



## Izaac Kinnison

February 8, 2021

Izaac Jacob Kinnison age 19 was home surrounded by love when he peacefully departed this life on February 8, 2021, after a nine year battle with brain cancer.

Izaac was born in Fort Collins November 27, 2001, to parents Lisa and Wade and was the younger brother to Zeke. He packed an immense amount of life into his short 19 years, leaving an imprint on all of those around him. In addition to Fort Collins, he and his family lived in Windsor, Severance, Steamboat, and Aurora.

Known by many as the “Salty Dawg”, Izaac was a caring soul with a competitive nature. Early on he excelled at math and loved counting. Games were a prime example of his joy of numbers from Fruit Ninja and Taptiles to card games, dice, Yamslam and Yahtzee – finally resorting to solitaire when everyone else was worn out. Izaac was always up for an adventure. He loved biking. He started mountain biking as a cub scout then during middle and high school his biggest joy came from the independence his bike gave to him. Izaac was happiest when he could get outdoors and wanted to hike a fourteener. He did get to hike Horsetooth Rock just 100 days after being in a coma from his final stem cell transplant. A “Pandemic Graduate” along with his 2020 Class at Fossil Ridge High School in Fort Collins he enjoyed going to school and was still attending virtual classes until his last week with us.

Izaak's caregiving shone through in the way he cultivated and cared for tomatoes, succulents (succulent farming) and the many plants in his garden as well as in the way he cared for people. At Overland HS in Aurora, he began taking classes to be a CNA so that he could care for others. Other people were often his focus, he truly was a helper of all: dedicated sous chef at home, a faithful co-pilot for car rides short or long, and he was brilliant at making people smile. He won several volunteering awards both in school and in his community. Giving was so important to him his final gift was in donating his brain for research after his passing so that he could help other kids have a better chance of surviving.

Humor carried Izaak through to the end. He had a wild sense of humor, not always appropriate, that he shared freely. While he was going through treatment, he was ready with witty banter, TV commercial jingles, Izaak's own parodies of songs, terrible jokes he found on Pinterest and Snapchat photo filters. Even through the biting humor, he grew to know and exude kindness in his life. After painful procedures, he was sure to say, "thank you" to his nurses, doctors, therapists and all people he encountered daily. He embraced helping others in his classes at school, reaching out to other kids struggling at camp and had a true knack for being able to engage people of any age in deep conversation. He never hesitated to tell people how much they meant to him.

Many of his favorite things will continue to remind family and friends of Izaak...sunrises and sunsets, giraffes and pugs, chocolate, water drops and rainbows plus the many beautiful photos he took. Those whose lives were intertwined with Izaak's included the doctors, nurses, volunteers, staff and medical professionals at Children's Hospital Colorado, especially those in oncology who treated him across the years. The children and families we met during his cancer journey; and all the folks at Brent's Place, where the family spent so much time during Izaak's treatment and recovery. Foundations near

and far, too numerous to list providing anything from meals, books, vacations, photography items, and overall fun for kids and families experiencing life threatening illnesses. Additionally, the faithful friends in all our communities the valiant efforts to help support the family so they could carry Izaac through this world as long as possible.

He is survived by his parents, Lisa Wentz-Kinnison and Jon “Wade” Kinnison and brother Ezekial “Zeke” Kinnison, Grandmother Wanda Wentz all Fort Collins, Grandparents Jon and Miriam Kinnison, St. George UT, Grandparents Mary and Tony Swartz, Chandler AZ. Aunts and Uncles and “the cousins” from one corner of the US to other, family meant the world to Izaac. Izaac was preceded in death by his grandfather Robert J. Kleese.

It was important to Izaac that when people gathered to remember him, it would be a celebration, a “party.” In honor of this request, Izaac’s Celebration will be held on July 24, 2021 West of Fort Collins. For those interested in attending, please contact Goes Funeral Care at 970-482-2221 to be added to the invitation list. The celebration will also be recorded for those unable to attend.

