



James "JC" Craig Bickford

September 2, 1955 - January 18, 2026

James "J.C." Craig Bickford, 70, of Fall River, KS, passed away on Sunday, January 18, 2026, at his home. J.C. was born on September 2, 1955, in Wichita, KS., the son of Erroll Ellsworth and Naomi Eileen (Stipe) Bickford.

J.C. was the owner operator of Bickford Excavation. A hunter, outdoorsman, and wild man at heart, he walked to the beat of his own drum. He found peace where the land was untamed and honest. Eccentric, independent, wonderfully original and deeply connected to nature, he lived without apology, leaving footprints that won't easily fade. Those who knew him knew he was real, untamed, and unforgettable.

Survivors include: His mother Eileen Bickford, beloved life partner Suzy Sparks, sister Linda Higgins. Three daughters Kasmira, Crystal and Catrina. Six grandchildren Traevon, Chyna, Jaden, Dayton, Corazon and Kalani, and three great grandchildren.

Preceded in death by his father, a brother Erroll "E.B." Bickford III and his grandson Dshaun Smith.

Funeral services will be held on Wednesday, January 28, 2026, at 11:00 am at the funeral home, burial to follow at Coyville Cemetery. Memorials in his memory have been suggested to organizations that protect wild places, plant

trees and preserve the outdoors. These donations may be left with or mailed to the funeral home. Services are under the direction of Countryside Funeral Home 420 S. 20th St., P.O. Box 247, Fredonia, KS 66736

Previous Events

Service

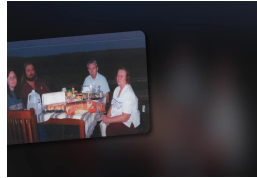
JAN 28. 11:00 AM (CT)

Countryside Funeral Home - Fredonia
420 S. 20th St.
P.O. Box 247
Fredonia, KS 66736
(620) 378-2882

Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album J.C. Bickford



Countryside Funeral Home - January 28 at 08:58 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of James "JC" Craig Bickford.



January 27 at 03:48 PM



“ *Shannen L* planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James "JC" Craig Bickford.

Shannen L - January 27 at 03:48 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of James "JC" Craig Bickford.



January 27 at 09:23 AM

CT

“ College Hill Pediatric Dentistry Team planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James "JC" Craig Bickford.

College Hill Pediatric Dentistry Team - January 27 at 09:23 AM

WK

“ Sorry to hear of your loss. JC was definitely one of a kind. Always nice, fun to visit with.



Wade and Kathy - January 26 at 10:24 AM

KF

“ Kristy F. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James "JC" Craig Bickford.

Kristy F. - January 25 at 07:02 PM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of James "JC" Craig Bickford.



January 25 at 05:22 PM

CC

“ *Crystal, Justin, Corazon and Kalani Cruz purchased the Lavender Love Bouquet for the family of James "JC" Craig Bickford.*



Crystal, Justin, Corazon and Kalani Cruz - January 25 at 02:37 PM

CC

“ *Crystal, Justin, Corazon and Kalani Cruz planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James "JC" Craig Bickford.*

Crystal, Justin, Corazon and Kalani Cruz - January 25 at 02:37 PM

CC

“ JC is my dad, and I want to share some of my best memories.

My dad loved nature and animals. We had so many pets as children, the neighborhood kids were envious.

My dad would frequently stop to rescue turtles he saw near roads to keep them from getting hurt. He would take them home, we got to feed them, and then we would release them to a safe space. He even saved an endangered species- an alligator snapping turtle! It looked like a half-dinosaur, half-turtle, complete with spikes on its shell. You could say we had our own little turtle-rescue operation going on.

When we went on vacation to Colorado, we handfed deer and chipmunks after horseback riding through the mountains.

In our last conversation, my dad told me, “I pray that you are well and in good spirits. I love you and have a great evening.”

I love you too, Dad, and you will be greatly missed.

-Crystal Cruz

Crystal Cruz - January 25 at 12:32 PM

MI

“ Sorry to learn of J.C. 's passing. He was a good friend.


Mike - January 21 at 12:19 PM

KH

So sorry to hear about this. JC will be missed. He was a good friend.

Karen J Hauge - January 21 at 06:38 PM

DL

*The obituary perfectly described Craig! He will always have a special place in our  So many memories growing up!
Bob and Jim Carlson, Cindy Falconbridge and Donna LYNDEN*

Donna Lynden - January 24 at 12:57 PM