



Dr. Ben Brennan

March 15, 1974 - November 23, 2021

A compassionate doctor, husband, father, and friend to all, Dr. Benjamin Joseph Brennan returned to his heavenly home on November 23, 2021 at age 47 due to stomach cancer. Ben was adopted as a toddler from Ilsan, South Korea in 1977 by David and Marie Brennan, who raised him in Mont Vernon, New Hampshire and Louisville, Kentucky. He was a cheerful child and grinned and laughed often. He was a soccer player and a scholar, graduating third in his high school class. As a young adult he self-funded his two-year mission in which he taught the gospel of Jesus Christ in Hawai'i. Ben earned a bachelor's and a master's degree in biochemistry from Brigham Young University. There, he met Laurel Witham of Dublin, California, and the two married and began a life together in 2003.

Ben taught math and chemistry for four years at Brigham Young University-Idaho. He was deeply interested in teaching to his students' needs, ensuring they understood the concepts. Ben had so much passion for helping people that he went back to school and earned a medical degree from University of Utah in 2011 and completed his training in the McKay-Dee Family Medicine Residency in Ogden, Utah. Three wonderful daughters were born to the Brennans during these teaching and medical school years.

The Brennans moved to Visalia in 2014, where Dr. Brennan devotedly attended to his community's health needs up until his death, working as a physician at Visalia Medical Clinic/Kaweah Health Medical Group, where he also spent some time serving as president of the executive board. Dr. Brennan's patients typically claim that he was very friendly, making their concerns his own and giving them plenty of time for discussion. Around town, Dr. Brennan often ran into patients and he would thoughtfully inquire about their progress with their health. Co-workers report that he never turned away a patient. The birth of Ben and Laurel's fourth child, Joseph, in 2019, brought joy and light into their home.

Ben was a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints throughout his life, and his great faith was shown in how he lived. He served in many capacities in the Church, giving of his time and energy freely. Ben was an outdoor enthusiast and was especially into wakeboarding, inland surfing, cycling, and canyoneering. He radiated excitement for adventure and brought his family along for most trips. Ben mentored many youth while volunteering in the Boy Scouts of America; he continually modeled for them

his mantra of "I can do hard things." He also coached for the American Youth Soccer Organization for several years. Ben has touched so many lives that it is easy to see he has made the world a better place.

Ben is survived by his wife, Laurel Brennan; their children, Rebecca, Emily, Olivia and Joseph Brennan; his parents, David and Marie Brennan, of Putnam, Connecticut; and siblings, Adam Brennan (Ina) of Crestwood, Kentucky; Jesse Brennan (Mindy) of Jeffersonville, Indiana; Jonathan Brennan of Fredericksburg, Indiana; Cynthia Rhode (Kevin) of Biddeford, Maine; Katrina, Alice and Patrick Brennan, all of Putnam, Connecticut; and foster brother Ron Chafee (Sheryl) of Greensboro, Vermont.

Memorial services will be held at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints at 650 N. Lovers Lane on Saturday, December 4, 2021 at 11 am, with a public viewing from 9 to 10:30 am. Funeral arrangements provided by Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel. The family wishes to collect stories about Dr. Brennan, and any stories may be submitted at www.salseranddillard.com <<http://www.salseranddillard.com>>. In lieu of flowers, consider making a donation to the Gastric Cancer Foundation.

Events

DEC **Visitation** 09:00AM - 10:30AM

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The Church of Jesus Christ of Later Day Saints
650 N Lovers Lane, Visalia, CA, US, 93292

DEC **Memorial** 11:00AM

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The Church of Jesus Christ of Later Day Saints
650 N Lovers Lane, Visalia, CA, US, 93292

DEC **Graveside** 10:30AM

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Visalia District Cemetery
1300 W Goshen Ave, Visalia, CA, US, 93291

Comments



“ Dr. Brennan was far and away the best doctor I have ever had in my entire life He cared about my health and he cared about me as a person. He knew I hated going to the doctor, but I enjoyed seeing him every time. After I moved from Visalia to Coarsegold, he couldn't believe I would travel an hour and a half each way to see him. "It's because I like you, Dr. Brennan," I would say, and that was the absolute truth. It's very special when a patient and a doctor can connect on a personal level. Rare for me, but definitely the norm for Dr. Brennan. We talked about hiking and the outdoors quite often. He always asked to see pictures. On my last visit we talked about retro arcade games and he asked if I had Spy Hunter. No, but it's a game I hope to get one day and I know it will remind me of him. I miss you, Dr. Brennan and I think about you often. My deepest condolences to your wonderful family. I cannot imagine the loss they feel. I pray for you all, and I know Dr. Brennan is in a better place, smiling down on all those he touched.