In lieu of flowers or gifts, we ask that you donate to one of the many foundations that have supported the family, Children’s Hospital or Brent’s Place.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Izaak Kinnison*

October 25, 2022 at 06:14 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Celebration of Life Video*



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**Goes Funeral Care & Crematory** - July 26, 2021 at 02:12 PM

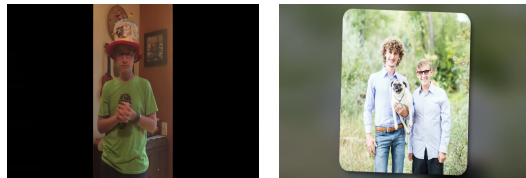
PJ

*What a beautiful celebration and sharing of Izaak's life and his wonderful way of keeping us all entertained and attentive to his antics. Love that boy.*

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**Papa Jon** - July 27, 2021 at 10:54 PM



“ *2 files added to the album Video and Slideshow of Memories*



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**Goes Funeral Care & Crematory** - July 24, 2021 at 10:47 PM

AL

“ It's hard to sum up years of interaction in just a few words, but Izaac is and always will be one of the smartest and funniest people I have ever met. His warmth and ability to connect with others was inspiring. I found so much strength and love in all of my conversations with him and I found myself looking forward to the days I knew the Kinnison's would be coming to Brent's Place. I miss seeing his smile and light and all that Izaac put out into the world. Lots of Love to you all, Allen



Allen - June 22, 2021 at 02:45 PM

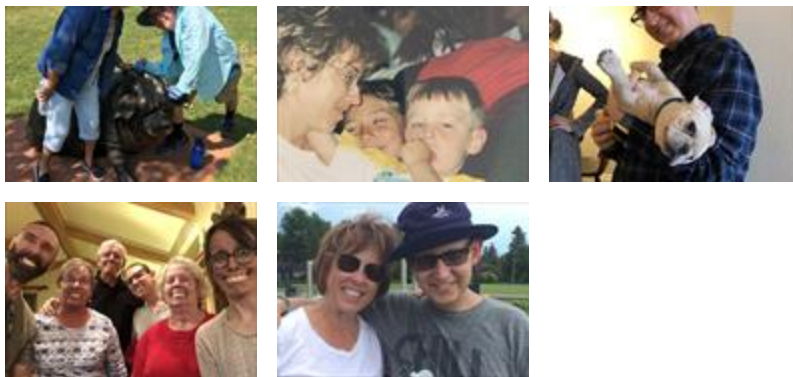


“ 0 file added to the tribute wall

June 17, 2021 at 03:06 PM

CI

“ 10 files added to the album Memories Album



Connie Inchauspe - June 17, 2021 at 03:03 PM

KW

“ Kinnison Family, Izaac was one of my faithful Words With Friends opponent and usually would come up with words that I never even heard of. He almost always would win. The few times I was around him and his brother I remember being brought to tears with their funny stories and off the wall humor. It was an honor knowing him. He will always be in all of our hearts and memories.

*Kyle Wollschlager*

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**Kyle Wollschlager** - June 17, 2021 at 09:25 AM

CI

“ 5 files added to the album Memories Album



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**Connie Inchauspe** - June 17, 2021 at 07:54 AM

CI

“ 11 files added to the album Memories Album



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**Connie Inchauspe** - June 17, 2021 at 07:48 AM

KW

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Kelly Wickam** - March 21, 2021 at 12:25 PM

MH

*Beautiful video. Sending prayers to all of you.*

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**Michelle Hilliard** - June 16, 2021 at 07:14 PM

SA

“ *The day we moved into Brent's Place was Izaak's birthday celebration. I think his cake was giraffe theme with a variety of other interests represented. I remember feeling nervous, but you were all so gracious and welcoming. I also remember all of the family celebrating his first end of treatment. Over the years I loved cracking up over Izaak's sometimes under his breath wit and humor. One thing that stands out to me is his is inviting presence. He always stood with a hand tucked around his back, holding his other arm. Izaak was also open, always kind, always warm. I loved his laugh where he'd scrunch up his face and shoulders - maybe trying to humble the reality that he was the funniest guy in the room. Lisa, Wade, and Zeke, Izaak walked in bravery, gentleness, humility, and kindness because he was safe to do so. You all loved him in such a way that he could thrive even while suffering. It is a gift to have known him and each you.*

*With much love and tears for all of you,  
Anthony, Sam, Rourke, Lydia, Francesca, Zinnia & Esther Alvarado*

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**Samantha A** - February 19, 2021 at 02:38 PM

KS

“ Warning - this is not a PG story ;)

