise be forgettable. I will treasure the memories of the time James was in London and whenever I revisit Mayfair, our old 'stomping ground'. I will recall the laughter shared over drinks in The Bruton after a long day or the time he tipped the*

*doorman to get us a seat in Nobu to sample the best sushi they had to offer even though he knew I didn't eat fish. I will recall his delight and laughter as my face recoiled in terror after being elegantly presented with delicacies of the sea floor. James also became very good friends with my husband, Alex and again we recall together our many adventures. Whether rolling around backstage in golf buggies at Paul McCartney's concert in Hyde Park or celebrating James's Sales Leader of the Year win in Vegas in 2019 we both agree there was never a dull moment when James was around. James would tell us all about his life and his passions, his love for his family and his home in America. It is such a regret that we didn't make good on the pact we made to visit and shoot catfish on the river together.*

**KATHERINE JONES, MAY 1, 2021**

*To dearest Janell, Natalie, Emily and Henry. Hearing the sad news of James's sudden departure was very emotional for me. I am heart broken, so I can only imagine how you must feel. I'm so, so sorry for your loss. James was amazing and taken from us far too soon. If you recall, I was James's Executive Assistant when he worked In Mayfair & The City in London, England from 2007 to 2011. We worked hard but you wouldn't notice as working with James was also fun. We made such a good team and James revelled in playing 'bad cop' to my 'good cop' and somehow out of it all he just made great things happen. I loved his habit of nicknaming everyone even though he would refer to me as 'Tinkerbelle'. In return, I would call him 'Seamus', the Gaelic for James as his big, fun personality made us sure he had Irish roots. We managed to get him over to see Ireland play an international rugby game one time and not only was he very happy about that but he fitted in so well with the swarms of Irish supporters, he cemented his 'Seamus' moniker.*

**KATHERINE JONES, MAY 1, 2021**

*May you remember the good times and a life well lived.. Much love and prayers for you all..*

**SHERYL EK, MAY 1, 2021**

*Janell, We are so sorry for your loss. Sending prayers for strength and comfort*

*during this most difficult time. Love, Jon and Leisa*

**LEISA AND JON ANDREWS, MAY 1, 2021**

*To the Best Family, my deepest sympathies. I worked with James on and off over the past 7 years. James had an incredible mind, he was courageous, extremely loyal to DXC, a great leader and I considered him a friend. He will be missed greatly.*

**JULIE PURCELL, MAY 1, 2021**

*Dear Best family , Our thoughts and prayers are with you all during this very difficult time. Psalm 34:18 The Lord is close to the broken hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. All our love , The Binion Family Jayson Julie Logan Tanner Kaitlin*

**JAYSON AND JULIE BINION , MAY 1, 2021**

*My deepest sympathies are with you and your family. Please know that I am praying for your peace and comfort during this difficult time. James was an amazing leader and will be missed.*

**NANCY CHEEDIE, MAY 1, 2021**

*I was a sales person in James' organization for many years and I will miss him. Based on my experience with James over the years, I can safely say, James was as a person who was always willing and able to help create win/win situations through his extensive knowledge, wisdom, creativity and passion. Even more important than these high-powered qualities, I considered James to be a man who was determined to do the right thing, always treating people justly and respectfully. I am certain he is resting in peace and we will miss him.*

**JEFF WHITTLE, MAY 1, 2021**

*James and I were close friends in High School, College, and as young men. Sadly, we have been out of touch for almost 30 years, but I have many fond memories of the times we spent together before then. I'm grateful for memories of the time we shared, and to know he had such a rich and full life since we fell out of touch. Even today, I can't listen to Neil Young's "Tonight's the Night" without thinking of James and the late nights that we spent together in Fayetteville. I'll remember James fondly, as I think all of his old friends from*

*Arkansas will.*

**CHARLIE DORCHESTER, MAY 1, 2021**

*Condolences to the family, Even though Jackie and I had lost touch for some years, the times we had can only be described as epic! RIP Buddy....*

