



## Mr. David "Gus" Gustav Bjelke

May 15, 1967 - February 26, 2023

David "Gus" Gustav Bjelke, 55, of Plant City, born on May 15, 1967, in Staten Island, New York, entered into eternal rest on February 26, 2023. He was a retired corporal for the City of Tampa Police Department, the Associate Director of Security and Emergency Management at the University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee Campus, and the former offensive line coach for Brandon High School. He was an avid fan of the New York Rangers, New York Giants, and Tampa Bay Lightning. He is survived by wife of 26 years, Kelly; children, Ryan, Sarah, Jessica, and Amanda; grandchildren, Peyton and Blake; siblings, Karen, Rose (Bill), and John (Tiffany); and many other family and friends. A funeral service will be held Saturday, March 11 at 4:00 P.M. at Hopewell Funeral Home, 6005 South County Road 39, Plant City, where the family will receive friends beginning at 3:00 P.M. For those unable to attend, the service will be live-streamed at [www.facebook.com/hopewellfuneral](http://www.facebook.com/hopewellfuneral). In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to a Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma organization of your choice. Expressions of condolences at [www.HopewellFuneral.com](http://www.HopewellFuneral.com).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 11. 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Hopewell Funeral Home  
6005 County Road 39 South  
Plant City, FL 33567  
(813) 737-3128  
office@hopewellfuneral.com  
<http://www.hopewellfuneral.com>

## Funeral Service

MAR 11. 4:00 PM (ET)

Hopewell Funeral Home  
6005 County Road 39 South  
Plant City, FL 33567  
(813) 737-3128  
office@hopewellfuneral.com  
<http://www.hopewellfuneral.com>

# Tribute Wall

JO

“ I knew David from junior high school and high school. He was good friend and a comedian at times. Rest in peace my friend.

Joshua - April 23, 2024 at 11:31 AM

GM

“ Our Boss - David was unflappable in the spot light. Despite a lack of punctuality at big meetings, Dave would always arrive just in time to convincingly address any issue with complete confidence, skill, and respectability. This practice prompted me to comment to Dave that he was just like the US Cavalry - " Never on time, always in the nick of time." Dave just smiled back at me like he owned the dub. David had what the military refers to as the three Cs of leadership - Character, Competence, and Commitment. Dave knew his business better than anyone, and had the strength of character to be successful. He was fully committed to the organization and to his team. A great Boss and friend.

George Magnon - March 10, 2023 at 02:55 PM



“ Serenity Wreath was purchased for the family of Mr. David "Gus" Gustav Bjelke.



March 10, 2023 at 12:14 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. David "Gus" Gustav Bjelke.*



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March 09, 2023 at 01:59 PM



“ *Dear Kelly and family, please accept our deepest condolences on the loss of your dear husband and father. I remember him as a huge fan of his wife and children, and pray that your many memories will carry you through this difficult time. Much love, Freddie, Jack, Charlie & Corey*

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**Freddie Ray** - March 09, 2023 at 01:56 PM



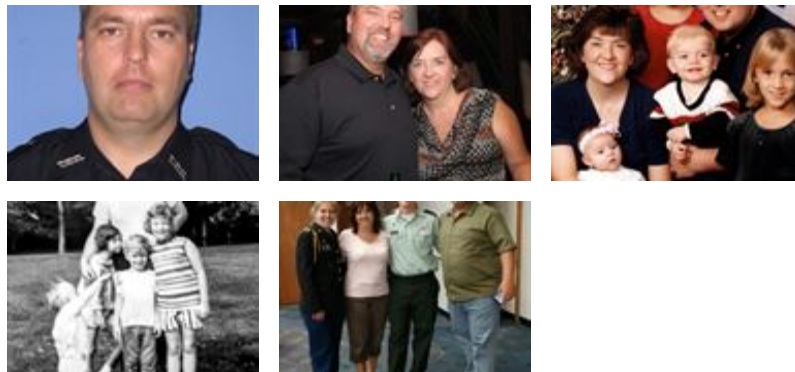
“ *I had the privilege of working with Dave for about 5 years on the UASI project for Tampa Bay homeland security in the wake of 9-11. I'm not sure what he thought of my just being just dropped on him with no input from him for project support, but he welcomed me graciously and always treated me and my contribution to the effort with the greatest of respect. He was by far one of the most intelligent and dedicated people I've worked with, and his loss is society's loss as he made the world a better place by being here on earth. My deepest sympathies and condolences to his family, whom he loved beyond measure. My heart is broken for you all, and as a now-seasoned widow for whom David was a source of support, especially for you, Kelly. RIP, David, my friend.*

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**LYNN S KENNEDY** - March 09, 2023 at 10:52 AM



“ 83 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



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**Hopewell Funeral Home** - March 08, 2023 at 11:45 AM

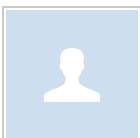


“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Mr. David "Gus" Gustav Bjelke.



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March 06, 2023 at 05:42 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket* was purchased for the family of Mr. David "Gus" Gustav Bjelke.



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March 04, 2023 at 09:02 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. David "Gus" Gustav Bjelke.*



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March 03, 2023 at 07:25 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. David "Gus" Gustav Bjelke.*



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March 03, 2023 at 05:37 PM



“ *Thanks David for the conversations we had. I appreciate your knowledge and assistance along the way.*

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**Michael A Kessie** - March 03, 2023 at 01:57 PM



“ *Dave I have so many great memories with you! We laughed and had great times working off duty as well. You are gone way too soon and will be missed dearly!*



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**Marilyn L Lee** - March 02, 2023 at 02:03 PM



“ *Serene Reflections Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. David "Gus" Gustav Bjelke.*



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March 02, 2023 at 11:29 AM



“ *Dave was about 11 or 12, and riding the hand-me-down bicycle that my sisters had owned first, which was purple metallic sparkle paint with a white bench seat and a tall sissy bar. He went Speeding down the steep hill we lived on, and found at the bottom that he had no brakes. There was a city bus parked at the end of the street taking on and letting off passengers, and Dave laid the bike down and slid under the bus between the wheels. He came back up the street carrying the bike, which had broken into two pieces right at the down tube. He carried the two halves of the bike upstairs and when Dad got home he asked him if he could fix it.*



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**John Bjelke** - March 01, 2023 at 10:49 PM



*Our Boss - David was unflappable in the spot light. Despite a lack of punctuality at big meetings, Dave would always arrive just in time to convincingly address any issue with complete confidence, skill, and respectability. This practice prompted me to comment to Dave that he was just like the US Cavalry - " Never on time, always in the nick of time." Dave just smiled back at me like he owned the dub.*

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**George Magnon** - March 06, 2023 at 04:44 PM