Mike Quinn

Michael Quinn - May 06 at 04:35 PM



“ I struggled with anxiety for years and no one was able to help me until I met Dr. Brennan. He was very concerned since i had gone years without treatment and he was able to get me the help I needed and I will be forever grateful for his compassion and dedication to help those around him. I will miss him very much and he will always be in my memory.

Emily Keller - February 10 at 11:44 PM



“ I was just going through my Ricks College year book and decided to look up Ben online. I'm devastated to learn of Ben's passing. Ben was my math tutor and friend. He was the best! We stayed in touch when we both transferred to BYU in Provo. I will never forget Ben's kindness. There was a time when I could not afford food, Ben found out and showed up at my door with groceries. My heart goes out to his wife and kids.

Catherine Jones - January 12 at 09:35 PM



“ Dr. Brennan was such a caring doctor with a positive outlook and a genuine interest in tending to the "whole health" of his patients. My sincere condolences to his wife, daughters, and son.

Erin - December 21, 2021 at 04:05 PM



“ I am so sorry to hear about Dr Brennan. He was an amazing person and doctor. So kind and compassionate with our whole family. I always felt guilty because he spent so much time with me when other patients were waiting but of course he spent that same amount of time with all of them. I will be forever grateful how he helped my daughter over the phone because she was in Utah at college and he wanted to continue caring for her mental health rather than passing her off to someone else. Honestly, he was the best doctor I have ever had!!

Heather Morris - December 16, 2021 at 04:43 PM



“ This is so heartbreaking I just open the letter! Dr.Brennan was an amazing physician so easy to talk to one particular visit stands out it was the a geek before my birthday and I was stress about small cyst on under chin becauae of the area he referred me to special so I told him great so now I can celebrate my bday.He gave me this look and long story short he told to stop being silly! Enjoy my birthday as am walking he yelled happy 35th bday it was my 45th. He was a great doctor I often bragged how lucky I got after my previous physician retired but I was blessed Dr.Brennan. Prayers to his wife,daughters, and family, friends.

Marilyn H - December 05, 2021 at 08:09 PM



“ I first met Ben when I volunteered to be his assistant coach for AYSO soccer. I was immediately impressed by his patience and calm demeanor with the kids, regardless of how rowdy they got. Ben was always open to my suggestions on how to improve the team, but he also - as was his nature - became personally interested in getting to know me and we quickly became friends. It wasn't until the end of the season that I learned he was also a Doctor...which as humble as Ben was, of course, I learned from another parent. Needless to say, I soon established him as the primary for all of my 4 children, as I knew what great hands they would be in. Every time we went to see him, I always left astonished at his ability to make the world stop, to listen, and make who he was speaking with feel like they were the only thing that mattered. There are very few in this world that exhibit the level of humility, compassion, strength, and genuine care as Dr. Brennan did. I feel truly honored and blessed to have known him for the few years I did, as he was and will always be nothing short of inspirational.

Unfortunately I got word of his passing only a few hours after his funeral, but I hope his family knows how many of our hearts go with them, and our prayers as well.

We Love you Dr. Brennan...you will be sorely missed, you were truly one of the great ones!!

~Chad Barnes

Chad Barnes - December 05, 2021 at 12:54 AM



“ Dr. Brennan was my PCP for about two years and was a unique physician who did things a bit different and got them done right. As I ponder his memory, what speaks loudest is his compassion, as well as the way he didn't waste time jumping through hoops, but took action to charge to make prompt referrals to diagnose and treat. Unlike any other MD, he would pop his head in the room and let me know he had a patient ahead of me and how long I could be expected to wait - Thoughtful. He would sit on the footstep of the bed, look in my eyes and ask sincere questions about what was going on physically and emotionally. One of the first times I met with him, he spent a long time listening through my tears, and I left feeling such a strong sense of empathy that provided comfort and strength. I laughed one Halloween when he dressed in his canyoneering outfit and used the opportunity to let people know the benefits of outdoor activities. I will remember Dr. Brennan fondly as a man of competence, passion and humor. Prayers are with his family for grace and peace during this most painful time.

