



James Daniel Socha

January 15, 1942 - May 1, 2026

James Daniel Socha, age 84, went peacefully to his eternal home on the morning of May 1, 2026 following a short illness.

James was born on January 15, 1942 in Garwood, TX to Joseph and Annie Kasmiersky Socha. He was the second of six children. While growing up on his family's farm in Taiton, TX he developed an early love for hunting and growing things—two things that remained with him throughout his life. Anyone who knew James knew he kept an immaculate yard and had a green thumb that rivaled a master gardener. There was nothing he could not grow, including pineapples, tangerines, grapefruits, lemons, and of course his beautiful pecan trees. Throughout his life he enjoyed many hunting trips to different states, as well as all over Texas, especially in the Panhandle. But his favorite hunting spot was in Speaks, TX where he spent countless time with family and friends.

In his early elementary years James attended Taiton School. He later transferred to El Campo and graduated from El Campo High School in 1960. In 1961 James took a job with El Campo Coca Cola as a route helper. Little did he know then that he would spend his entire career with the Coca Cola world--working his way from a trainee all the way to the lead manager of the El Campo Coca Cola. James loved his "Coca Cola family" and EVERYTHING Coca Cola—including his favorite color-red! James retired from the job he

loved in April 2000.

On April 20, 1963 James married the love of his life, Charlene Roznovsky. For 63 years James and Charlene walked hand and hand through life. They were blessed with two daughters, Donna Socha Howard, married to Scott and Susan Socha Nohavitzka, married to Jeff, all of El Campo. James' pride and joy were his grand children Tanner Howard (Gabby), Logan Howard (Anna), Denya Ardis (Harris), Chance Nohavitzka, and Natalie Nohavitzka. He was also blessed with five great grandchildren, Hayden Howard, Addison Randall, and Penelope, Lucas, and Hayes Ardis.

James was a member of St. John's Catholic Church, the Knights of Columbus Council #2490, the Lions Club of El Campo, and the KJT. One of his fondest organizations that James devoted so much of his time to was the Wharton County Youth Fair, where he served as a lifetime member. He became a director in 1983 and faithfully served on the board for many years before being unanimously voted to the President Council—an honor that reflected the respect he earned from all who worked alongside him. James also devoted countless hours to the Wharton County 100 Club, where he was a lifetime member. He served as president of this organization and was active on the board of directors for many years.

During his working career James took great pride in supporting various local and civic organizations, especially youth organizations. These included the Boys and Girls Club of El Campo, the Hispanic Education Project, the Ricebird Booster Club, the Pilot Club of El Campo, and the El Campo Museum, just to name a few.

James is preceded in death by his parents, Joseph and Annie Socha, his in-laws Albert and Mollie Roznovsky, and his sister-in-law, Joann Socha. Along with his immediate family, James is survived by a big, beautiful family

including his brothers Jerry Socha (Joann) and Jodie Socha (Barbara), his sisters Judy Leopold (Albert), Josephine Rucka (Albert), and Jeraldine Socha, his sisters-in-law Virgie Klatt (Lloyd) and Helen Hlavaty (Patrick). He had numerous nieces and nephews who all loved him dearly.

A viewing for James, with the family present, will be held at Triska Funeral Home on Monday, May 4 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. A rosary will be recited on Tuesday, May 5 at 9:30 a.m. followed by a funeral mass at 10:00 a.m. at St. John's Nepomucene Catholic Church in Taiton, TX.

Pallbearers will be his three grandsons, Tanner Howard, Logan Howard, and Chance Nohavitza along with his three godsons, Jeff, Darryl, and Steven Socha. Honorary pallbearers will be all former and current employees of El Campo Coca Cola.

Memorial donations can be made to the Wharton County Youth Fair Scholarship Fund or the Wharton County 100 Club.

Cemetery Details

Holy Cross Memorial Park

1617 South Mechanic Street
El Campo, TX 77437
(979) 543-3770

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 4. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Triska Funeral Home
612 Merchant Street
El Campo, TX 77437-3440
(979) 543-3681
triskafh@sbcglobal.net

Rosary

MAY 5. 9:30 AM (CT)

St. John's Catholic Church
1843 Co Rd 469
El Campo, TX 77437
(979) 543-6985

Funeral Mass

MAY 5. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. John's Catholic Church
1843 Co Rd 469
El Campo, TX 77437
(979) 543-6985

Tribute Wall

LH

“ *Laurette Hucker lit a candle in memory of James Daniel Socha*



Laurette Hucker - May 06 at 08:31 AM



“ *I worked with James at Coca-Cola. And he was a fantastic human being, every time I made a trip to EICampo he always made me feel welcome and part of the EICampo family. He had such a great sense of humor and was always fun to visit with, he taught me a lot and for that I am very grateful. He will be missed by his family and friends, God Bless you James, and I'm sending prayers and hugs to him and his family.*

*Respectfully,
Barbara McMahan*

Barbara McMahan - May 05 at 06:51 PM

DJ

“ *Sorry for your loss.*



Denise Jaks - May 05 at 03:20 PM

EC

“ *Elaine Mach Cook lit a candle in memory of James Daniel Socha*



Elaine Mach Cook - May 05 at 11:53 AM

RM

“ *ROSE ANN MITCHELL lit a candle in memory of James Daniel Socha*



ROSE ANN MITCHELL - May 05 at 09:59 AM

LR

“ *Love, Kindra & Tyson Rheinschmidt purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of James Daniel Socha.*



