



## Eric Benjamin Spanier

July 12, 1976 - December 19, 2014

Eric Benjamin “Ben” Spanier found his peace and salvation on December 19, 2014. Ben was born in Saint Cloud, Minnesota on July 12, 1976 to Eric and Margaret Spanier. He moved with the family to Fort Collins in January, 1978.

Ben grew up in northeast Fort Collins together with his older sister and brother. He attended Tavelli Elementary School and Lincoln Junior High School. For high school he travelled to Saint John’s Preparatory School in Collegeville, Minnesota, where his father had also attended.

Ben started college at Arizona State University. He graduated from Metropolitan State University of Denver in 2000 with a Bachelor’s of Science in Marketing where he developed a keen interest in marketing and undertook several internships. He followed his marketing curiosity by earning a Master’s of Business in Communications from the University of St. Thomas - Opus College of Business in Minneapolis in 2005. Ben sought to develop his marketing and other professional interests at various positions in Chicago, Phoenix, Denver, Minneapolis and Loveland. He had worked for the past year on the weekend shift at Constant Contact in Loveland as a Customer Engagement Specialist.

More than anything, Ben’s personality and sense of self in the world defined his life and interactions with others. With no unkindness in his being, Ben made a strong impression on those who knew him. While he himself was

veiled under a complex personality, he sought out like-minded people everywhere he went and reciprocated when people responded to his kindness. Ben had a great sense of humor that was usually spot on for his audience and which he generously shared with others. He developed lifelong friends and impacted the lives of many more.

Ben was curious and intelligent with keen insights into the topics and trends to which he devoted countless hours studying – often at his beloved Starbucks. He had varied interests which defied easy categorization. He enjoyed electronic gadgets of all sorts and was the most technically savvy member of the family. He enjoyed light jazz and was seldom one to shy away from the dance floor. He loved nice cars and would visit car dealerships simply for the enjoyment of looking at the latest models. Ben had excellent taste in clothes, design, art and even cuisine. He valued physical fitness and dedicated much time to the erstwhile local gym while following religiously a strict high protein diet. He was also a frequent movie goer – enjoying a wide range of genres. Ben loved exploring and often drove to new and unknown places simply to get away. He developed a love for nature, mountains, and in particular the desert. He doted on his young nieces and nephews – two and four- legged – for them and the world he was a big, loveable, huggable bear. We will forever miss his hugs.

Ben is survived by his loving family: parents, Eric and Margaret Spanier currently of Loveland; sister, Sarah Golding and brother-in-law, Kurtis Golding of Parker, Colorado; brother, Joe Spanier and sister-in-law, Dace Spanier as well as niece, Laura Spanier, and nephew, Talivaldis Spanier, of Maplewood, New Jersey; his uncle Robert Witherow of Fort Collins and many other loving relatives.

The family expresses its deepest gratitude to everyone whose outpouring of support and love for Ben is truly heartwarming.

May God Protect Him

A Memorial Service will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Monday at Saint John XXIII Catholic Church, 1220 University Ave.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Northern Colorado AIDS Project (NCAP) where Ben volunteered in recent years. Donations should be sent in care of Bohlender Funeral Chapel, 121 W. Olive, Fort Collins, Colorado 80524.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

DEC **29**. 2:00 PM (MT)

Saint John XXIII Catholic Church  
1220 University Avenue  
Fort Collins, CO

# Tribute Wall

SH

“ *Sh lit a candle in memory of Eric Benjamin Spanier*



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**sh** - December 21, 2015 at 11:22 AM

PL

“ *Paulette Lanz lit a candle in memory of Eric Benjamin Spanier*



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**Paulette Lanz** - May 19, 2015 at 07:10 PM

GS

“ *Margie and Eric,  
We were so sorry to hear about Ben. Please know you are in our thoughts and prayers.  
We didn't know Ben, but we know you loved him very much and will miss him immensely.  
Hang on to all those good memories at this difficult time.  
Gayle and Bill Smoley*

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**Gayle Hinkemeyer Smoley** - January 10, 2015 at 10:20 PM

HL

“ To the Spanier family, I am so sorry for your loss. Ben was such a wonderful person and always lit up the room, going way back to our elementary days. Sending you love and prayers and hoping you are surrounded now, and in the coming months, with support and care.