**DODSON CHRISTIAN, MAY 1, 2021**

*RIP My friend. I first met James when he was coming to EDS West in 1999. I think he was returning from an international assignment. I was asked to spend some time with him as he was one of the truly gifted people in EDS. Turns out it was true. He was the ultimate professional who always made time for clients and colleagues.....no matter what. James and I worked a lot of deals together. James was the guy you called when you needed the right strategy for the toughest situations. My condolences to his family. James was truly one of the great ones.*

**DAVID SMITH, MAY 1, 2021**

*Janell, Natalie, Emily & Henry, our hearts are crying for you all James Best was and is an amazing man and friend. We have so many great memories of The Best family with James always leading the pack. The last and "final" memory of bringing in the New Year 2021 in Las Vegas celebrating James & Janell's wedding anniversary and having them witnessing our wedding. So many amazing memories shared together whether it be hanging out at the Byron Nelson or Colonial Golf tournaments to sitting in the Hot Tub smoking cigars but mind you, James was in charge of the music selection. The memories are endless and while we're still in disbelief God has decided to call for James way too early, may we all carry on his legacy and remember this fine man for who he was. James Best we love you and will always love you. We'll see you soon sometime again Alan & Teresa Poulin*

**TERESA & ALAN POULIN, APRIL 30, 2021**

*To the Best Family, I wanted to extend my deepest condolences to you on the passing of James. I hired James to be the Head of Sales for the Americas at DXC and moved him from another division within the firm after a little bit of coaxing. He was so excited to join and I was so excited to have him as part of*

*our team. He is all that you have said in the obituary, but he was also honorable, professional and driven to achieve results. He earned the respect of many, including myself. He was always thinking about how to solve problems. He was creative in his approach based on years of experience, intuition and facts - and he was usually right! We would have many a night time and weekend discussions on these problems, and never once did we not agree to a plan of action - that's what I liked about James, he would contribute, listen, synthesize and then we would agree to a plan of action and execute. I left DXC about 6 months ago, but heard about this sad news from my former colleagues. He will leave a large hole in your hearts, that I know. But I wanted to let you know that he touched many in the organization, both current as well as former employees. He served with dedication and worked tirelessly, and set the gold standard for those who worked for him. We will all truly miss him.*

*Sincerely, Edward Ho Former EVP & General Manager, DXC*

**EDWARD HO, APRIL 30, 2021**

*We are incredibly sorry for your loss and remember James as full of life, a kind and wonderful person, and good friend. We have many great memories we created together with the Best family when our children were young. The Best family were incredible hosts, friends, and a ton of fun. James was exceptionally talented, loved music (especially James Brown), hanging out with friends and family, and fine food and wine. We will never forget James.*

**DAVE AND SHARON LASSITER AND FAMILY, APRIL 30, 2021**

*My deepest sympathies go out to the entire Best family. May God bless you and give you peace. I have had the pleasure to work with James for many years. He was always there and willing to make the time whenever I needed his coaching or guidance. James was such an inspirational leader who cared about people, not just professionally, but their also their personal well-being. James your name is so fitting because you are simply the BEST!! We will miss you my friend. R.I.P. brother!*

**DAVE RICKETTS, APRIL 30, 2021**

*My deepest condolences. James was the Best — aptly named and more than*



*lived up to it in the time I had the pleasure to work with him ad HP and HPE. Truly one of the strongest leaders in that company. He raised the game of everyone around him. As a man, he represented the best in what one can hope for - values, family, kindness, and ambition. One of the good guys. He will be missed. Blessings and prayers to his family.*

**JEFF SMITH, APRIL 30, 2021**

*God bless James and strength and blessings to the Best family through this difficult time.*

**BERT HONOUR, APRIL 30, 2021**

*I have known James for a short period. Every time I had to deal with him, he was extremely kind, professional, nice and pleasant. I heard nothing but great things about James. He is a big loss to DXC & to everybody who knew him. My deepest condolences to James family. May he rests in peace!*

