



## Jeffrey Walbye

December 20, 2021

Jeffrey Carl Walbye, 58, of Fort Collins, CO, passed away on December 20, 2021 of a sudden cardiac event. Jeff was born in Rawlins, WY three weeks early on April 1, 1963 as a brilliant April fool's joke on his parents Charles and Marie Matson Walbye. His family settled in Fort Collins, CO in 1968 when he was 5. Jeff attended Bauder Elementary, Blevins Junior High and Poudre High School where he graduated in 1981. He attended the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley for one year before transferring to Colorado State University, and after a harrowing internship in Abu Dhabi U.A.E, he graduated with a BS in Sports Science in 1985.

Jeff played football throughout his youth, in high school and at both UNC and CSU until an injury prevented him from continuing. He met his future wife, Carol Jean Hecker at CSU. They dated for 18 months, remained friends for 8 years, and married in 1993. Jeff had an interest in learning to fly and started on the ramp as a baggage handler for Rocky Mountain Airlines. He moved to load planning and earned his dispatch license. He worked hard and secured loans to get the money necessary for flight ratings, and over the next couple years he flew some pretty rickety airplanes in some rather ugly weather to get the hours and experience he needed to fly commercially. In 1989 he had enough hours to be hired as a first officer on the Beech 1900 at Rocky Mountain Airlines. Continental Airlines bought the small airline and it became Continental Express. In 1994 he moved up to Continental Airlines and was

initially based in Guam. He continued to fly for Continental then United Airlines for 33 years, spending the last 10 years flying internationally on the 777 and 787 out of Newark and then San Francisco. He accepted an early retirement package in April 2021.

Jeff always had an entrepreneurial mind and became interested in real estate in the early 1990's. He gradually over the years bought multiple rental properties in the Fort Collins area. He had a good business sense and was willing to take risks. He was a lifelong hunter and outdoorsman and had many adventures with friends and family.

Jeff's only son Jackson Ryan was born in 1998. Jeff was a caring, involved father and mentor to his son. He thoroughly enjoyed watching his son follow in his football footsteps and encouraged Jack to pursue his athletic endeavors, his master's degree and property investment.

Jeff enjoyed life to the fullest, living each day as though it were his last. Keeping in character with his birth date, he was the ultimate prankster, as anyone and everyone who knew him can attest to. He was a devoted husband and father, son and brother. He made sure everyone was taken care of, giving his all and expecting nothing in return. He had many circles of friends and was quick to make new ones. Every one of them has at least one "Jeff story", and they will be fondly shared for years to come.

Jeff will be sorely missed by his mother, Marie Walbye, of Fort Collins, CO, wife, Carol, of Fort Collins, CO, son, Jackson, of Spearfish, SD, sister, Sonja Mills, of Fort Collins, CO, brother, Chip (Terri), of Victorville, CA, nephews, WY cousins and relatives, airline colleagues and many, many friends. Jeff is preceded in death by his father, Charles Walbye.

Sports and football in particular was close to Jeff's heart, and he often

expressed that all kids should have access to sports despite their socioeconomic circumstances. In lieu of flowers or gifts, please consider donating to the “Jeff Walbye Memorial Fund” in care of the Poudre Football Alumni Association PO Box 111, Wellington, CO 80549. By contributing to this fund in Jeff’s honor, you’ll be helping local youth afford the costs associated with pursuing their athletic goals and dreams.

Per Jeff’s request, there will be no funeral, however a celebration of his life will be held on April 1, 2022 at Windsong Estate Event Center in Fort Collins. Please RSVP using the link provided: <http://evite.me/5FP6tD1Nz3>

# Tribute Wall



“ Jeffrey Walbye

October 25, 2022 at 06:14 PM



“ Jeff Walbye's Celebration of Life version 12 by JJ

Here is the google drive link: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1nSOQk\\_jwD4nBw7XS8Q-3QJWQSFx2aZyk/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1nSOQk_jwD4nBw7XS8Q-3QJWQSFx2aZyk/view?usp=sharing)

Presented April 1st, 2022 at Windsong event center. Created in 1080p HD by JJ. This is for the people that could not attend or would like to watch at home on their PC or laptop. You can download it from google drive, just click on the link above. Music Copyrights are retained by the original artists.

jeff johnson - April 03, 2022 at 04:00 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



jeff johnson - April 03, 2022 at 03:53 AM

JJ

“ 1 file added to the album slide show



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jeffrey johnson - April 03, 2022 at 03:33 AM

JJ

“ This link is to Jeff's Celebration of life slide show seen at the April 1st event.