Love, Kindra & Tyson Rheinschmidt - May 04 at 11:40 PM

AP

“ *Anthony and Debbie Prihoda purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of James Daniel Socha.*



Anthony and Debbie Prihoda - May 04 at 04:58 PM

DP

“ *Debbie Prihoda sent a virtual gift in memory of James Daniel Socha*



Debbie Prihoda - May 04 at 04:20 PM

TG

“ *Praying for all*



Tina Graham - May 04 at 03:29 PM

BW

“ *Our expression of sympathy go out to the Socha Family. You are in our thoughts and prayers. God Bless. Bernice & Larry Wagner*

Bernice Wagner - May 04 at 11:39 AM

SF

“ *Sharon Rucka-Everett Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of James Daniel Socha.*



Sharon Rucka-Everett Family - May 04 at 10:54 AM

LG

“ *Linda Garcia lit a candle in memory of James Daniel Socha*



Linda Garcia - May 04 at 09:12 AM

KK

“ *Kathryn Krpec lit a candle in memory of James Daniel Socha*



kathryn Krpec - May 04 at 07:55 AM

PF

“ *Always a friendly man... someone to look up to*

Pat C Faas - May 03 at 08:57 PM

RJ

“ *Susan, sorry to read of your father's passing. My deepest sympathy to you, Jeff and your family. May you look back on all the good times you were able to enjoy during his life.*
Ron Johannes

Ron Johannes - May 03 at 08:15 PM

BW

“ *Barbara Wigginton lit a candle in memory of James Daniel Socha*



Barbara Wigginton - May 03 at 06:11 PM

BW

“ *Barbara Wigginton sent a virtual gift in memory of James Daniel Socha*



Barbara Wigginton - May 03 at 06:10 PM

FB

“ *Sending our condolences and prayers for James's family.*



Frank and Billie Becak - May 03 at 03:09 PM

GG

“ *Geraldine Chandler Gerri lit a candle in memory of James Daniel Socha*



Geraldine Chandler Gerri - May 03 at 02:21 PM

HA

“ James was my cousin. We spent many years together visiting all our cousins and Grandparents. It was a time of closeness which has disappeared as years went by.

We went to the SPJST Hall in Taiton for dances and wedding dances.

There were a lot of us Socha's but we all knew each other. I remember Sunday's at our Grandparents Joseph & Otilia Socha. we played games and enjoyed a dinner of fried chicken and mashed potatoes and veggies. And, of course, delicious pies and cakes. James was more of a quiet person but all of enjoyed each other. So we say "goodbye" to James who lived a life of purpose and respect who was loved and admired by all. Rest in Peace.. You have earned it.

Heanette "Jan" Socha Amman - May 03 at 11:18 AM

GV

“ Gary Voelkel lit a candle in memory of James Daniel Socha



Gary Voelkel - May 03 at 09:58 AM

GV

What a wonder man, James had clout and kindness all wrap up in one man, James thanks for the great memories and good times for many years

Gary Voelkel - May 03 at 10:01 AM

DN

“ Dorothy Naiser lit a candle in memory of James Daniel Socha



Dorothy Naiser - May 03 at 09:30 AM

PH

“ So sorry for your loss, he raised 2 great daughters, losing a parent is so, so hard. Love and prayers to all.

Pam Holub - May 03 at 08:54 AM

DB

“ Diane Busby lit a candle in memory of James Daniel Socha



Diane Busby - May 03 at 01:31 AM

RJ

“ Ray And Linda Jaksch lit a candle in memory of James Daniel Socha



Ray and Linda Jaksch - May 03 at 12:32 AM

JS

“ *Julie Strnadel sent a virtual gift in memory of James Daniel Socha*



Julie Strnadel - May 02 at 10:49 PM

CM

“ *Carol Marek lit a candle in memory of James Daniel Socha*



Carol Marek - May 02 at 09:27 PM

HD

“ *May James rest in peace in his heavenly home and may perpetual light shine upon him always. Our most sincere sympathy to all his loved ones. We know he will be missed.*



Helen & Billy Dolezal - May 02 at 07:44 PM

MS

“ *Martin Strarup lit a candle in memory of James Daniel Socha*



Martin Strarup - May 02 at 05:03 PM

AR

“ *Anita Roye lit a candle in memory of James Daniel Socha*



Anita Roye - May 02 at 04:54 PM

AM

“ *My condolences to the family at this difficult time..*



Andrea McCann - May 02 at 04:10 PM

DM

“ 🙏❤️☐ *May his soul rest in peace and the angels guide him to paradise!*❤️☐ 🙏



Daniel Roxane Marek - May 02 at 04:05 PM

PD

“ *PAT DYBALA lit a candle in memory of James Daniel Socha*



PAT DYBALA - May 02 at 03:53 PM

DS

“ *David & Charlene Linhart Smith lit a candle in memory of James Daniel Socha*



David & Charlene Linhart Smith - May 02 at 03:01 PM

LB

“ *Sorry for your loss. Prayers and love for each of the family. Lester and Deidra*



Lester Priesmeyer and Deidra Becker - May 02 at 02:48 PM



“ *My deepest condolences to the family. May James rest in peace with our Lord.*



Janet Freeman - May 02 at 02:10 PM

AS

“ *Allen And Judy Sefcik lit a candle in memory of James Daniel Socha*



Allen and Judy Sefcik - May 02 at 02:02 PM

LS

“ *Liz Staff* lit a candle in memory of James Daniel Socha



Liz Staff - May 02 at 01:57 PM