



Robert Renfroe

June 10, 1978 - January 25, 2009

Robert Andrew Hillen Renfroe, of Colorado Springs, died peacefully in his sleep with his family at his side on January 25, 2009, at the Pathways Hospice's facility in Loveland, Colorado after struggling with brain cancer for several years. Robert Andrew was born June 10, 1978, to Katherine Ann Hillen, and Ralph Harry Brandon in Fort Collins, Colorado. He attended Rivendale School and Leshar Junior High, before graduating from Fort Collins High School in 1997. When he was 11 years old, Rob earned his junior black belt in Kung Fu San Soo karate. He had a beautiful voice and with his junior and senior high choirs received awards at annually state completions. Robert was a devout Christian; participating in youth fellowship groups at several area churches as he grew closer to God. Accomplished in Spanish, during high school Rob served as a medical interrupter on several mission trips to Mexico. In the summer following high school graduation, Rob went with his youth pastor to Siberia to conduct a high adventure camp for Russian boys. This was a great opportunity for him to share his love for Jesus and his passion for technical climbing, white water rafting, and hiking. Rob continued his formal education at Western State College in Gunnison, Colorado, graduating in 2002 with a Bachelor's Degree in Biology. During this time he was active in his church, Rocky Mountain Christian Ministries, serving in the worship band and as the youth leader. Living in Gunnison also allowed him to enjoy biking, skiing, and technical mountain climbing. Rob summited nine of Colorado's 14-footers. While always very strong and graceful, he preferred sports where the challenge was between nature and his own skills. In July 2001, Robert married Stephanie LeAnn Klish. The marriage ended in divorce six years later. It was after suffering his first brain cancer in 2002 that Rob chose to go into nursing. Over coming the ravaging effects of brain surgery and chemotherapy, he went on to earn a Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry from the University of Colorado in Colorado Springs in 2004, and in December 2005, graduating magna cum-laude, a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing from the University of Colorado Health Science Center Denver. Rob worked for eleven months at Memorial Hospital in Colorado Springs as a registered nurse before the reoccurrence of brain cancer ended his dream of caring for and comforting the sick. Despite cancer's ever increasing physical and cognitive devastation, Rob remained his loving and humorous self to the end. He was devoted to his family (especially his younger brother,

Dave) and was a loyal friend to many. His wisdom, charm, and compassion will be deeply missed by all of those who knew him. Those left to honor Rob's memory include his mother, Katherine Ann Hillen Renfroe; his brother, David Matthew Hillen Renfroe; his grandparents, Robert and Julia Hillen, all of Fort Collins; his father, Ralph Brandon of Denver; his half-brother, Patrick (Susanne) Brandon of Littleton; his grandmother, Hilda Brandon of Denver; and his two very dear aunts, Virginia Plouff of Franktown, and Elizabeth Allen (H. Calvin Upton) of Livermore. On Friday, January 30, 2009, at 6:30 p.m. a service celebrating Rob's life will be held at the Masonic Center, 225 West Oak Street, Fort Collins, Colorado. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in memory of Rob to the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Colorado, Mercy Ship International, or the charity of your choice.

Comments



“ Kathy I am sure you may not remember me but you and your mother are special people in my heart even after all these years. I am so deeply sorry for your loss of Robert and obviously the loss is great for so very many others his path crossed. My God comfort you at this time and always. Star Love, Lynda

Lynda Christensen - January 25, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ To the Renfroe family,

I am praying for you all during this difficult time. Rob was an awesome guy and his life was a light to those around him. Take comfort in the fact that he is home with the Lord and not in pain any more.

Blessings,
Heidi

Heidi Hesla - January 25, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Robert has ALWAYS been in our hearts from DAY ONE and we have never stop loving him & praying. Steph and Rob has ALWAYS loved each other to his dying breath as they have forgiven and reconcil. Rob was very fine young man whom we dearly loved. We will greatly missed him. Now he is FREE of pain and in PEACE. May you all be comforted and find in your hearts to forgive Steph and love her as Rob would want you to.

Marjorie Klish - January 25, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Rob enter his battle with cancer the second time at the same time I entered my first. His encouragement and humor gave me the resolve to make it through my treatments. Even in the midst of his battle, his humor was present.

Rob will be missed by us.

Rest in God's care Rob. Your suffering is ended, but glory for eternity is yours.

James Jeppesen - January 25, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Kathy and Dave,

Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this most difficult time. What a special person Rob was - May God Bless you and be with you.

Love,

The Brayden family

Karen and Bill Brayden - January 25, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ My memory of Robert will always be of this courageous young man going through a tough physical therapy session in the hospital. He was determined to learn to navigate the stairs in order to be discharged and return to his own home in Colorado Springs. It was amazing just watching his brave perseverance. My fond remembrances of Robert are mostly from detailed and loving stories, his proud grandmother, Julia Hillen, has shared with me from his date of birth to the day Robert took his glorious flight to heaven. Robert will be deeply missed by all of us. My prayers and love to all the family.