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1nSOQk\\_jwD4nBw7XS8Q-3QJWQS Fx2aZyk/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1nSOQk_jwD4nBw7XS8Q-3QJWQS Fx2aZyk/view)

*Copyrights for the music in the slideshow is retained by the original artists.*

*Please download and view on your local PC.*

*Thanks,*

*JJ*

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jeffrey johnson - April 03, 2022 at 02:33 AM

JJ

“ We love and miss ya Jeff!

*Please see the Slideshow from Jeff's Celebration of life April 1st, 2022 at Windsong event Center.*

*Click and share the link with anyone via email or text that loved or shared time with Jeff.*

*12 minute slideshow from April 1st link: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1nSOQk\\_jwD4nBw7XS8Q-3QJWQSFx2aZyk/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1nSOQk_jwD4nBw7XS8Q-3QJWQSFx2aZyk/view?usp=sharing)*

*Please download the slideshow from google drive, its 12 minutes long and 100 Mb. It may take some time to download - the slideshow was created in 1080p HD. So make sure to click the gear on the slideshow and pick the best quality video. Playing the slideshow over a slow internet connection vs downloading it, may only offer you 360p and it looks very poor at lower resolutions. It was created and intended to be played at 1080p HD.*

*There is audio as well, some of Jeff and Carolos choices. All copy rights are retained by the original artist for all music scores. This slideshow is not for sale but for friends and family that might not have been able to attend the event. The intent of the slideshow was to have fun as Jeff's spirit would demand. Look for some of Jeff's April foolery.*

*Jeff you blessed up with your presence. Thanks for letting me be a part of your life.*

*Jeffrey Johnson*

*Close friend of Jeff's*

*Creator of this slideshow to honor Jeff's life and spirit*

*I will make a Post production slideshow to include pictures from the event photographer. Please give us several weeks to put that*

*together.*

*JJ*


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**Jeff Johnson** - April 03, 2022 at 01:14 AM

RZ

“ *Jeff will always remain in my heart as a happy go lucky person. We first met in the 80s at Rocky Mountain Airways & were very excited to move on to Continental Airlines and shipped off to Guam. From the long commutes to cruising Tumon Bay, they were the best of times.*

*It is with great sadness that Sue & I learned of your passing as we say farewell old friend. Carol and Jack will remain in our thoughts and prayer's.*

  *Ron, Sue, & Justin Zullo*

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**ron zullo** - April 01, 2022 at 08:35 PM

BR

“ *Every time I think of Jeff, or his name comes up, it always brings a smile and a laugh. I have great memories of our years at Rocky, our ATR ground school (we played a great prank on the Bar Harbor guys concerning a cue ball - I recall it was Jeff's idea), our 727 ground school at mainline Continental, and flying together on the 787. What a great person. I will miss him, and the laughter that was always part of being around him. My sincere condolences and prayers go out to his family.*

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**Brad Ratcliffe** - February 01, 2022 at 07:06 PM

SO

“ *Sonja lit a candle in memory of Jeffrey Walbye*



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**Sonja** - January 27, 2022 at 05:00 PM



“ *2 files added to the album Memories Album*



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**Rick Bennett** - January 25, 2022 at 12:42 PM

RB

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



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**Rick Bennett** - January 25, 2022 at 12:40 PM

DH

“ Carol and family - our condolences, thoughts and prayers go out to you. Jeff brought positive things to the world and those who knew him, and he will be truly missed! Not my quote and don't know the origin, but 'Life is Short, Break the Rules, Forgive Quickly, Kiss Slowly, Love Truly, Laugh Uncontrollably and NEVER Regret Anything that made you Smile'. I would bet Jeff had few regrets. RIP Jeff

*Jon and Debbie Haferman*

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**Debbie Haferman** - January 24, 2022 at 11:34 AM

CH

“ Condolences and best wishes to Jeff's family. I had the privilege of flying with Jeff at Rocky Mountain Airways, Continental, and United...starting with the Beech 1900 and ending with the 787 when he retired. I echo what others have said...what a great man, friend, and pilot! We shared many commutes and hours aloft over both local and far-flung locations...never bored or lacking things to talk about 😊

*I only wish he'd had more time in retirement to enjoy knees without pain, time with family without having to be gone so much, and joy spent doing the things he loved. You'll be missed Jeff, RIP and CAVU!*

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**Chris Henderson** - January 19, 2022 at 11:54 PM

KM

“ Carol, Jack and Jeff’s mother,

*Growing up Jeff spent a lot of time with our family on Dover Drive. Jeff gave life meaning through laughter, compassion, and hope. Great human being, who will be missed by so many. Sincere condolences to each of you.*

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**Kristi Martinez-Rice** - January 15, 2022 at 01:00 PM

SN

“ 19 files added to the album Memories Album



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**Stacey Newton** - January 15, 2022 at 02:58 AM

