



## Brett R. Hoopingarner

November 5, 1964 - May 8, 2019

It is with great sadness that the family of Brett Hoopingarner announces his passing peacefully in his sleep, on May 8, 2019, at the age of 54.

He will be lovingly remembered by his mother, Joyce and his two sisters, Erin Maranjian and Stella St Vincent. He was pre-deceased by his brother, Kurt in 2006, and his father, Jan Harlan Hoopingarner in 2003. He will also be greatly missed by his nieces, Sarah Parmenter, Emily Messer, Bethany Geisert and nephew, David Maranjian. They all remember him as a wonderful uncle. He was an imperturbable teacher who created many great memories for his family. His "wait-for-it" smirk was his trademark and we all remember it fondly along with his distinctive sense of humor.

Brett was born in Pomona, California on November 5, 1964. He grew up in the southwestern states, spending years in California, New Mexico, Arizona and Colorado. He lived in Colorado for most of his adult life beginning in 1992.

He graduated from Arizona State University in 1991 with a degree in Computer Information Systems with honors, Cum Laude. In 1992 he moved to Fort Collins to work for Book Center of the Rockies. Although it started out as a temporary job to help develop their IT department, he was soon indispensable to the company and remained there for almost 30 years.

Brett's insatiable curiosity and love of learning led him down many interesting paths. In addition to doing for others, he enjoyed many hobbies throughout his life including reading, remodeling, cooking, watching movies/comedy/TED talks, fishing, and playing with technology and gadgets. He took great joy not only in building and creating new things, but in modifying existing things to make them even better. This talent certainly extended to his own life, which he modified and improved beyond recognition in the last several years with the help of an amazing support system including A.A., friends, and family. A.A. played a vital role in his success. Although he left us all too soon, he left at the top of his game.

Brett will be remembered for his great sense of humor and his open-hearted generosity. He was always the first to volunteer for a tough job and the last to leave. He would drop everything to help family, friend or stranger. He was patient and kind, serving others without judgement. He treated his friends and family with respect and grace and a generous dose of humor. He actively fostered many deep and wonderful friendships which we know he cherished. He was a loving and witty friend who will be sorely missed by all those lucky enough to know him. He was a gift to us.

Memorial Service, 2 p.m., Friday, May 17, 2019, Bohlender Funeral Chapel. In lieu of flowers contributions may be made to a charity of your choice in Brett's name, in care of Bohlender Funeral Chapel, 121 W. Olive, Ft. Collins, CO 80524.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

MAY 17. 2:00 PM (MT)

Bohlender Funeral Chapel  
121 W. Olive Street  
Fort Collins, CO 80524

# Tribute Wall

RF

“*So Sorry" to hear about Brett. When I lived in Arizona and went to Tri City, Brett and I with the class hiked the Grand Canyon and I ran out of food, he gladly shared his last with me. I liked Brett, we bonded as friends.*



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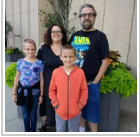
**Robert Fraser** - June 22, 2019 at 10:23 PM

LJ

“*I did not know Mr. Hoopingarner, but I am deeply sorry for your loss. I look forward to the time when those who have died will have life restored to them, and the suffering caused by loss will be but a memory. Please accept my sincere condolences for your loss.*

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**LJ** - May 18, 2019 at 01:45 PM



“ I've had the honor of knowing Uncle Brett for the past 15 years. He was such a kind soul who was always interested in what you had to say. His ability to treat everyone as a person, as a human being, instead of what their baggage was is truly something to be emulated. He understood what struggle was, the strength required to overcome it, and at that heart of struggle is just a human that is struggling. He always looked at, spoke to, and listened to the human.