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**Heather Larrabee** - January 06, 2015 at 10:24 PM

KB

“ Hi Margie and Eric,  
Ben was a good friend of daughter Marcia Bridwell. She thought a lot of him. Went to Lincoln with him.  
I want to send my condolences to both of you. Spent time with both of you at Perkins, will miss you both as well as Perkins. I am so sorry in your loss and know he is peaceful. God Bless you both. My thoughts and prayers are with you. Katherine Bridwell

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**Katherine Bridwell** - December 30, 2014 at 02:43 PM

SD

“ I have lots of great Tavelli years memories with Ben and enjoyed catching up with him years later. I so wish I could have been there to celebrate his life with everyone. Rest in peace Ben...

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**Sarah Dawdy Delsine** - December 30, 2014 at 08:18 AM

MM

“ I taught Ben in 2nd grade at Tavelli Elementary. He was a creative and intelligent young boy. I loved his sense of humor and his smile. It was my first year of teaching and I got married in December. Ben and some friends came to my wedding. It was so cute seeing these eight year olds out dancing. I have great pictures and memories!  
God bless to him and family.  
Mary Moore

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**Mary Moore** - December 29, 2014 at 11:39 PM

MR

“ My thoughts and prayers are with the entire Spanier family and Ben’s many friends. I always appreciated Ben’s friendship, laughs, smile, and kind spirit. Ben will be missed. Rest in peace, Ben.

*Michael Rysavy, SJP ‘95*

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**Michael Rysavy** - December 29, 2014 at 05:15 PM

MS

“ I knew you and your family for a short time while your children were attending St. Joseph's. I was Joe's kindergarten teacher. I had so much respect for you. Your family was so kind and endearing. Please know that I have been praying for you during this time.

*Marcia Smeester*

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**Marcia Smeester** - December 29, 2014 at 05:00 PM

AM

“ Eric, Margie, and all the family, you all are very much in my thoughts and prayers. I wish I could be with you in person at Ben's service today, but know I am with you in spirit. The Matt family sends much love and condolences.

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**Andrea Matt** - December 29, 2014 at 01:15 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Eric Benjamin Spanier.



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December 29, 2014 at 07:02 AM

DL

“ *Rest in peace sweet Ben . Donna and Billy Letcher*

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**Donna and Billy Letcher** - December 28, 2014 at 10:52 PM

LW

“ *Margie..I lived down the street to the east of you..was a very good friend of your neighbor Jan Wall . You shared many Kitchen Tour tickets with her and she took me..as you were unable to go because of back pain. I am so saddened to read of the loss of your son. I know Jan would join me in my words. Your pain is so great at this loss..I can't imagine. I am sorry I didn't know Ben but all the words written of him convey what a special young man he was. Your grief is intense but not without hope..we have certain assurance that we have a life to come more wonderful than we can know..that helps us so much to bear the sorrow we feel. I send my heartfelt sympathy and comfort to you and all your family. Linda Wagner*

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**linda wagner** - December 28, 2014 at 09:48 PM

BM

“ I was a lucky girl who got a great best bud in the 3rd grade! We laughed together, played together, mapped out adventures and fun future plans. He then got sick with mono and was home bound for a spell. Our good times continued through Monopoly games and looking over all of his many receipts he had organized from random purchases. :). He was perfect, meticulous, handsome, yet so fun-loving with a huge heart and empathy for everyone he connected with. We re-connected as adults (2006-ish). It was amazing to me that Ben had kept what I had thought were his cherished gifts: his generous and empathetic heart, his childlike enthusiasm for the world and its people. We know how he struggled, fought his battle day in and day out. For him to lend an ear and be as gracious and wonderful to those around him while he hurt - what a gift. I will always try to live my life like that for Ben. I will love him always and keep his childlike spirit in my heart. My deepest sympathies to you, Eric, Margie, Joe ad Sarah.

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**brooke michaels medosch** - December 28, 2014 at 09:18 PM

MH

“ Dear Eric, Margie, Sara, Joe, and family, we are so sorry to hear of your loss. You all are in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.



*Angie Reeve, Mariane Harsch, Jennifer Pollock, and Nancy Pratz*

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**Mariane Harsch** - December 28, 2014 at 08:59 PM

JT

“ Our deepest sympathy to you and your family.



