



Brian Joseph Finley

May 3, 2021

Brian J. Finley, 50, of Fort Collins, died at home on May 3, 2021 with loved ones at his side.

Brian was a unique traveler through life, always to the beat of a private drum. He left a legacy of trail building at Horsetooth, frisbee playing and coaching, wildland firefighting, and mentoring of others. He was a storyteller, always making people laugh.

Brian is survived by his mother, Holly Finley and brother, Steven Finley (Kole), and many, many fond aunts, uncles, and cousins. Many thanks to the friends who visited Brian in his last days. He knew he was loved. There are no services planned at this time.

Tribute Wall



“ *Brian Joseph Finley*

October 25, 2022 at 06:14 PM



“ *I am in shock and disbelief and having trouble breathing. Brian was the kind of friend you just knew when you finally caught up with one another, the conversation would pick up where it had left off, no matter how many years, or decades, it had been.*

Brian was a good friend to me when we were in high school. We went hiking, bowling, played pranks and pinball, listened to music, went camping, watched stars. I have never seen him wear pants. Always shorts and Chucks and a t-shirt. Even when it snowed. He loved people. And dogs. He was always light and joy and patience and wisdom. From age 17 on.

I should have grabbed him for coffee. I should have sent him a note. I didn't know he was ill. We hadn't seen each other for years. I would give anything for one more moment just to hug him. He had no idea how often we all spoke of him, shared stories, told my sons about him, the amount of fondness I had for him, the high regard in which we all held him.

I am so very sorry I did not get to say goodbye.

Where ever you are, Brian, know I am always your friend and I really am still planning on that coffee, some day, some how.

*With great affection,
—Kara*

Kara Lamb - August 01, 2021 at 01:46 AM

KD

“ *Brian was an amazing and wonderful human and we feel so lucky to have known him through ultimate frisbee. We just had a son and if he is half as kind, caring and funny as Brian we will count ourselves so lucky.*



Kaydence Doremus - May 10, 2021 at 03:50 PM

LL

“ Since learning of Brian’s health, and grieving his subsequent death, while consoling one another, our family repeatedly finds ourselves saying, “that’s just who Brian was”. Someone who never let anyone refer to “The Property” as “Brian’s property” because, in his words, “it belongs to us all”. Giving and generous, that’s just who Brian was!

The earliest memories my children (now ‘adults’) have of Brian were nights at the property; making hot dogs, watering trees and watching stars. I was always grateful for the night my dad and Brian would take the kids (& often each with a friend), but privately would always wonder why a middle aged man would choose to give his weekend night to volunteer to babysit. But, that’s just who Brian was; thoughtful, considerate, inclusive and always willing to find an opportunity to introduce kids to one of his passions, while investing in each of them on their level.

Anyone whose suffered a divorce, even in the periphery knows the divide and turmoil that engulfs everyone. That division is often impossible for bystanders to navigate. After my parents divorce, there was only one person who remained friends with both of them equally, participated in each persons future relationships and lives, because that’s just who Brian was. Someone who loved everyone and judged no one, regardless of their difficulties or personal decisions. A man who befriended all, while gracefully maneuvering three generations of divided families, equally developing relationships with each person and avoiding all drama; because that’s just who Brian was.

One of the times I most grateful for Brian came on an Easter Sunday years ago when in the evening my son suffered a traumatic event at work. I was an hour away and when I received the call was despondent trying to determine someone to call to help out. That’s just who Brian was, the friend you could call on a moments notice that would leave his own family, on a holiday and rush to help a friend in need. Who wouldn’t accept even a brief accolade after,

simply giving an understanding hug and assurance that he was always willing and able to step in! Who would prioritize a friend's moment of need over his own obligations, plans, and I have to believe preferences.

Most recently as my 19 year old son prepared to say goodbye to his mentor, driving instructor, comforter, and father-figure, he was taken aback by Brian's concern for the other people in our family. Even those who had treated him callously in years past, he genuinely expressed interest and concern for their well-being while painfully facing his own mortality. But that's just who Brian was, never harboring anything but love, forgiveness and understanding; always thoughtful and considerate towards others.

I wanted to close my entry with a Bible verse, and as I combed through suggested passages, nothing seemed to fit. But when I think of Brian I have been continually reminded of the second and equally great commandment to "love your neighbor as yourself". THIS is just who Brian was. A man who loved profoundly, all people; whether similar to him or not, whether he agreed with their choices, or even understood them; a man who treated all people well, with compassion, support, generosity, and forgiveness. A man who gave without ceasing, included without exception and embraced without justification; this is just who Brian was!

Lee Lucas - May 10, 2021 at 12:48 PM

RE

“ Brian was a deeply caring and loving person - an "instant friend" to everyone he met. It's like the second we met we were already friends. He had a special skill for finding the person in a room or on a team who most needs a laugh or connection, and he would make them feel included and seen. I knew Finley through the Fort Collins ultimate frisbee community and will never forget the joy he brought to the field - especially while outfitted in elaborate costumes. He leaves a hole that can never be filled in our hearts and is already so missed.

Rebecca Everette - May 09, 2021 at 09:42 PM

LF

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Lisa Finley - May 07, 2021 at 09:48 PM

LF

“ Aunt Holly—we are so sorry for your loss and all of Brian’s family and friends’ loss. Brian was such an amazing person. You raised a good son. My heart breaks for you as a mom having to go through the unimaginable grief of saying goodbye to a child. We will continue to pray for you. May the love of family and friends surround you.



Lisa Finley - May 06, 2021 at 09:24 AM