Nadine Gates - January 25, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Kathy, we are so sorry for your loss. In this very difficult time, you are in our prayers. Robert is in better place for the brave and courageous person he was! His struggle will inspire more to work for others and give more than receive. I have known him as that generous and kind hearted person. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.
My parents too sent their prayers.

Pankaj Meshram - January 25, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ I am very sorry to hear of Robert's passing and of his long fight against cancer. I remember his smile and his beautiful voice at many concerts at Leshar and Fort Collins High.
He achieved so much in his short life!
My condolences from all my heart,
Anna Maria Georg

Anna Maria Georg - January 25, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Rob was truly a joy to know. His quick wit is what caught my attention first. I didn't get to spend a lot of time with Rob, but the time I did, added to my life. His mother's devotion to her son was an inspiration to everyone who knew of them.

Jenny Murphy - January 25, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Wish I knew you better.....

Robert Brandon - January 25, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ This helped my family recently:

'When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true:

"Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting"

1 Corinthians 15

Kenton Pharris - January 25, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ My thoughts, wishes and prayers go out to Robert's parents and all his family and friends that they have the strength to move forward with Robert's spirit forever with them while remembering the joy he brought to all that he touched.
Michael

Michael & Teri Brandon - January 25, 2009 at 12:00 AM



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Al and Edie Nyen - January 25, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Family,
We are so thankful that Rob was able to be in Jake and Renee's wedding. We wish we could be there to celebrate with you Rob's life. He touched our life too! We will continue to pray for you, as the days ahead without that wonderful guy will undoubtedly be difficult. Your testimony of the importance of family spoke volumes to the rest of us watching. You did it well! Thank you for that, you have our unending respect!

Love,
Al and Edie Nyen

Al and Edie Nyen - January 25, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Kathy, I feel privileged to have been able to meet Rob and to be a part of your life again. You are in our thoughts. Love, Heidi and Emily

Heidi Boltman - January 25, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Upon hearing about Robert's death I was instantly saddened for the loss of such a great person. Robert was my BEST friend through the joys of elementary school and I will never forget the times I would spend at his house playing random childhood games in the church yard or staying up and playing his nintendo (I didn't have one) in his basement.

I, of course, feel horrible that I lost touch with Robert over the years because he was truly a unique individual and upon reflecting over our memories I cannot help but wish we were back to those carefree times.

I know that Robert will be going to the better place to be with the One he so fervently believed in, but I cannot help but wish that he was still here.

Mrs. Renfore, I am so sorry for your loss, but all I can say is that you did such a tremendous job with raising him (and me). You were a great mother to both him and David and I wish so badly that you did not have to go through this. I will always think back to our days together at your family table with extreme fondness and will remember all of you forever.

Aaron M. Yoder - January 25, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Rob was a wonderful man filled with love and compassion. How blessed we all were to know that Stephanie Klish Renfroe loved and cared for him in life until the end and she continues to do so. Rob will be greatly missed but has left this world having made us better people just by knowing him.

For this is not the end, but a beautiful beginning.

Always,
Jen

Jen Lowe - January 25, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Though we lost touch, Rob was one of my best friends growing up. We talked, played, studied, and caused trouble all throughout Jr. High and High School. My fondest memories of Rob were his love for paintball, climbing, our time working together on 9th grade civics project. I was always jealous of his lock pick set, and he once amazed us all by picking a pad lock at the Denver zoo on a field trip. I'll forever remember our secret warning call, "They're all gonna laugh at you."

I'll miss you Rob.

John Pape - January 25, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ We would like to express our deepest sympathy to the family of Robert. Your family is in our thoughts and prayers at this difficult time.

The Wobido Family - January 25, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Renfroe Family,
We are profoundly sorry for your loss. Our daughter, Kristin, had kept us apprised of Rob's condition and we have been praying for your family for quite some time-we will continue to keep you in our thoughts and prayers.
Sincerely,
Mark and Angel Hoffman

Mark and Angel Hoffman - January 25, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Kathy,

I was so sorry to read of Robert's death from a remission of the cancer you first told me about when we talked at HP before I retired. Reading the obituary in the newspaper I was impressed and amazed at all that Robert did between then and now. You must be a sad but proud mother. I am so sorry for your loss. I sent the newspaper obituary to Eulan who lives in NY and is also an RN. I know it is important to him to read about Robert and to be included in the grieving.

Toni Atkinson - January 25, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Kathy and David and the Hillen and Brandon Families:

It's such a beautiful story that Rob created here on earth. And I am so grateful to have been a part of that story and to have been a part of your lives. I miss him terribly and look back on the last three years with a great deal of sadness. It is so surreal to be writing this. Seeing all of you and his dear friends in one room, I expected Rob to be walking in any moment. I listen to his music and look back at pictures hoping to capture what little I can of the beauty he brought to my life. But it can't come close.

I am so sorry for the loss of someone so precious as Robby. And for the loss of the rest of his story. He certainly had many more adventures to make and many smiles to create.

With love,
Stephanie

Steph Renfroe - January 25, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Kathy, I was sorry to see Robert's obituary. What a wonderful but too short life. I have been amazed by the interesting ways our lives cross. My thoughts are with you. May God be with you. Janie

Janie Arndt - January 25, 2009 at 12:00 AM