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**Jim and Cindy Tamble** - December 28, 2014 at 07:05 PM

VM

“ Margie ,Eric Sara,Joe and families, We send our deepest love and sympathy at the loss of Spanky. You know he was like one of our own children. He will always live in our hearts and we will never forget his wonderful spirit. We know he is held in the arms of the Lord. all our love the Miscio's and Matts

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**veronica miscio** - December 28, 2014 at 06:07 PM

TT

“ My first year of teaching German at Lincoln Jr. High I had Eric and his sister Sarah in my class. I never forgot his sweet manner and high character. I read his obituary with such sadness. I can't imagine your pain but I wish you some comfort from family and friends.

*Terri Thorburn*

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**Terri Thorburn** - December 28, 2014 at 04:25 PM

EH

“ Dear Eric and Margie,  
We're thinking of you and all of your family over the loss of Ben.  
May it give you strength somehow to know that many caring  
thoughts and prayers are with you now. How blessed are we who  
put our faith in God, for no matter how difficult it is to bear the pain  
of parting, we have His promise that one day we'll be reunited with  
those who have gone before us to our heavenly home.  
With Sympathy and Friendship,  
Gordon and Elaine Hanson

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**Elaine and Gordon Hanson** - December 28, 2014 at 04:05 PM

MM

“ Eric & Margie,  
Although we did not know Ben well, he was a favorite Spanier,  
along with all of you, of my parents, Pat and Eleanor Noble. We join  
others in sending our sympathies and condolences in your loss and  
pray God comforts you and eases your pain. Lyle "Mac" and  
Johonna (Noble) McCormick

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**Mac & Johonna McCormick** - December 28, 2014 at 01:01 PM

JM

“ Our condolences to the Spanier family. Our thoughts and prayers  
are with you at this time.

Jerome & Judy Miller  
St. Cloud, MN

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**Judith Miller** - December 27, 2014 at 08:36 PM

HJ

“A selfless person is someone who volunteers his service without any selfish motive or without being expected to be served in return”  
- Kahil Gibran

*On behalf of the staff, and Ben's fellow volunteers at Northern Colorado Aids Project (NCAP), please accept our heartfelt condolences during this difficult time. Ben will forever be remembered for his compassion, sensitivity, generosity, and his beaming smile!*

*Helen J. Jackson-Rodgers  
Case Manager/Volunteer Coordinator  
Northern Colorado Aids Project (NCAP)*

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**Helen J. Jackson-Rodgers** - December 27, 2014 at 02:53 PM

NB

“ Eric, Margie, Sarah & Joe

*I saw the Obituary for dear Ben this morning. (We live in the Phoenix area and subscribe to the Coloradoan on line.) I will never forget how big Ben's smile was and how he was not shy with spreading it everywhere! Ben was always a joy to be around as a little boy and I am confident that sweet, kind and sensitive nature never left him.*

*In sympathy we weep with you. And yet we rejoice - because we know he is with Jesus. All of his pain is over and now he is sitting at the feet of our Precious Lord or dancing around His Throne!*

*May God's Love and Grace comfort you.*

*Love and Prayers,  
Nancy & Fred Brigham*

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**Nancy & Fred Brigham** - December 27, 2014 at 01:08 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Eric Benjamin Spanier.



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December 27, 2014 at 10:21 AM



“ *I happened to see Ben's obit in the paper while visiting family in Ft. Collins for the holiday. I went to school with him at Tavelli and have always remembered how kind he was. I have always been somewhat a fish out of water and, even in fourth grade his kindness left a lasting influence. I can't remember any other names from my time at Tavelli but I will never forget his. I'm sorry for your loss!*

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**Heather Canfield** - December 27, 2014 at 09:40 AM

CW

“ *Dear Eric and Margie,  
Chuck and I are so very sorry for your great loss. Although our only memories of Ben are from when we visited you in Fort Collins many years ago, we do remember what a sweet, intelligent boy he was even then. Our hearts ache for you now, and we pray that you will find comfort in those who love you and find peace with our Lord.*

*Chuck and Janet Wheeler*

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**Chuck and Janet Wheeler** - December 26, 2014 at 08:26 PM

LC

“ *The most beautiful people I have known are those who have known defeat or suffering, known struggle, known loss, and despite all of this, have found a way to lift up those around them. These individuals have an appreciation, a sensitivity, and an understanding of life that fills them with compassion, gentleness, and a deeper loving nature. Ben, you are very loved. Best wishes to Bens family and friends.*

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**Lindsay Repert Corbett** - December 26, 2014 at 05:42 PM

KD

“ Words are so difficult to find at such times. I am so very sorry for your loss.

