



Nathan Kennard

APR 9, 1973 - MAY 28, 2020



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Nathan was born at the Duke University Hospital April 9th, 1973, to Raeburn Gleason Kennard and Nancy Valleau Kennard. He passed away entirely too early at Beehive Homes of Draper (UT) on May 28, 2020, from Multiple Sclerosis. He was surrounded by family during his last week, and Sam and Chris were lucky enough to be by his side when he graduated from this life.

He lived a full and happy life for the short time he was here. After a childhood filled with camping adventures, bike rides, academic decathlon, scouting and a mission to Texas, Nathan studied at Utah State University and earned a Masters degree in Environmental Engineering. During those years he met and married his best friend Chris and they had four wonderful boys. He worked for the Utah Department of Natural Resources for many years. His love of life was contagious and he considered everyone his friend!

Nathan was an intelligent and passionate extrovert who needed to meet anyone close enough to say 'hi' to. In fact, he often created opportunities to meet people and talk. Part of the reason he learned to knit was because people would ask him what he was making and what kind of yarn he was using, which would open the door to all kinds of conversations. He would talk about intactivism, knitting, LDN, river rafting, kids, chess, hiking, ragnar, mormonism and exmormonism.

His intactivist work getting circumcision defunded earned him the nickname 'Circumcision Guy'- a nickname he proudly wore.

He loved his boys and loved being a dad. He would read to them every night, and then play a game called 'I'll race you to sleep' (he usually won). He didn't limit his reading to children's books — he read anything that sounded interesting including his law books and the constitution. A favorite memory of his boys is him reading '1984' to them when they were 9, 8, 6 and 4. He would wake them for grocery runs late at night or take them on hiking adventures. One three-day weekend he decided to take them to Canada, where they were able to explore for a mere two



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hours before they had to head back. For about 10 summers, he took them river rafting down the Snake with work friends which furthered a love of nature and adventure in his sons.

Nathan's vocabulary was legendary — a gift he got from his dad. He loved the English language and making puns or alliterations. He especially loved long words. Two of his favorite discoveries were "pneumenoultramicroscopicsilicovalcanoconiosis" and "hemidemisemiquaver." We think the reason he never swore was because there was always a much more impressive word that fit the situation better.

His hope was to donate his brain and body to the U of U Body Donation Program, but that was stymied by COVID-19 regulations curtailing donations. We are confident they are missing out on an incredibly interesting brain and are pretty sad that this silver lining was taken from us.

Nathan was preceded in death by his equally amazing mom, Nancy. We wish we could hear their conversation and feel they are watching out for us now. Missing him terribly are his sons Scott, Sam, Andrew and Elijah. He is also survived and missed by his dad Raeburn, his bonus mom Suzanne, siblings Elisse (Garry) Davis, Ashley (Matt) Jensen, Dawn (Ken) Orgill, Aaron (Nan) Kennard, Emily (Adam) Dunn and step-siblings Brad (Melissa) Southam, Robin (Darin) Perry, Shauna (Spencer) Shaffer, James (Whitney) Southam and Darin (Michelle) Southam. There are many dear friends who have a Nathan sized hole in their worlds now (Chris, Derek and others).

Nathan's family all express deep appreciation to Angie, her staff (Nathan's friends!), and the residents of the Beehive Homes of Draper care facility for their love and service to Nathan during his final two years of life. We are also so grateful for Nathan's hospice nurse Jamie, who facilitated routine contact between Nathan and his sons when they could not visit during the past few months. Jamie was there through it all letting us know what to expect and that everything was okay.

A private family memorial service will be held this summer. In lieu of one big public memorial service, we encourage everyone who loved Nathan to gather a few other Nathan-ites, raise a glass of whatever beverage most reminds them of Nathan and tell happy anecdotes. If you have time to mail them to his boys at nathan.kennard.memories@gmail.com, they would love to hear your stories.



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We're hoping to place a memorial bench and a tree along the Jordan River Parkway- hopefully between his house and his sister Ashley's. Nathan could use the pathway to walk from house to house, and we like the idea of giving someone like him a place to rest and some shade. If you would like to be part of this effort, please reach out to a family member or email nathan.kennard.memories@gmail.com for donation instructions and an update.

Nathan's passing has left us all feeling that life is short, precious, and full of big words just waiting to be used. Go out, have adventures, and be a bit more sesquipedalian in his honor.



Tribute Wall

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AW

Angie Wilcox posted:

I was lucky enough and truly blessed to have known Nathan for the last 18 months of his life. The staff and I at Beehive Homes of Draper loved Nathan beyond words. I don't think there was a single person in our home (both residents and staff included) that Nathan didn't enhance their life in some way. He was a chess buddy to one of our older residents who was so happy to finally have a friend to share a good healthy competitive game with least daily. Another fellow resident adored him so much that she would bring treats every day to him in his room after he was bed bound by his crippling disease. One of our CNAs would go to him for philosophical discussions about controversial issues- she loved his intellect and perspective. He was a true friend to everyone around him. Even after losing much of his ability to communicate using words, he taught me to cherish moments, "Everything can be Awesome"!, limitations I believe I have are mostly in my head. I talked to him about parenting, education, life experiences. I am forever blessed that he was in my life even for a short time. I can only imagine the things he did and the people he influenced before MS decided to challenge him. His family is truly made up of some of the most compassionate, adventurous, and incredible people I have ever met. Thank you for sharing Nathan with us at Beehive. We all will cherish his memory and his influence. Scott, Sam, Andrew, and Elijah I want to tell you how amazing you boys are! Your dad is an incredible man and I have seen that part of him in each of you. (Elijah- make sure you eat Kneader's French toast at least once a year!) Chris, Derek, Raeburn, Emily, and Dawn and many others, I will miss seeing you all terribly! What incredible love you gave to Nathan! We love and miss you all!~Angie & Your Beehive Family~