*He was a wealth of knowledge on such a variety of subjects and I always enjoyed talking to him about movies, books, and technology. He was an absolute must-have at any board game as he always had something valuable to offer.*

*I also know of the large number of things and people he took care of in his family and his community. He always gave a helping hand, without being asked, and I've heard that from many others as well. There is a great amount of slack in Northern Colorado that we will need to pick up now, most of which we probably haven't discovered yet.*

*My sincere condolences to each of his friends and family members.*

*May you Rest In Peace Brett Hoopingarner and I hope you know all of the people left behind miss you and love you so very much.*

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**Craig Parmenter** - May 16, 2019 at 11:01 PM

“ Dear Stella,

*I am so very sorrowful to hear that Brett passed suddenly. I am so sorry that you have lost your lifelong brother and friend.*

*Richard thoughtfully let me know about Brett's passing. He mentioned sharing special memories with you about our times and experiences with our friend. I have several stories to share as I genuinely loved being Brett's friend. My heart is heavy with sadness for you, but as I remember the wonderful things about him and our time together I hope you can experience some of the joy he brought to me. I love that I had the chance to experience this remarkable guy.*

*I am the one on his left in the high school graduation photo.*

*The last time I and Brett had time together was when our senior class gathered at my new home shortly after I married, it was 1991! It was so great to see him at that point.*

*I have so many wonderful memories of Brett from our time in High School. I think my favorite is when he would do Steve Martins Happy Feet dance!! He used to make me cry from laughing so hard as he acted like he couldn't stop his feet from dancing.*

*I also loved when he would show up for French class and have NONE of his homework completed; Madame Roberts would hold up her finger and wave it back and forth and say, "Chris tee ahn, Nohn. No excuses!" And Brett would always reply, "But this isn't an excuse...It's because....I couldn't do it since..... There wasn't enough time ...."You know she never bought into it!*

*Brett always brought joy and silly laughter into our days. I loved his kindness and thoughtfulness that he always brought to anyone.*

*One night, two of us girls took Brett out for one of the funniest times we ever had.....We decided that we would do a progressive dinner,*

*yet we would do it by using drive throughs. We had burgers at McDonalds, fries at Burger King, desserts at Dairy Queen. However, because of Brett's uncanny ability to infuse hysterical laughter into an activity, he decided to back up through each drive through. Yes, we proceeded in reverse! We girls were just snorting and guffawing as we tried to be quiet while Brett was ordering nonchalantly with his deadpan face. "Nothing to see here...". If you could have seen the looks the employees shot us this great big car came rumbling up to the window BACKWARDS! They glared at him as he appeared so innocent. My gosh we hurt so bad from laughing.*

*Hiking the Grand Canyon in high school was a learning experience for us, especially Brett. He was so excited about doing his laundry in the fresh water of the river, so, before turning in for sleep he tied a mesh net bag full of his clothes to a tree and dropped it in the river. He was eager to awake to fresh laundry. Upon removing the bag from the river, he developed a fresh understanding of why the name of the river is The Colorado River: all his clothes were stained red from the red silt in the water. So the rest of the trip we all laughed as he wore the reddish brown shirt that was previously white. He was such a great sport about it and laughed right along with us!*

*I remember his amazing inventions. One of his very useful ones was The Video Log. It was a library Card Catalog of sorts in a notebook designed to keep track of what video was watched and where it would be stored to find it to watch it again. He was so lit up while describing it to us and he was so excited about marketing it. I don't remember if he ever did?*

*High school life with Brett was an absolute joy. He was always so kind and good hearted to anyone. His Monty Python obsession gave all of us such wonderful moments of happiness and delight. I am so thankful to have known him ; I have the warmest memories of him; and with all my heart I pray for your comfort during this time of loss.*

*Blessings to you all,  
Terri Izard*

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**Terri Izard** - May 16, 2019 at 10:56 PM

SP

*YES! The Video Log... <3 :)*

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**Sarah Parmenter** - May 17, 2019 at 12:39 PM

SP

“ I’ve had the gift of knowing Brett my whole life. He is my Uncle, but he was so much more than that- he was my co-worker, my mentor and my friend. He was kind, patient, fun, supportive, hilarious, creative, inspiring, generous, strong and devoted- I truly enjoyed spending time with him.

