



Billy Joel Garrard

July 3, 1980 - March 13, 2021

Billy Joel Garrard, (affectionately known as “Piano Man” by his sister-in-law, “Aunty Awesome”, Linzie), passed away unexpectedly on March 13, 2021. Billy lived in Wellington Colorado with his wife Meghan and their blended family of four wonderful children.

Billy was born July 3, 1980 to his mother Elaine Garrard and father Brad Prichard in Austin Texas and grew up in Missouri and Colorado. He moved to Fort Collins Colorado in 2013 where he met the love of his life Meghan Stephenson. They were married in a beautiful, snowy but sunny setting outdoors next to the convergence of Grizzly Creek and the Colorado River on January 16, 2015. During the ceremony, the pastor, Jim Bailey, compared the two rivers coming together as one, to the joining of two hearts in marriage becoming one. Billy and Meghan brought a precious son, Liam, and three years later a beautiful daughter, Hannah, into the world. Together with Meghan’s two other children, Jackson, and Zoey they built a family filled with love and rambunctious life.

Billy was blessed with an infectious smile that would light up any room he walked into. He had a laugh that was unmistakable and was a rabid Denver Broncos fan. During Super Bowl 50, I’m sure the neighbors two doors down could hear Billy cheering and rooting on his Broncos. Billy relished spending time with his family. Whether it be fishing, watching one of the kids compete in

a sporting event, or just going to the park Billy was there enjoying the day the Lord had made.

Billy was a “Soul on Fire” for his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Billy touched so many lives in his too short of time on God’s earth. Below is a tribute that was written by one of those lives.

by David Janzen

“I suppose it is human nature that when someone leaves our lives early, our first inclination is to ask God why He let it happen. To even be angry at God. (If so, He can take it.) But as hard as it might be in our sadness, perhaps we also need to thank God for even bringing that person into our lives.

I thank God for bringing Billy into my life. He taught me so many things in the time we knew each other. How to be open, honest, and vulnerable. How to overcome. How to love God and be excited about a relationship with Him. I will miss my friend very much. (I always wanted to go to a hockey game with Billy, and figured we would get around to it one day.) But I also have joy picturing him with His Savior, free from the trials of this life.

So many times I have no idea why a sovereign God does what He does, and when He does. One day we will. So today I do what I know. That is, to celebrate the gift that was Billy, and also mourn with Meghan, the kids, and so many others that loved him. – with Meghan Garrard”

One of Billy’s favorite quotes was taught to him by a man he looked to as a close friend and mentor, Jim Bailey:

“I am a Bible totin’ scripture quotin’ devil smotin’ child of the most high God.”

Billy is survived by his wife Meghan, four children - Jackson Torres (Jax), Zoey Stephenson, Liam, and Hannah Garrard; his mother Elaine Boeckman; step-father Norbert Boeckman, father Brad Prichard (Karen); sister Regina Garrard (Tim); brother Chris Prichard (Reese); sister Sara Harskamp (Dustin) parents in-law Mike and Jude Stephenson; sister in-law Linzie Stephenson (Louis);

brother in-law James Stephenson (Aaren); and numerous nieces and nephews, other family and friends.

Preceding Billy in death are his sister Kimmy, and close friend and mentor Pastor Jim Bailey.

A service celebrating Billy's life will be held 10:30 am Thursday March 25, 2021 at Mountain View Community Church, 328 Remington St, Fort Collins CO.

Billy's family has set up an empathy fund to help with the cost of his services please go to <https://www.empathy-funding.com/26/1869/Garrard> if you wish to help the family. Billy's family appreciates your emotional and financial support.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAR **25**. 10:30 AM (MT)

Mountain View Community Church
328 Remington Street
Fort Collins, CO 80524

Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Alana - May 01, 2024 at 12:05 PM



Heart touching

Alana - May 01, 2024 at 12:06 PM



Moved to tears

Alana - May 01, 2024 at 12:06 PM



What the number lady???

Alana - May 01, 2024 at 12:06 PM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Billy Joel Garrard.



April 06, 2021 at 01:20 PM



“ *A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Billy Joel Garrard.*



March 25, 2021 at 05:23 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Billy Joel Garrard.*



March 24, 2021 at 10:02 AM



“ *Timothy G. purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Billy Joel Garrard.*



Timothy G. - March 23, 2021 at 10:29 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Billy Joel Garrard.*



March 23, 2021 at 05:01 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Billy Joel Garrard.*



March 21, 2021 at 12:36 PM



“ *If you knew Billy you'd have to agree that his love for Jesus was tangible and his love for his family was convicting. If you spent 3 minutes with Billy you could see his heart and feel his love, he was simply infectious. We're grateful for the time we had together and while we are heartbroken for his absence the vision of Billy worshiping in the presence of Jesus is a beautiful image that brings great comfort.*

*MUCH love & MANY prayers -
Mike & Mindy*

Mike & Mindy Gee - March 20, 2021 at 11:04 PM



“ *2 files added to the album Memories Album*



Norbert Boeckman - March 20, 2021 at 10:31 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Billy Joel Garrard.*



March 19, 2021 at 07:37 PM



“ *Billy was the most on-fire-for-Jesus man I have ever met. He had a way of understanding others' pain in a way that was comforting and non-judgemental. One of my favorite memories of him was how he just loved when I'd bring the salted caramels from Trader Joe's to our life group. "Mysteriously" the box kept ending up right in front of Billy. My heart is breaking for Meghan and the kids, but my heart rejoices knowing Billy is in the presence of Jesus.*

Gretchen Anderson Meister - March 19, 2021 at 04:17 PM

JS

This is a perfect sentiment for Billy. I loved him like a son. His smile was infectious and he carried his Bible everywhere. I loved how he called me mom and felt comfortable talking to me about anything. He worked so hard to make a such a successful life for him and his family. He loved his children and his wife dearly. For he is now with his loving savior ❤️

Jude Stephenson - March 19, 2021 at 04:26 PM

CH

Billy was truly My Brother from another mother. He always was positive about things. Even if they were negative he would think of a positive thing to say about the situation. I remember when he called me and said Chip I'm gonna be Father. He was so happy. He never did imagine himself as a father in early adult years. He work hard to be successful. I'll miss my brother as he is with others he lost along his journey in life. I love you Billy. I'll never forget you

Chip Hart - March 20, 2021 at 10:46 AM

NB

It was so sad to me to hear of Billy's passing. I have been so impressed at how this man has turned his life around to become a loving and faithful husband and father, and a devout Christian gentleman.

Billy has had a tough life and when I first met him, what I remembered most was his contagious smile. He was able to draw people in. I remember how good of a basketball player he was. I knew early on that I would never be able to beat him in a one on one game.

I know he had a tough life, and I remember that at one of his lowest times, he turned to God for help. I remember when he got released from prison he was filled with his faith in God. Although he struggled and had some up's and downs, I believed he kept his faith.

Then the Good Lord sent him Meghan and her family, and with her strong faith they made a beautiful family together. I remember he always talked so proudly of his family, his wife and his 4 beautiful kids. I regret not trying to stay closer to him and his family these past several years. I can only think that the Good Lord needed him.

Rest in Peace my son, May the divine assistance remain with us, and may the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Norbert Boeckman

Norbert Boeckman - March 20, 2021 at 11:03 AM

AL

What breed is your dog?

Alana - May 01, 2024 at 12:08 PM