CS

“ *Sitting here reading these memories smiling and tearing up at the same time...I can totally appreciate every story I read. Fortunate to know Jeff and Jack through Carol and mutual friends. Lucky enough to have gone on an epic trip to Bali put together by the Walbyes (1995). Jeff always made every gathering something to remember. Great conversation and always looking to spice things up a bit :) Sending out our sincere love and condolences to Carol and Jack. Love you and miss you my brother, RIP !!!*  
*Craig and Jo Smith*



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**craig smith** - January 09, 2022 at 12:22 PM

CS

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*Craig and Jo Smith*



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**craig smith** - January 09, 2022 at 11:58 AM



“ *I'm not one to post on tributes because many memories were so long ago, but I really wanted to with Jeff. Did I know him well? No, but he did make a difference. My transition moving here was difficult, especially at 14 at Blevins. Jeff was so goofy and nice, and just interacted kindly with everyone. When you see that someone is a genuinely good person in a new situation it gives you hope and you realize that everything is going to be ok. He really wished the best for everyone.*

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**Paula Griffith** - January 09, 2022 at 11:53 AM

JS

“ Carol and Jack: Jeff will be missed by so many. He was a riot at PHS. He was one of the best pranksters as mentioned in a previous post. He was a great friend to all and I am glad I had a chance to see him at the high-school reunion.

*I am so sorry for your loss. I pray for peace for you and many great memories.*

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**Joel Stewart** - January 08, 2022 at 01:04 PM

DB

“ Jeff was one of my favorites at United. Spent many hours solving the worlds problems, naming our favorite craft beers and sharing jokes over the Pacific. Im at a lose for words. My sincere condolences to the family. A very great man was lost. He will always be missed.

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**Douglas bond** - January 06, 2022 at 01:05 PM

TO

“ Carol, so sorry to hear about Jeff. He was one of my best friends growing up and I will never forget the fun times that we had. I'm so glad I was able to see him at my daughters wedding and he will always be remembered.

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**Tony** - January 06, 2022 at 12:17 PM



“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Carol Hecker-Walbye - January 06, 2022 at 11:25 AM



“ Some pictures of Jeff to help us carry on. If you have pictures you wish to share, please do.



Carol Hecker-Walbye - January 06, 2022 at 11:23 AM



“ My deepest sympathies to Carol, Jack, and family. I knew Jeff since the CAL days from commuting. As we all know he had a quick laugh and I never saw him in any other mood. Jeff will be missed by all who have ever met him. Sending prayers to all.

Ray McC. - January 06, 2022 at 08:56 AM

RA

*Blessing to mom wife and family*

Rosemarie Aberle - January 06, 2022 at 01:58 PM

SC

“ Jeff and I were neighbors and best of friends growing up on West Prospect. My sympathies and condolences to all of his family, friends, and loved ones.

*Scott Campbell*

Scott Campbell - January 06, 2022 at 08:45 AM

BP

“ One of many nights out with Jeff in Guam, we were having a few at Tahiti Rama's, and as we were walking home up the road from Tumon Bay we were in the middle of the street and there was a big navy bus grinding its gears behind us. We look back and way down the hill all we could see where it's headlights. So as it gets closer, Jeff and I decided it would be a good idea to moon the bus. So we both dropped Trou, bent over, and shined. We move to allow the bus to pass and we heard a bunch of guys on the bus yelling, "their ours, stop, their ours". The bus pulled over and Jeff and I hopped on. It was a bus full of Navy SEALs. The commander was screaming at them to shut up and sit down. Jeff and I stood in the aisle of the bus because there were no seats. They didn't. He tried again. They were still out of control. Then I screamed shut the %#€€ up and sit down. And the bus quieted down and they sat down . The bus continued to drive when Jeff and I decided that we had to get off of the bus before it reached the Navy base. The bus pulled over in front of a Burger King, and Jeff and I jumped off and so did the recruits and went sprinting to the drive up window, commander screaming. It was a short walk home at that point.

Bob Pineo - January 06, 2022 at 07:35 AM

LH

“ *Now cracks a noble heart. Good-night, sweet prince;  
And flights of angels sing thee to thy rest.*  
*Shakespeare*

*Sending love and light your way.*

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**Laura Hecker** - January 05, 2022 at 10:53 PM

JB

“ Jeff was one of those people that once you meet you will never forget.