*We have shared this memory over and over, but it will NEVER get old and it will always make us smile and laugh. We will never forget Chris' first trip to the cabin nearly 10 years ago and meeting the family for the first time. Little did he know what Izaak and Zeke had in store for him that weekend.*

*We played a game we had played in college numerous times, but was one that we thought we could make “kid friendly” too. We soon found out that Izaak and Zeke had no intentions of keeping the game PG. The name of the game was “the question game”. Everyone writes a question on a paper and puts it in a hat. You then draw a question and write an answer to that question. Answered questions go back in the hat and then are drawn again by all playing the game. This time the question is read by one, and then answered by the piece of paper drawn by the person to their left.*

*Izaak and Zeke picked the game up quickly and we're bound and determined to “roast” Chris for the entire weekend. We spent two evenings belly laughing around the fire at all that Izaak and Zeke came up with. To name a few, Chris ended up growing boobs, breastfed, wasn't circumcised, performed a strip tease for my dad, among many other hilarious questions and answers.*

*I'll never forget the morning after the first night of the playing the game when Izaak came up to me and said “I'm sorry Kelsie, but tonight is the night I make your boyfriend cry.” We have laughed about this memory for the past 10 years and will continue to do so. We had no idea playing our “crazy college” game with an 8 and 10 year old would surpass anytime we played it as a drinking game in college!!*

*Izaak, this is just one of the many times in our lives that you have made us belly laugh and brought tears to our eyes we laughed so hard. Your humor and the bright light you brought to our lives will*

*never be forgotten. We love and miss you more every day. ❤️*

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**Kelsie Sundberg** - February 18, 2021 at 04:35 PM

KW

*That would be one of my most favorite memories too 🥰*

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**Kelly Wickam** - March 21, 2021 at 12:49 PM

LK

“ *I can't begin to describe how many wonderful memories we have of Izaak. As his family the void of not having him here with us is indescribable. My hope is that by sharing our memories I/we will be able to heal through time.*

*Izaak was a huge music fan. He tried many instruments throughout the years. Everyone in grade school tries the recorder, he also had his shot at the piano, cello, clarinet, and guitar. But he hadn't found his favorite until he developed his hand farting songs. Somehow, the shape and texture of the skin on his hands provided the perfect instrument to "play" songs including 'Smoke on the Water' and 'Happy Birthday'. We would giggle when he was plugged into his headphones in his room hand-farting the current playlist.*

*One year he went to camp with the Shining Stars to Aspen. I had thrown him under the bus and leaked info about his talent. Finally, he was goaded into performing in front of a group with his incredible talent. If anyone has a video of it to share we would love that!*

*Love you so much big guy, your momma*

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**Lisa Kinnison** - February 17, 2021 at 08:20 PM

SA

*I love this so much.*

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**Samantha A** - February 19, 2021 at 02:40 PM



Christina  
Anderson

“ Izaac and his family came into our lives via Brent’s Place. They taught us how to find joy in pain and how to walk with your child along the cancer journey. Izaac is an inspiration of strength. Several memories stand out... We participated in Brent’s Place Urban Race. Lisa and Izaac had signed up and somewhere along the way they joined our group. We had so much fun being silly and exploring Denver. Also, I remember going to Family Camp and sharing a cabin. It was so nice to get away and be “normal” with compatriots. We love all of you!

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**Christina Anderson** - February 15, 2021 at 02:35 PM

EM

“ I had the wonderful opportunity to work with Izaac at Overland in the Foods & Nutrition class. He was such an amazing, sweet funny young man. He was always helpful and ready to tackle the work. He was always encouraging to his classmates and was a great team member, by doing his part and being supportive and encouraging. I am deeply saddened by his passing, I wish you and your family moments of peace and comfort as you remember what an incredible person Izaac was.