Karen DeVries - December 26, 2014 at 04:59 PM

MM

“ Home visiting my folks for Christmas and read this obituary. So very very sorry for your loss. Sending our prayers and sympathy.  
Michelle Moranh (and Rosie and Roger)

michelle moran - December 26, 2014 at 04:33 PM



Cherelyn  
Blasy

“ I am so very sorry for your loss! You were so very blessed to know Ben. I cannot even put into words how deeply saddened I am by his leaving us too soon. He was not just someone that I worked with, he was sincerely a friend. I think most of all I will miss his sense of humor. We always had a laugh each day! Thank you so much for sharing him with us! His light filled the room and he will be missed always!

Cherelyn Blasy - December 26, 2014 at 03:46 PM



Julie  
Theisen

“ My thoughts and prayers are with Ben's many friends and family. Ben was a wonderful person with a big heart. He will be truly missed. I pray for you, Ben, that you have found peace and comfort.  
Julie Theisen SJP '95

Julie Theisen - December 26, 2014 at 12:45 PM

AD

“ We are so very sorry. Our prayers are for Ben and for your entire family.

*Frank, Annette, Carolyn, Lisa and Mark Demeyer*

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**annette demeyer** - December 26, 2014 at 11:56 AM

HW

“ Eric and Margie,

*So very sorry about this loss. There just are not words. Prayers for peace and a sense of love from others around you during this very difficult time.*

*Heather West*

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**Heather West** - December 26, 2014 at 09:37 AM



LW

“ My last conversation with Ben was about how each of us has grown in the last year. He complimented me on my strength and professionalism on a phone call he'd overheard. As we talked I shared how working with his dad and Cheryl had given me confidence and changed me for the better. He told me how proud he was of himself for his endurance at his job and I agreed with him that he had accomplished so much. It was a very uplifting conversation for both of us. I am thankful for that moment of joy. My heart is with you Ben and I am overjoyed that you are in the arms of your Savior.

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**Laura Whitley** - December 25, 2014 at 09:00 PM

PM

“ Ben was only 2 when he moved to Co but we will always remember how active and inquisitive he was at that early age and such a heart warming, happy child.

Our hearts grieve for those he physically left behind after his valiant striving to follow God's chosen path for him. He will always remain in our hearts in a place that no one else will ever fill and we will always feel blessed to have had him in our lives, if only for short time.

With prayers and love,

Denny & Pat Muehring

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Pat Muehring - December 25, 2014 at 12:32 PM

AS

“ Eric and Margie. My heart hurts for you and your family. I hold all of you in prayer as we celebrate the birth of Jesus. Ben is now with him and forever at peace which he so deserves. Hugs to all of you. Ann Schramel



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Ann Schramel - December 25, 2014 at 07:31 AM

JM

“ Ben was a dear friend of mine, and I enjoyed the times we spent together in our youth and in our adult lives. I will always cherish the memories, Rest in Peace Ben, your friend, Jeffrey McMahan

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Jeffrey McMahan - December 24, 2014 at 10:40 PM



Jenavieve  
Squires

“ I love you Ben! You will always be missed but never forgotten!

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Jenavieve Squires - December 24, 2014 at 07:35 PM

JK

“ Ben is still a light in my heart. He would call me a lighthouse, give me hugs, and was a kind and gentle soul. Now Ben sits in the lap of the Father (Daddy) filled with love, no more pain, sorrow, shame or fear. Thank you Ben for sharing your life with me. You will always be in my heart. I pray family, friends, coworkers, and all who knew Ben will experience God's grace and peace in such a difficult time. I celebrate you Erik Benjamin Spanier. <3

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**Julie Kresge** - December 24, 2014 at 03:24 PM



“ My favorite memory of Ben are the Ben Hugs I would get in the morning before work. It was a great way to start work.

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**Anna Davila** - December 24, 2014 at 01:30 PM