**AMIRA LEWIS, APRIL 29, 2021**

*I am firstly sending love to James' family. I know it is hard to read posts about someone so special whom you miss badly... and even though the words may make you smile, I am so very sorry about your loss. I am still in shock and also deeply, deeply saddened. Those of us who worked with James have many stories from different eras of his career across several different acronyms and logos. But I can honestly say James was one of my absolute favorite people with whom I have worked in long career. I never had a bad meeting with James even though the discussions were sometimes challenging. I also never had a moment where I didn't doubt his sincerity and authenticity. Through many challenging periods, we became trusted colleagues and then friends - and even after leaving HP, I would enjoy our catch-ups as I tried to get him to leave the big company ranks and join me in my entrepreneurial ventures! I think I was getting to him last time we chatted! As I capture my thoughts, I am imaging his smile. But more indelibly locked in my memory is his voice. To a Canadian, his accent was pure joy to me. And combined with his big heart and genuine kindness, I would love talking to him for hours about strategy, food, life and just about anything. I won't get that chance again - but I will never*

*forget his voice and I will never forget his kindness. Thank you James for being such a wonderful colleague... and a better friend.*

**PETE KAROLCZAK, APRIL 29, 2021**

*Condolences to the family. A man that's presence will be missed. RIP*

**FRANCA VALLINOTI , APRIL 29, 2021**

*James was always ready, willing and able to coach, mentor and guide, and he certainly did that for me whenever I took on a new challenge or was encountering a difficult obstacle. My prayers are with James' family and he will greatly missed.*

**MICHAEL TINDAL, APRIL 29, 2021**

*I had the honor of working closely with James over the past few years. He taught me and so many of our colleagues so much. He was an amazing teacher, coach and mentor. I will miss his stories (he had one for every situation), sense of humor and incredible wit. He was simple the best. My deepest condolences to his family. RIP James.*

**VERONICA GENERA, APRIL 29, 2021**

*I met James for the first time during an EDS sales conference in 2001 at the Four Seasons in Las Colinas. Through sheer coincidence I got allocated into a gold foursome with James. I will never forget how James helped and cared for me as a completely clueless Swiss golf player. Throughout my career James was always here to help, coach and guide. A truly caring sales leader who always focused on making the team stronger rather than putting himself into the spotlight. James was an icon for the EDS culture and he will be missed dearly. My condolences, prayers and thoughts are with the Best family. May they have the energy and strength to go through these difficult times. R.I.P. James.*

**PATRIK STREBEL, APRIL 29, 2021**

*With great sadness I heard the news about James. It is totally shocking to realize that such a great colleague and great person is suddenly taken away from us. When James was running the global Delivery Led Growth (DLG) organization I was part of his virtual team for 1.5 years. I learned a lot from*

*James but foremost he was a great storyteller and motivator. When James moved on to become Mister Sales AMRS and I wasn't in his team anymore, we stayed in touch to exchange information and to talk about the good things in life, although we had a 6 hours time difference, we always made time to chat and align and to share ideas. I will miss James deeply. I wish James' family all the strength needed the next years. Groet, Anita Eerbeek, the Netherlands*

**ANITA EERBEEK, APRIL 29, 2021**

*I have known James for just under a decade and the world is a lesser place without him. A colleague and friend, his banter will be missed deeply. Wishing the family my deepest condolences and prayers. Kindest regards, Pete*

**PETER JONATHAN DUFFELL, APRIL 29, 2021**

*I want to express my most sincere condolences to James's family. James will be fondly remembered for his passion for the business. Many years later, I still remember the coaching I received from him and the deal shaping sessions we had together. He was always gracious with his time, and sharing the wisdom he had acquired through his illustrious career. Few people leave a long-lasting impression on their colleagues and James was certainly among them.*

**ANTHONY CARRE, APRIL 29, 2021**

*He made everyone around him so much better. At work really wanted everyone to contribute their best and he was there to help make that happen. Just a super individual.*

