



## Burton Jerry Kunik

September 14, 1938 - August 8, 2024

Burton Jerry Kunik lived a long, fulfilling life centered on family, faith, and making the most of every moment. Born in Chicago, Illinois, he was raised in McAllen, Texas, alongside his sister, Florence Kroman, by his immigrant parents, Irving and Elizabeth Kunik. Despite having little formal education, they nurtured a deep love for their "sonny boy" and instilled in him a belief in Judaism and a drive to achieve great success. They were incredibly proud of his graduations from The University of Texas and The University of Texas Dental Branch (Houston). Burt dedicated 25 years to serving the Greater Houston dental community as an endodontist, making a lasting impact on both his patients and as a leader in local, statewide and national dental organizations. He was most proud of being the President of The Greater Houston Dental Society and Founder of the Greater Houston Dental Meeting. He earned many accolades for his contributions to the field including the Academy of General Dentistry's, "Dentist of the Year".

After a rewarding career in dentistry, Burt boldly embarked on a second impactful career in the medical waste business, where he successfully innovated and built a company that ultimately went public. His career success was matched by his deep love for his family. No one was more cherished in his life than his wife, Mary. Until his last days, he was planning more special times with her. Their love and dedication to each other inspired family and friends to find and treasure their own partners. Burt and Mary's greatest joy

was bringing their family of four boys and 13 grandchildren together for Friday night dinners, holiday celebrations, and grandchildren's outings, knowing that time spent together was essential to strengthening family bonds.

Burt is survived by his beloved wife, Mary, and their four sons, Mark (Mardi), Randy (Agustina), Daryl (Dana), and David (Laura). He is also survived by 13 grandchildren: Max, Illan, Julian, Elise (Whit), Sophie, Nathan, Malena, Gael, Maddox, Reese, Alec, Lawson and Lincoln and many extended family members and friends who brought him immense joy. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Shalom Austin (JAMen Forum) or the Anti-Defamation League, organizations whose missions were meaningful to him. One of his legacies was founding and supporting a brotherhood group through Shalom Austin, Jewish Austin Men (JAMen). The family would also like to thank Juan, Maria, Roxanne and Monique, for their compassionate care and support.

A Graveside Service will be held 9AM on Sunday August 11th at Oakwood Cemetery: 1601 Navasota St. Austin, TX 78702

A livestream of the service will be available on the Austin Natural Funerals Facebook Page, <http://facebook.com/austinnaturalfunerals/> . A Facebook account is not required to watch. If a pop-up window appears asking you to log in click "not now" and the live stream will be available for you to watch. If the "not now" button does not appear, scroll down on the page and it will come up for you to select.

# Previous Events

## Computer Accessible Graveside Service

AUG 11. 9:00 AM (CT)

Austin Natural Funerals Facebook Page  
<http://facebook.com/austinnaturalfunerals>

*A live stream will appear on the Austin Natural Funerals Facebook page a few minutes before 9AM. A Facebook account is not required to watch. If a pop-up window appears asking you to log in click "not now" and the live stream will be available for you to watch. If the "not now" button does not appear, scroll down on the page and it will come up for you to select.*

## Graveside Service

AUG 11. 9:00 AM (CT)

Oakwood Cemetery  
1601 Navasota St.  
Austin, TX 78702

# Tribute Wall



“ *A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Burton Jerry Kunik.*



August 26, 2024 at 03:37 PM



“ *From Agnes Callaerts (Anika's mom) sincere condolences with the passing of Burt . I know out of personal experience how hard it is to loose a husband . Papa and I had wonderful memories of Burt and Mary and the whole Kunik family in Antwerp , the Ardennes , Austin , Houston , the ranch . I send you my love and prayers for the whole family . Agnes*

**Anika Sanchez (formerly Kunik)** - August 17, 2024 at 06:32 AM



*Burt was always a happy smiley guy in my memory I know how much he meant to his family*

**Sharon Brier** - August 25, 2024 at 01:06 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Service Recording*



**Austin Natural Funerals** - August 13, 2024 at 10:44 AM

CT

“ *Very sad to hear about Burt's death. We have been friends since freshmn year of dental school, 1959. He was always a pleasant person to be around. Happy, congenial, interested and interesting. He was all in with whatever he chose to do, and whatever he did, he did it well. I admired him as a person and a professional.*

*Mary, my sincere sympathy to you and your family. He leaves an envious legacy.*

*Sincerely,*

*Carl Trepagnier*

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**Carl and Susie Trepagnier** - August 12, 2024 at 03:57 PM

BB

“ *I have wonderful memories of Dr. Kunik during my time with Texas Dental Association. He was a vibrant, brilliant man. My thoughts are with Mary, Randy, and all his family.*

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**Beth Brooks** - August 11, 2024 at 09:34 AM

AK

“ *Burt was an incredible man , a devoted family man , a man of the Jewish faith while respecting other faiths , and a savvy businessman. He was involved in the lives of all his children and grandchildren in a very hands on way. He was generous to a fault and believed in education. He will be missed by many. Joaquin and I are sad to hear of his passing and we wish the family strength and hope they will find peace in the many happy memories ... from Houston , to Moulton, to Austin, to Las Vegas to San Diego to Israel ... he lived a full life ! Much love to all and especially to Mary ❤️*

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**Anika Sanchez (formerly Kunik)** - August 10, 2024 at 12:15 PM

MD

“ Terry and I are saddened by Burt's passing. *sikhrono livrakha*. Our sincerest condolences

*Mel Drucker*

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**melvyn drucker** - August 09, 2024 at 10:11 PM