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**Erica Nicolatte McHenry-Hutto** - February 12, 2021 at 05:59 PM

SA

“ Dear Kinnison Family,

*Isaac is a testament to the impact a person can make despite the briefest of time periods, crossing an age gap of decades. I was in Steamboat at the Boys and Girls Club and fondly, often hysterically, remember Isaac and Zeke in their youth. Zeke is an incredible big brother and Isaac was so interesting and kind and thoughtful. I loved walking to the club next to him to hear his conversations with friends, or to be entertained by his thoughts and musings on life after elementary school. My sincerest big, huge bear hugs to you as you mourn the physical, human presence, but also hope you all bask in the warm light that remains from his spirit.*

*Sahra Beaupré*

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**Sahra** - February 11, 2021 at 04:26 PM



“ *Izaac was such an amazing soul. He was so caring and helpful. He always had a curious and hard-working spirit to class. He was a genuine and positive individual. His presence alone would be so calming and loving. Izaac will be dearly missed. God bless you all.*

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**Lynn Gombos** - February 11, 2021 at 02:32 PM

KS

“ Dear Lisa, Wade and Zeke,

*Izaak and Zeke were Michael's first friends in Steamboat. They clicked with their love of video games and their quirky sense's of humor. Also, Mike and Michael appreciated the expertise Izaak, Zeke and Wade brought to building a Pine Wood Derby racer that actually worked.*

*We have been touched by the resilience and joy Izaak showed the world. We are truly sorry for your loss and want you to know you are in our hearts and minds. We hope you find comfort and peace through your memories of Izaak.*

*With love,  
Mike, Kathy, Zoe (the sister) and Michael Sullivan*

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**Katherine Sullivan** - February 11, 2021 at 02:16 PM

JS

“ I have so many fond memories of Izaak. I was lucky enough to be his teacher for two and a half years at Overland High School. Upon meeting Izaak I was struck by his happy-go-lucky demeanor and now, after knowing him for so long, I can say that his demeanor upon meeting him was exactly the person he was every single day. Izaak was the kind-hearted leader of the class, the person who thoughtfully listened to the other students' dilemmas, heartache, and recounting of their trauma, only to offer wise, beyond-his-years advice that only Izaak could offer because his life experience made him an expert on all things life.

Each morning, we would start class with a check-in where students would share with the class how they were feeling emotionally. We used a 1-10 scale (1=worst day ever, 10=best day ever) and Izaak consistently rated himself a 10. His statement became a class favorite and we all knew that when it was Izaak's turn, he would proclaim, "I'm a 10!". This became part of the routine and the class would reply with him in choral, "I'm a 10!" We were all in awe of Izaak's ability to trudge through insurmountable challenges and remain positive, giving, and happy-go-lucky. His ray of sunshine was a true gift to me and everyone who encountered him. Izaak inspired many of the lessons we did in class, which found us making individual pizzas, jello brain molds, role-playing, singing, dancing, and generally celebrating life. We once took a 10-week break dancing class, as a class, at the Aurora School of Breaking, and every student groaned...except for Izaak. He was up for a new adventure and approached this opportunity with excitement. It was fun watching him learn new dance moves and encourage his classmates. We would laugh when he would try to practice the moves in class. He didn't worry about what others thought of him, he just wanted to have fun.

One of his favorite topics to share with the class were stories about his brother, Zeke. If ever there was a hero, Zeke was it for him. Izaak's stories of his adventures with Zeke and his love for his brother gave us all inspiration to create bonds like theirs. They were

*featured in the Overland Scout and Izaak was so very proud to have a brother who supported him through all the ups and downs of his journey. Izaak also spoke often of Zeke's friends who took him under his wing and never treated him like some little brothers were treated. They treated him like a friend, which is one of the words I would use to describe Izaak - he was a friend to all.*

*Lisa, Wade, Zeke, and Grandma Wanda, and family, I am so sorry for your profound loss. You are all so brave and strong. I will forever carry Izaak's memory with me and keep his memory alive in all that I do. Thank you for sharing your Izaak with us and for teaching me along the way about family, advocacy, strength, perseverance, hope, and kindness.*



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**Jodi Sanchez** - February 11, 2021 at 11:38 AM

RB

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



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**Rhonda Bindert** - February 10, 2021 at 09:40 PM

RB

“ *Izaak and Nick. Fall of 2014. The tumor twins. Identical tumors in slightly different areas. They met each other in Children’s chemo suite. They’ve always had contact with one another. They were a ray of sunshine and comfort to each other. Fly high Child, Soar among the eagles at the mountain tops. Live now like you were born to do. You’ll be in our hearts forever.*

*Rhonda and Nick Bindert*



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**Rhonda Bindert** - February 10, 2021 at 09:36 PM