**MICHAEL MARTINO, APRIL 29, 2021**

*My sincere condolences for the family's loss – he left us all too early. As a colleague these past 12 years, James has been not just a great personality, but also an empathetic leader. When I arrived in the company, James as the EMEA Sales lead, took time off his busy schedule to provide me an overview of the clients as well as his vision. Tough when needed and accommodative when required. A balanced personality that will be greatly missed. Sincerely Yours Dr. Chris Nøkkentved Global CTO Enterprise Applications*

**DR. CHRIS NØKKENTVED, APRIL 29, 2021**

*Janelle, I'm so sorry. I was just telling the story about Henry and my Emily*

*playing in the sand at the softball fields, and us washing them in the sink. !! I remember how fun it was when all of your family came to the games, and how James stood behind the stands in his dress clothes, coming straight from work. I'm sending so much love to you and the kids.*

**JULIE CRUMP, APRIL 28, 2021**

*It was a pleasure to work with James. I will remember him for his sharp wit and finding ways to address customer challenges. My condolences to his family.  
Rest In Peace*

**MOE NAGPAL, APRIL 28, 2021**

*Working with James was a lesson in how to lead, how to listen, and how to care for people. He taught me how to support and coach as a leader, and I borrow from those experiences every day. I remember telling him we were getting a new car because our 4th child was due, and we wouldn't be able to get the whole family home from the hospital without more seats. His reply - "what are ya gettin', a school bus?" - left me in stitches. But the conversation that followed about the joy of family said more about what mattered most to James. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Best family, Tom and Andree' Ament*

**TOM AMENT, APRIL 28, 2021**

*You will be missed brother. A great leader and mentor to hundreds of people... a motivator and an inspiration to so many. RIP James.*

**TODD TAYLOR, APRIL 28, 2021**

*Henry would tell me how amazing you were, how you knew guitar and made the best ribs and lasagne. He'd mention how he'd love me to meet you and thought we'd get along. He thought very highly of you. I send my condolences and my heart goes out to the Best Family.*

**TANAYA ROSS, APRIL 28, 2021**

*Marla and I extend to Janell and the family and wish you our deep sympathies condolences and love and remind the family JOHN !4 : 1-4 as the Lord reminded us that HE went before us to prepare a place for us. GOD bless you all and surround you with His care. Ps Joe, Marla and Chris*



**REV JOSEPH MOOIBROEK PHD, APRIL 28, 2021**

*Sincere sympathy to James' family during this time and the months to come. - I was fortunate enough to work around him for many years and appreciate the energy and enthusiasm he always brought to every situation/meeting/event. He will be missed by so many and will always hold a special place in our hearts.*

**MICHELLE BURWINKLE, APRIL 28, 2021**

*James was a leader that knew how to be successful as he actually did the job. I have fond memories working on accounts with James in the late '80's/ early '90's. Rest In Peace my friend.*

**MARK SMITH, APRIL 28, 2021**

*I had the pleasure of knowing and working with James in all three geographies at EDS, HP, and DXC - Asia, Europe, and Americas. Our paths first crossed in Korea and Japan when I worked my first deal; his coaching was invaluable and his enthusiasm contagious. While both in the UK, our paths crossed on multiple occasions; he always made time for this novice employee, provided practical and insightful input and always wanted people to succeed and do their best. James was the best sales leader I ever worked with; he was gracious, fun, expected people, including himself to do their best, and believed everyone won as a team. His mentorship on things great and small, and collegiality made all the difference in the path of my career. I will be forever thankful. My thoughts are with his family during this time of loss. May James rest in peace and may his memory be a blessing to you all. Holly Young, NYC*

**HOLLY YOUNG, APRIL 28, 2021**

*Thoughts and prayers to the family.*

**MELISSA BOARD, APRIL 28, 2021**

*I would like to express my deepest condolences to the family . I stay with great memories of James as a friend and very professional colleague mainly from his European engagement. I have learned a lot from him. James left us far too*

early .

