



Matthew S. Brofft

February 4, 2025

Matthew (Matt) Spencer Brofft, 68, died on Tuesday, February 4, 2025 in Fort Collins, CO. He is survived by his daughters Rebecca Everette and Kelly Becker, sons-in-law Lance Everette and Josh Becker, grandchildren Logan and Marten, parents Bonnie and Gordon Brofft, brother Gordon Brofft, Jr. and sister-in-law Ann Brofft, and former spouse Karen Kellogg Brofft. Matt was born on January 9, 1957 in Fresno, California.

Matt grew up in the redwood forests in central California. Some of his favorite memories included adventuring along the San Lorenzo River, fishing from the Santa Cruz wharf, and caring for many pets – including basset hounds, a bobcat named “Bob,” and an alligator that briefly resided in the family bathtub.

Matt graduated from San Lorenzo Valley High School in 1975, where he played baseball, wrestled, and was awarded “most valuable player” as the quarterback of the football team. Matt served as student body president and vice-president of the Key Club, and one of his proudest moments was meeting the governor of California while representing his school at Boys State.

After graduation, he played baseball and football at Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Oregon, graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Physical Education (1979) and a Master of Arts in Teaching (1984). While in college, he met and fell in love with Karen Kellogg, and they married at the Agnes

Flanagan Chapel on campus on March 14, 1981. Matt and Karen enjoyed 30 years of marriage together.

Matt and Karen relocated to Colorado in 1985, where they welcomed two daughters into the world, Rebecca Dawn (1986) and Kelly Memphis (1991). Matt was a devoted father who loved playing in the backyard, sledding at the park, and introducing his girls to every sport imaginable. He inspired a lifetime of compassion, integrity and curiosity in his daughters.

Matt knew from a young age that he wanted to be a P.E. teacher, and he lived out that dream over his 30-year career in education. After getting his start at Gardiner Junior High School in Oregon City (1979-1984), he taught at Castle Rock Elementary (1985-1988), Acres Green Elementary (1988-1992), and finally Highlands Ranch High School (1992-2015).

Athletics were Matt's life, and he had a particular passion for experiential education. Over the years, he coached football, baseball, wrestling, volleyball, and rock climbing. He co-founded the Highlands Ranch High School Adventure Education program and successfully raised funds to construct an indoor climbing wall and an outdoor ropes course. Mr. Brofft believed in igniting the potential of every student, trusting them with the freedom and independence they needed to develop into self-confident community leaders. He changed the lives of countless students, giving them a home in the Adventure Program and supporting their personal growth. His teaching truly embodied the Lao Tzu quote: "A leader is best when people barely know he exists, when his work is done, his aim fulfilled, they will say: we did it ourselves."

When Matt was inducted into the Highlands Ranch High School Hall of Fame in 2023, he reflected that, "building the adventure program was my honor and my legacy, and I will forever be a Jolly Rancher. In my career I had one sick

day, and equally impressive, I never got sued.”

After retiring in 2015, Matt relocated to Fort Collins, Colorado to be closer to his daughter Rebecca and her growing family. He adored his two grandchildren, Logan and Marten, and he was a fixture at all of their school and sport activities. He always had a pocket full of cookies as a reward for their efforts. He enjoyed cheering on the Colorado State University Rams, creating ceramic pottery, exploring the local golf courses, and searching for the best fried calamari and chile rellenos in town.

In honor of Matt's life and legacy, a celebration of life will be held from 12-3 p.m. on Saturday, May 3 at The Lone Tree Hub, 8827 Lone Tree Parkway, Lone Tree, CO 80124. In lieu of flowers, please join us in celebrating Matt's life by stepping outside your own “comfort zone” to try something new.

Donations can be made in Matt's honor to support the Highlands Ranch High School Adventure Program at: https://www.myschoolbucks.com/ver2/prdembd?ref=ZZHVZS5TX305OUU_ZZ66HM5ME8NJROO.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAY 3. 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM (MT)

The Lone Tree Hub
8827 Lone Tree Parkway
Lone Tree, CO 80124

Tribute Wall

MC

“ *My youngest cousin, may you rest in peace. Though, we didn't see much of each other over the years, I have thought of you often, especially today, when out of the blue I chose to look you up on Facebook.*
Marcia Van Sandt Rapier-Taylor

Marcia Rapier (Matt's cousin) - February 17 at 09:52 PM

MB

“ *I think of Matt every time I hear the song September... By the band Earth, Wind, and Fire. My heart goes out to his daughters and grandchildren... I am so sorry to hear of his passing.*

Maggie Fromme Bowman - August 14, 2025 at 06:47 PM

CR

“ *I just saw this and am so sorry to hear of Matt's passing. Matt was in my brother Dutch's class in High School and they played sports on different teams over the years. My dad also coached boys baseball and we would always see Matt's parents at all the games. Matt always had a smile on his face. He will be missed by all those that knew him.*

Cathy Root - August 13, 2025 at 09:37 PM

SP

“ I grew up down the street from the Brofft family. We were classmates quite often through our formative years. I can remember Matt & Gordon always coming up with some pretty awesome Halloween outfits over the years they went 'all out'. I remember walking around Brookdale with Matt after an unusual and particularly heavy snow storm, marveling at the beauty of it, and the trees down all over Hwy 9. Taking a long weekend with him driving down to Santa Barbara to visit friends. I know he will be greatly missed by many.

Stuart Polson - April 10, 2025 at 05:37 PM

RE

Thank you so much for sharing these memories, Stuart. It means so much to us <3

Rebecca Brofft Everette - April 14, 2025 at 11:52 AM

RE

“ I met Matt at Acres Green when we were both teaching there. No one could miss his energy and dedication to the kids! Matt and I had a "painting business" for a couple of summers making additional money painting other teachers' homes. We had a couple of fun summers with each other trying not to spill paint where it didn't belong! Thanks for the great memories, Matt!

Rick Emmelhainz - March 30, 2025 at 10:15 AM

RE

I remember the painting business from my childhood! Thank you for sharing, Rick.

Rebecca Brofft Everette - April 14, 2025 at 11:53 AM



“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Goes Funeral Care & Crematory - March 26, 2025 at 02:58 PM