*He was one kindest, funny and caring people I've met and he lightened up a room every time he walked in.*

*Jeff was a crucial part of starting the Poudre football alumni association and without his support this idea would have never gotten off the ground. That is where our paths crossed and I can say when he was at our meetings we always had a lot more fun.*

*My last time getting to spend significant time with Jeff was at the Poudre Football Golf tournament this summer. We were manning the "Golf gun" and it was a treat to get to spend 5 or 6 hours together that day.*

*We got a a chance to talk about life, politics, sports and many other things and I told him he made so much sense he needed to run for office. He of course wouldn't dare become a politician but we got a lot of laughs that day.*

*In our conversation his love for his wife was evident and his extreme pride and love for his son Jack was also unmistakable. I know he will be truly missed by all of his family and close friends.*

*Our main "idea" that day, was that we were going to start a charter school called capitalism and sports. And that would be all that would be taught. None of the fluff required by schools. If you are not in a sport you have to work. And kids would learn all about how to succeed in business, hard work, having strong ethics and the things that "matter". I have told dozens about Jeff's idea and love Telling the story because it reminds me of him and who he was.*

*God Bless to Jeff's Family and Friends, he will be missed by many .*

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**Jason Burkett** - January 05, 2022 at 09:50 PM

BP

“ Carol my deepest sympathy’s I came late to the party Jeff always treated me like one of the guys and I always appreciated that we hunted together and went on fishing trips to Canada and he was always a lot fun. I remember one night when in Canada in the middle of nowhere asleep after fishing all day and he threw a big rock on top of our cabin and got the biggest kick out it. He was also good for an elk drag when the muscle was needed. RIP in peace my friend Brad and Debbie Peters

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**Brad Peters** - January 05, 2022 at 09:47 PM

DH

“ Carol and Jack, you know how I feel! Will miss Jeff like no other. Way too many memories and one of my best friends ever. Good and dangerous I was always having fun following his lead. Jeff's middle name should have been crazy. I have seen it all! Jeff was for sure one of a kind. I will truly miss him and look forward to the next chapter. Love you guys! Dan

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**Dan Haferman** - January 05, 2022 at 09:44 PM

RY

“ Carol and Jack, my deepest sympathies and prayers for your loss of Jeff. It is a special relationship when you can go from player/coach to friends as adults. I was privileged to coach Jeff in football and track, (he was a good player) and then after high school develop a strong friendship! Shortly after Jeff graduated, we moved a block away from his childhood home. Jef would drop by from time to time to catch up and check in. As life went along we would catch up on the phone or when we would crossed paths. We would have great talks as Jack grew up through sports and football. Jeff always wanted to be that encourager!

Then there where the pranks! Too many to share here but I was always concerned I would be on one of his flights sometime and he would fly the plane upside down or something! It didn't happen but I kind of wished it would have!

I will miss you my friend! I love you! Coach Yonks

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**Rich Yonker** - January 05, 2022 at 03:48 PM

DH

“ Our condolences to Carol and Richard Hecker. May the wonderful memories and stories be consistent reminders of his love to you all!! Prayers for you all!!

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**Dianne Hodges** - January 05, 2022 at 09:41 AM

KA

“ I send my prayers and thoughts to; Jeff's Wife, Carol and son, Jack as well as the rest of the Walbye family. Jeff and I grew up a few houses from one another. The memories of going fishing, hunting and family vacation with Jeff and his family will always hold a place in my heart. The friendship Jeff and I had was a true friendship; a friendship like that doesn't come along every day. Jeff my friend you will be missed until we meet again. Ken Alarid

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**Ken Alarid** - January 02, 2022 at 08:36 PM

WC

“ So sad to lose someone as special as Jeff! So many good memories...playing poker with the pennies from the cash register at the ice cream shop, Jeff and Ed sneaking out a bucket of ice cream, such a witty guy, always fun! I was so looking forward to going arrowhead hunting in the spring! Jeff will be missed by so many!

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**Wendy Corners** - January 02, 2022 at 01:07 PM

MP

“ Jeff was one of those kids you never forget. So much energy, humor and such a big heart of kindness. I was so devastated to hear of his passing. He was definitely one of my favorites. I so enjoyed being friends on FB and he helped me stay young. He was loved by many and will b missed by many. My heartfelt sympathy to Carol, his son, and his family and friends. Much luv and prayers to ALL

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**Marykay Pixley** - January 01, 2022 at 06:15 PM

 Phil Campbell

“ Prayers for the walbye and hecker families 🙏 Phil Campbell

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**Phil Campbell** - December 31, 2021 at 12:09 PM

JG

“ Years of competitive events between us back in the day. I am so sorry to hear of Jeff's passing. My heart and prayers to the family. Joe Brinkhoff Glass

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**Joe Brinkhoff Glass** - December 31, 2021 at 08:24 AM

JA

“ *I am so sad to hear this terrible news! Jeff was one of the great ones. So blessed to know him, life is short folks let's learn to enjoy each day.*

*Thoughts and prayers for Carol and family* ❤️

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**Joe Ahlbrandt** - December 30, 2021 at 12:28 PM