MARTIN KUBALA, APRIL 28, 2021

*We are so sorry for your loss. We pray for peace that passes understanding. May God comfort your family in this difficult time.*

TERI AND RON HAAG, APRIL 28, 2021

*James was an inspirational leader and touched the lives of people that worked for him, including me, in ways that only he could. Thank you James for your kindness, guidance, mentorship, caring and concern for all of us that worked with you. You will be greatly missed. Heartfelt condolences to the Best family.*

VINAY RAINA, APRIL 28, 2021

*I learned a lot from you James in the brief period I worked with you. Great leader and wonderful person. We will miss you.*

HARESH VAISHNAV, APRIL 28, 2021

*My thoughts and prayers go out to the entire Best Family. I had the pleasure of working with James in varying roles in my time with EDS/HP/HPE and DXC. He was well known in the organization and was often sought out for his expertise. I am thankful I had the chance to work with him through the years.*

ANNALEE PAUL, APRIL 28, 2021

*My sincere condolences to the family*

CHARLES SALAMEH, APRIL 28, 2021

*So sad to hear that James has passed. I fondly remember the integrity, intelligence, diligence and insight he brought to every interaction we had. More importantly he truly cared about people and was always open to their thoughts and ideas. He listened and always gave it back to you straight. My sympathies and prayers to his family and friends whom I know James will continue to watch over.*

MIKE KLAUS, APRIL 28, 2021

*I am sad to hear about James passing. I am grateful for the nearly 10 years I had the opportunity to collaborate with James when he led West Region and High Tech sales for EDS and Americas Sales for HP/HPE/DXC. His coaching and support helped me grow professionally and personally and I will forever be*

*thankful for that. I always appreciated his passion and enthusiasm for sales, people, and customers, his curiosity and data driven focus, and his willing to experiment with new ideas and I have lots of fun memories from our time working together. He was so full of love and enthusiasm about everything he was involved in I know he will be sorely missed. I have you all in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. Thank you for sharing him with all of his EDS/HP/HPE/DXC colleagues for all of these years.*

**ROBIN MEDLIN-BRAAT, APRIL 28, 2021**

*My condolences to James family, friends and colleagues. He was as I used to introduce him in the many events in Latinamerica : the Best. He taught and guided us since we started working as GSL's, him in Europe at the time, always looking for ways to generate value for our clients, making us better professionals every day.*

**LEONARDO MENDOY, APRIL 28, 2021**

*I worked with James back in the early 90's at Tech Priducts (TPD). He was a class-act kind of guy. Prayers for his family.*

**MARK YODER, APRIL 28, 2021**

*No words can convey the sorrow everyone has with James passing. I will remember the EDS Sales Conference when James reenacted Mission Impossible movie and was hung by bungee cords from the ceiling. Such a personality, everyone who met him always remembered him.*

**STEVE KOPP, APRIL 28, 2021**

*RIP cousin praying for your entire family.*

**WAYLAND BUTCH COX, APRIL 28, 2021**

*Our thoughts and prayers are with James' family during this difficult time. Please know that James was a guiding light for many in the workforce and we appreciate the opportunity to have worked with him and to have known him. May God bless and keep you.*

**TERRY ROBINSON, APRIL 28, 2021**

*My sincere condolences to James' family, it's heartbreaking that James is gone. Gone much too soon. I worked with James for many years - first at EDS,*

*then HP, then DXC. He was brilliant and I learned so much from him. His family is in my prayers and I wish them strength and peace through this difficult time.*

**ELIZABETH RHODES, APRIL 28, 2021**

*James, you will be terribly missed. James was always a part of the company and my professional world through EDS, HP, HPE, and DXC and was always extremely supportive of the efforts of the groups that I have worked in through those years. His leadership and dedication will be sorely missed and I offer my sincere condolences to the family in their time of grief.*