*Growing up, I thought Brett was such a cool dude- look through the pictures- you’ll see what I mean. Brett was 12 years older than me- as an adolescent, I saw him doing things like making cookie dough just to eat it raw, making things like rockets and kites from scratch and inventing creative, interesting things like a wall mounted, framed fish tank or a video management system. I saw him do these things and I knew it was true- when you were an adult, the world was your playground and you really could do anything you wanted!*

*When I was a teenager, Brett moved here to Fort Collins. We both started working at the family business around the same time and I enjoyed working with and for him over the next 5 or 6 years. He was an example of integrity and leadership that set a high bar for my future managers! I am so thankful for the time we had and the relationship we developed during that time. We saw movies, had countless lunches together, enjoyed similar off-color humor and were truly friends.*

*Brett was also a “Great Uncle”. My sisters Emily and Bethany, my brother David and I, our spouses Mike, Jeremy, Piper and Craig and all of our children- Lukas, Ellie, Simon, Natalie, Phineas, Calvin, Cyril, Leo and Rory- he was uncle to 17 in total and we will all miss his presence in our lives.*

*I will honor him by following his example to the best of my ability. I will gift my 6 nieces and nephews loud, bright toys with extra batteries, but I will also fly kites with them in the park, carve pumpkins with them and teach them family game rules. I will go to movies, share recipes and play with them. I will do my best to be*

*intentional, generous and supportive with everyone in my life. I will try to model strength, courage, presence and joy. Because that's what my uncle Brett did for me.*

Sarah Parmenter - May 16, 2019 at 08:46 PM

SV

“ 5 files added to the album *Memories with Brett*



Stella Vincent - May 16, 2019 at 05:06 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Brett R. Hoopingarner.



May 16, 2019 at 12:33 AM

PZ

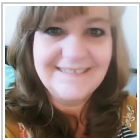
“ Funny story. When we were kids Brett bet me that by the time he was 40 he would be a millionaire. I took the bet. We were 15 at the time. His favorite number was 3 so we made the wager for \$333.33. At my 50th birthday party Brett shows up with that amount down to the penny. "I guess I lost" he says. What an amazing guy. You will be missed my friend.

Paul Zeiger - May 15, 2019 at 11:32 PM

SP

This is an awesome story- thank you for sharing!

Sarah Parmenter - May 16, 2019 at 08:40 PM



“ I was privileged to know Brett in high school. He was so kind-hearted and fun-loving. He was always so fun to be around. He was smart, and artistic, had such a positive attitude, and was a great friend to those of us who knew him. I still have a tiny box he gave me on my 16th birthday, which included a birthday note that was on miniscule paper, about 1/2 inch Square. I never could figure out how in the world he could write so tiny!!! I only have the fondest memories of him. Praying for the family, and especially thinking of Stella, who was also a dear friend.

Kim Ramsey - May 15, 2019 at 11:22 PM

PF

“ Paul Zeiger & Family purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Brett R. Hoopingartner.



Paul Zeiger & Family - May 15, 2019 at 10:55 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Brett R. Hoopingarner.*



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May 15, 2019 at 07:02 PM



“ *Brett was a good high school friend—the only other guy in our small 5 person class. His sense of humor, diligence, and infectious laugh made those times lifelong memories. Hoopingarner family, my deepest condolences at this time of loss. May God comfort you and fill your hearts with sweet memories of a life well lived.*

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**Todd Sullivan** - May 15, 2019 at 06:50 PM



“ *I am heartbroken and sad to hear about Brett's passing. Although he left us all to soon I know he has found a peaceful place. I am grateful to have had the pleasure of getting to know Brett over the past five years. We really strengthened our friendship doing the “Out of the Darkness” awareness walks. He was a kind and gentle soul.*

*He will be forever in my heart.  
My Deepest Sympathy to all his family and friends.  
Cathy Porter*