June 11 at 10:47 AM

GP

Greg Payne posted:

I have so many fun memories of Nate. He was always so positive and energetic about so many topics. He was a great friend and a valuable study group partner. Nate was by far the smartest engineer in our Environmental group. He would solve these complex problems so quickly in his head and then he would kindly take the time to explain it to everyone. He helped many people (including me) get through some tough courses at Utah State. My favorite memory was when I was driving with Nate and some friends through the Island in Logan. I flew past a parked police car that was looking for speeding cars. When the cop pulled out onto the road Nate yelled, "punch it!" I laugh every time I think about that ticket. - Greg Payne

June 8 at 10:53 AM

JG

Jgreen posted:

I happened across this tribute and wanted to let his family know how beautifully written it is. Mr. Kennard sounds like quite a guy and your description of his life and attributes was very heartwarming — even to someone who doesn't know your family. You are in my thoughts!

June 6 at 12:44 PM



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Dave Cole posted:

Nathan was a young energetic engineer. He had a lot of skills and did a great job for the Division of Water Resources. He accomplished a lot during his career. We were sad when his health was failing. He was a lot of fun to with on the camps and river runs. I hope the fun continues. His children can be proud of their father. Dave Cole

June 5 at 3:41 PM



Debbie Boren June 7 at 9:36 AM

I will miss this man. I and Nathan used to carpool to work for a long time. He was a very interesting, fun, kind, giving and made friends wherever he went. I remember Nathan telling me about a gal he met while on Trax. They exchanged conversation and in the end he told the gal, my wife would really like you. We should get together. Nathan would make no-bake cookies and deliver them to my home as we lived close by. Nathan was always well-versed on most topics in depth, he loved sharing talk with everyone. His boys were his world! Rest pain free Nathan! This will be the river trip of the champions!



Dawn Orgill shared 9 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

We had such a fun time with Nathan in the Summer of 2018. It was the first time Nathan visited us after we moved to Washington. Nathan was always ready for any adventure! We took him to Olympic National Park - Hurricane Ridge. What an adventure it was! We started off by crossing the sound on a ferry. We enjoyed walking around the upper deck and feeling the cool salty breeze on our face for the 30 minute ride. But the true adventures began when we arrived at Hurricane Ridge. Not only were there epic views in all directions, but Nathan was brave enough to let us take him on a little 'roller coaster ride' down one of the trails. (see photos!) We had some good laughs about that! There were never a shortage of laughs with Nathan, he was always so jovial! It was a beautiful day spent with some of my favorite people, in one of the most beautiful places I have ever been. I can't wait to go back and explore the rest of the trails that were too difficult to explore that day. I'm sure Nathan will join me when I do, maybe not in person, but he'll be there in my heart. I love you Nathan, and miss you very much!



June 3 at 4:58 PM



Media

Nathan Kennard

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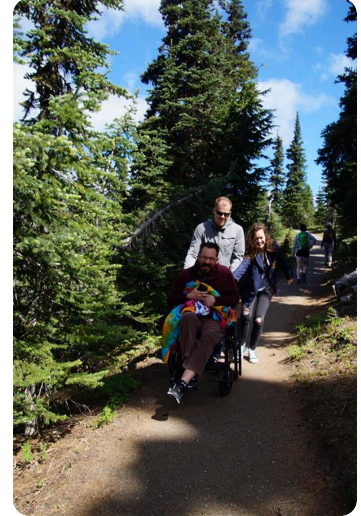


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June 3 at 4:58 PM



Hurricane Ridge viewpoint



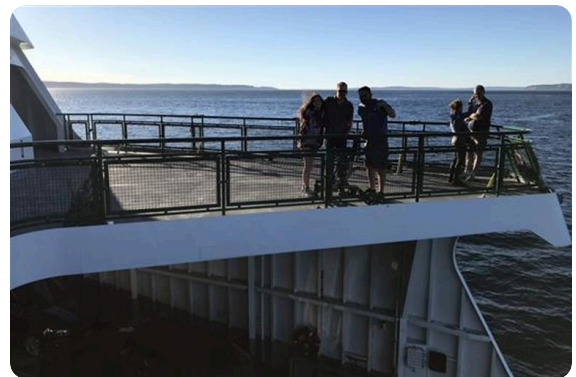
Ken and Lexi were trying to keep Nathan from careening down the mountain to certain death!



Nathan, happy to take a break from feeling like he was about to go over the cliff any second!



I love the faces Nathan makes!



Nathan is pointing to the cars below, this was our first time riding on a ferry like this!



Nathan always had a story to tell, often with his hands!



We're here and ready for adventure!



Viewpoint from behind the visitor center



Every bit as fun going up as it is to go down!



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Nathan by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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