**MARK PLESE, APRIL 28, 2021**

*Words may not suffice to express the heartfelt sorrow that I feel for the passing of James. You were not only a leader , you helped me shape my career and guided me through all the “best” . Just like your last name already said, you were the best. I will truly miss you and I will follow your footsteps. You will be truly missed.*

**EVREN BUYRUK, APRIL 28, 2021**

*James, I will never forget your true beauty and spirit. You were a good man, friend and mentor. Thank you for everytthing you did for us in Latam region. Rest in peace and god bless your loved ones!*

**RICARDO FERREIRA , APRIL 28, 2021**

*Janell, So sorry to hear of James passing, after reading his obituary, it's obvious what a good man he was, and what a wonderful family he has to continue his legacy. My heart is heavy for you my friend. I love you very much now and always. One Love Joe*

**JOE FUDGE, APRIL 28, 2021**

*I worked with James in the US and the UK for many years. My favorite memory of James is his constant use of his touchscreen laptop drawing and editing presentations and proposals from the napkin of the Pub where he thought of the original idea. He was a wheeler dealer and never forgot his roots. RIP JB!!*

**ROLF HOLMAN , APRIL 28, 2021**

*JB was as good as his name, he was the best. In all my years from EDS to*



*DXC he was an open door guy always ready with help and guidance and a quip of humor along the way. As a fledgling in the UK SSC and throughout many training courses with James, he was never far away to give his support, I learned a lot from him over those years. My heart is sore at his passing too young with so much still to do. My thoughts and prayers are with his family at what is the hardest time of their lives. James may be gone from this earth but he will live on in the thousands of lives he touched supported and guided to help them be the best they could be. He truly was the Best of men.*

**MAGGI HOPKINS, APRIL 28, 2021**

*Very sad James passed away. RIP. You were a role model for all the sales community within HP and we learned a lot with you and your passion about selling. On the personal note I was impressed by James energy and passion in life and wines where he demonstrated real "oenologue" skills for French and non French wines. Laurent Head of Sales Cloud Capgemini*

**GAUTIER, APRIL 28, 2021**

*Thank you James, for your leadership / inspiring / and people care throughout the many years at EDS/HP/HPE/DXC. RIP. Didier Beaudu - Paris - France*

**BEAUDU, APRIL 28, 2021**

*To the Best family; Our hearts are broken for you all. May God grant you peace and get you through these difficult days. James will always be with you. All our love, Peter, Missy and the Blake kids*

**MELISSA BLAKE, APRIL 28, 2021**

*James was my first boss at EDS. I will never forget the influence he had on my life. He was always my leader, and he always had my back. My prayers are with his family.*

**MARK GUTH, APRIL 28, 2021**

*Rest in Peace James - a fine fellow, colleague and friend. Working with James in the UK was a great experience and he was such a character - and snappy dresser! God bless and condolences to his loving family.*

**ROB CHAPMAN, APRIL 27, 2021**

*Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this time of*

*reflection. May the days ahead be guided by love and sweet memories. All our love, Skelly and Shannon*

**RICKI AND SHANNON SKELTON, APRIL 27, 2021**

*I had the fortunate opportunity to work with James for several years while I was in solutioning for EMEA and supporting global activities. James was a exceptional sales leader with great instincts, tireless in his focus on solving for what the customer wanted and getting the best from the entire team. His personality and character lived up to the name, the BEST. I wish I had words that would help his family through this incredibly difficult time. I only hope that knowing that he brought energy, focus and caring everyday to his profession and treated his colleagues like family makes you prouder of the person you call Dad, Husband, Uncle or friend. Our deepest condolences. Chris & Robin Moyer*

**CHRIS MOYER, APRIL 27, 2021**

*Janell I am terribly sorry for your loss. I will be praying for you and your family's healing and comfort. God Bless you all, Leah*

**LEAH ROBERTSON, APRIL 27, 2021**

*We are sincerely sad for you Janelle and all of your family. Prayers for all of you.*