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**Cathy Porter** - May 15, 2019 at 06:40 PM



“ *Brett will certainly be missed. I have worked beside him for the last 8 years and he had the most kind heart. He was more than a co worker he was family. Always willing to help and was a great support. I miss his daily jokes, when he would get a song stuck in my head, our nerf gun fights and constant need to play pranks on each other.*

*His positive attitude, smile and compassion will be missed. My deepest condolences to his family at his unexpected sudden passing.*

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**Amy Newmeyer** - May 15, 2019 at 06:20 PM



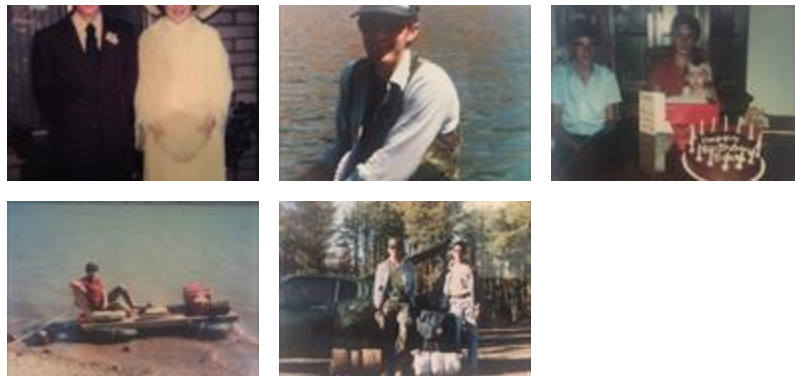
*I will forever be just a bit paranoid thanks to Brett and his little bunny Foo foo taps. He was always up to something. Rest in peace my dear friend*

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**Beckie Wolever** - May 16, 2019 at 12:25 PM



“ *32 files added to the album Memories with Brett*




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**Stella Vincent** - May 15, 2019 at 12:22 PM

TS

*Wonderful pictures—great memories of a good high school friend!  
Praying God's peace on your family at this time.*

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**Todd Sullivan** - May 15, 2019 at 06:45 PM

AG

*Dear Hoopingarner family,  
I was saddened to hear about the passing of Brett. I lived around the corner and went to elementary school with Erin. I got to know all of the family and had many good times in the Hoopingarner home. I was also sorry to hear about Kurt and Mr. Hoopingarner's passing. God bless you all.*

*Angela M. Gonzales*

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**Angela M. Gonzales** - September 17, 2020 at 11:34 PM

LS

*“Brett will certainly be missed as part of our jail volunteer team. Though I didn't have the pleasure of seeing him very often since he came to the jail on the weekends, I do hear from other staff that he was so willing to help others and always had a kind word and a great attitude which shines brightly in this environment.*

*I am very thankful that some of the inmates had the chance to meet him and hopefully learn from him.*

*Lisa*

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**Lisa Schlueter** - May 14, 2019 at 10:47 PM

MC

*“I only knew Brett a short while, but in that time, he helped me out of a couple of tight spots. He was so gentle and kind, and always ready to do a service for others. I shall miss him dearly! My deepest condolences at his sudden passing.*

*Meg*

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**Meg Corwin** - May 14, 2019 at 10:33 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Brett R. Hoopingarner.*



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May 14, 2019 at 09:37 PM



“ *I volunteered with Brett at the jail. He was a kind, gentle man who inspired hope and optimism in all of us, and was of great service to all who attended.*

*He always arrived with his cheerful walk and enthusiastic outgoing smile, glad to see everyone.*

*I missed him this past Sunday, and will miss him dearly.*

*His spirit is in the room we use.*

*Kim Kimball*

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**Kim Kimball** - May 14, 2019 at 03:09 PM



“ *We will miss Brett very much he was such a kind loving man and helped many so sad to have him gone.*  
*Tom and Julie McDonald*

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**julie and tom mcdonald** - May 14, 2019 at 10:57 AM