**KELE & PAUL BLALOCK , APRIL 27, 2021**

*"Bodie" was my step brother, that is what we called him growing up. I am a year older than him, but we grew up together at the age of 3 & 4 he was my little brother and we took care of each other. We had the best life growing up with his mother, my dad and his whole family. He has an aunt Mary, and 2 cousins Butch and Terry also, that loved him. We went our separate ways when he moved to Texas, and began his life with his family there, but his family here in Arkansas loved him very much, Even though he was not my blood brother, I loved him like he was, we grew up together. I just wish we had stayed in touch more after he moved away. I know Janell and his children, family and friends there will miss him. Good bye my brother I love you! Say hello to daddy and Wayland for me!*

SANDRA POWELL (STEP SISTER), APRIL 27, 2021

*Sending you all of our love.*

THE BURKE FAMILY, APRIL 27, 2021

*It was an honor and pleasure working with James at HP/HPE, he will be missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing him. Thoughts and Prayers to the family.*

ANTHONY & STEPHANIE GAYTER, APRIL 27, 2021

*James, you were a wonderful colleague for over 20 years. Your sense of humor and love of life kept us going through some tough contracts, but taught us all how to be a true professional in this crazy world of IT Outsourcing that we all loved...you will be missed by so many...RIP.*

HEATHER DARCY, APRIL 27, 2021

*Janell. Donna and I both are so very sorry for Your Loss. Our Thoughts and Prayers are with you and Your Family during this Time of Great Loss. We Love You!*

RICHARD & DONNA CLARK, APRIL 27, 2021

*James came up to Victoria, BC several times over the years in support of our strategic partnership activities with the Province and various deals we were working on. We joined him for dinner one night at his hotel, to talk sales strategy. As others had mentioned he was a great sales coach. He understood public sector, and bless him, he even seemed to understand Canadian public sector. He was such a gentleman, and one of those senior execs prepared to roll-up his sleeves and dig in. A quick study, he asked the right questions, and very quickly moved to sound strategy. His great gift though, was connecting with people. After chatting for a couple of hours, he turned to me and made a comment about my "radio voice", and that he thought he could make use of me as his spokesperson, or perhaps for voice-overs on his recorded presentations. There were other touch points over the years and he never forgot the people. On deal governance calls, he'd hear me, and say, "Ah, the voice! How are you Mike?" He really was one of the very best, in name and deeds. So sorry to the Best family for your loss.*

MICHAEL SPOONER, APRIL 27, 2021

*Gone too soon. You were very special to all that knew you. I love you, your MOTHER.*

RUBY, APRIL 27, 2021

*Janell & family, Our hearts hurt with you for your loss of James! He was an amazing man! May God carry you all through this difficult time! Love, prayers & peace, The Weiss Family*

JEFF & DIANE WEISS, APRIL 27, 2021

*James touched so many lives. He will forever be remembered.*

CATHY REYNOLDS, APRIL 27, 2021

*I worked for James at HP/HPES. He was an amazing leader. James was a great coach, mentor, a wise counselor. He personally supported a very large deal my team and I won when many others said it could not be done. I feel blessed to have known him as a leader. He truly led from by example. He valued people first and showed it in the best ways an executive can by his words but also his actions! My prayers and heartfelt thoughts go to the Best family. Clearly, he loved you all deeply and will be missed but always remembered and cherished in your hearts. Sending my best from Bay Village, OH.*

LANA ROOK, APRIL 27, 2021

*James was simply one of the best people I worked with. I met him when he was working in Japan. The team there was lucky to have him. From there, he exceeded all expectations and he was a trusted and valued leader who would always do the right thing. Condolences to his family - what a huge loss. I am grateful to have known James and will be among the many that miss him.*

DAVE AND KATHERINE KOST , APRIL 27, 2021

*James, You will certainly be missed my friend. Thank you for your partnership, your coaching style of leadership, and your friendship over the many years from EDS to DXC. To James' family, your husband and father was a tremendous leader in our family of companies over the decades. He was a player-coach who rolled up his sleeves, challenged others to be their best, and*

*did so with respect and care for others. He was the best.*

**RICK SULLIVAN, APRIL 27, 2021**

*Janell, I am so sorry for your loss. I remember when you and James first met back in the EDS TPD days! I had the privilege to work with and for James over a long period of time. When I first met him, he was working a sales pursuit, and he had several white boards in his office covered with relationship maps, sales strategy diagrams, how to deal with objections, etc. I remember thinking, Wow - this guy knows how to sell! He was a truly talented sales person and sales leader. Our prayers are with you and your family.*

**STEVE MOSELEY, APRIL 27, 2021**

*I am beyond blessed to have been a part of your family since I was a young child! You will forever be the Firework King of Lake Cherokee in my mind and heart! Although your gone, you'll never be forgotten! Love you always Uncle James!*

**JACKLYN BOYCE , APRIL 27, 2021**

*I had the great opportunity to know and work with James in EDS days when I was in Hong Kong and he was in Tokyo and Malaysia. He was a super guy. My sincere condolences to James' family.*

**MICKEY AUSTIN, APRIL 27, 2021**

*What a beautiful tribute to him. I am a former EDSer and wish I would have known him as he sounds amazing!! My sincere condolences to his family, friends and coworkers.*

**LISA LANGAN FORMER EDSER, APRIL 27, 2021**

*May the care and love of those around you provide comfort and peace to get you and your family through the days ahead. Our most sincere condolences and deepest sympathies.*

**TONI AND STEVE HARRIGAN, APRIL 27, 2021**

*Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day. Unseen, unheard. But always near, so loved, so missed, so very dear. We will miss you very much my old friend.*

**JOE PACHECO, APRIL 27, 2021**

*Thank you James....for your leadership and people care throughout the many years at EDS/HP/HPE/DXC. You will be so very missed. To the Best Family....thank you for sharing your father and husband with us....you can be proud of the work that he did. My heart breaks for your loss. Thinking and praying for all of you. Colleen*

**COLLEEN PARKER, APRIL 27, 2021**

*Our hearts are truly broken over the passing of James. He was always the kindest and most generous man. His love for his family was immeasurable. We fondly look back on all the fun times we had together, whether it was our trip to Napa or going to your lake house or simply sitting in the backyard of your beautiful home and drinking a glass of wine. Those memories are so special! James, I love that you had nicknames for people... I loved how if you knew "shorty was in the house", you would immediately play an REO song for me. It's the simple things in life that bring so much joy and you knew how to bring joy to all around you! Although we moved away a few years ago, we still think about you often. This Saturday we'll open a bottle of Aonair and say both a toast to you and a prayer to Janell, Natalie, Emily and Henry. James, you were one of a kind and we are so thankful we were able to call you friend. Much love to everyone. Dawn & Mark*

**DAWN & MARK GROSKOPF, APRIL 27, 2021**

*So very sad to hear James was taken so soon . James was my boss in Europe and I remember him being introduced as the best sales coach in the company, all true ! He spoke often of his lovely family when in london ( Janelle and her triplet sisters, his teenage daughters and young Henry ) I remember he talked about how he loved a trip he took with them through france and his discovery of French wine especially fond of Gevry-chambertain. He was a great guy, so diligent and loyal to his company and colleagues . He gave 150 percent . So sorry to the family for their loss .*

**JACQUI FERGUSON, APRIL 27, 2021**

*James you were my friend and my thoughts go to your family at this extremely difficult time. You helped me in my career and I will always remember they*

*help that you gave me, the many trips around the world and especially my stag do when due to the run at Wentworth golf club UK, you told me that you always carried yellow rubber gloves (bizarre but funny), I will raise a glass to you on Saturday*

**GLENN BALLARD, APRIL 27, 2021**

*Words seems so inadequate to express the sadness we feel for your sweet family during this difficult journey. Prayers for peace to bring your comfort and courage to face the days ahead and loving memories to forever hold. Love, Cindy & Barry*

**CINDY AND BARRY KLECKNER, APRIL 27, 2021**

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