Pamela Nelson - December 04, 2021 at 09:56 PM



“ I opened a letter at 10:50 AM December 4th and I cried at its context. It's gonna be hard to find someone who will tolerate me as he did. So kind. I can see Dr. Brennan and that smile as clear as day. My happy thoughts to his family. Peace will come.

Adria - December 04, 2021 at 02:05 PM



“ I first met Ben in 1996 when he volunteered to be a camp counselor for a Korean Cultural Camp called Our Korean Kids (OK KIDS), the camp was held in Louisville, KY.

He was only 22 years old!

He had such a wonderful love for the camp as well as the kids and the opportunity to learn more about his Korean Culture.

It had been years since, I had seen Ben, but last Christmas, while he and his family were visiting in KY, we got together at his brother Adam house for dinner.

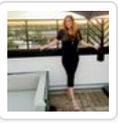
Connecting with Ben that night was like no time had passed! I got to meet his wonderful, blessed family.

Anytime in the past 25 years, if Ben's name was ever mentioned, a smile would come across my face and I always thought what a wonderful and amazing man he was!

Ben will always be in ALL of our hearts!

To his wife and children, my heart breaks for ALL of you BUT, I know your faith will help you get through this.

Julie - December 04, 2021 at 01:56 PM



“ Dr. Brennan was my doctor for many years. I read about his passing this morning and feel heartbroken. What I loved about Dr. Brennan was how he always worked so hard to get to the root of any health concern. He always greeted me with a smile and often put his hand on my shoulder and would reassure me of any concerns. I recommended him to anyone I knew. He was the first doctor I shared my history of child abuse and he made me feel seen and heard. He was incredibly patient, thoughtful, and thorough. My heart goes out to his family. I just want to share that Dr. Brennan was someone that supported me, cared for me, and made our community better. I will deeply miss his care and heart. He was 1 of 1.



Geraldine Cole - December 04, 2021 at 01:19 PM



“ Belinda Espino lit a candle in memory of Dr. Ben Brennan



Belinda Espino - December 04, 2021 at 12:28 PM



“ Dr. Brennan was my first real doctor and only doctor. He always made me feel like everything was going to be okay. He would say “you’re gonna be alright, okay” he would see my worry and reassure me. He was truly one of the best and got me through my most scariest times. Im saddened by his loss, and pray for his family. He left a positive impact on my life and I can only imagine so many others. Sincerely,
Belinda Espino

Belinda Espino - December 04, 2021 at 12:27 PM



“ Dr. Breenen was the primary doctor for my husband and I for many years. He was not just a physician, but a kind and authentic listener. He shared personal stories with me and sincerely wanted the best for me. He gave me hope and spoke with encouraging and understanding ears. I am saddened to hear this news. I know how proud he was to be a husband and father and always talked about being a dad. He touched many patients' hearts and his wife and children should know he will be remembered and left a legacy with his work. God bless.

Jill Bonds - December 03, 2021 at 11:36 PM



“ I struggled with many health issues and as Dr Brennan's patient, he cared for me and was patient in solving them. I knew I could trust him to provide the care I needed. I'm so blessed with all he has done for me. Praying for all the family!!

Karlee - December 03, 2021 at 06:17 PM



“ Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. Ben Brennan.



December 03, 2021 at 03:44 PM



“ I was a patient of Dr. Brennan, he was a person very compassionate and care about all his patients. I always felt like I was talking to a friend. Prayers for him and his family.

Maria Granados - December 02, 2021 at 09:33 PM



“ DR. Brennan was a wonderful family doctor to myself, my husband and our 3 children. My heart is saddened to hear he will no Longer be with us on earth and that he left behind a family. He never hesitated to admit things he was unsure of, always willing to support with any referrals, he ensured to schedule visits as soon as possible and always presented as genuine, respectful caring physician. Our family will greatly miss him.

Rodriguez family



Irene Rodriguez - December 02, 2021 at 06:17 PM



“ Dr Brennan was a kind human being, had the best side manners, listened to my concerns and the epitome of who a physician should be. You were one in a million Dr Brennan! May you Rest In Peace.

My deepest condolences to the Brennan family

Leticia M - December 01, 2021 at 11:44 PM



“ I had the pleasure of working with Dr Brennan in Quick Care. My first shift with him he entered the exam room and was greeted by anxious parents and a feisty toddler. The child was uncooperative and laid on the floor to pitch a fit. Without hesitation Dr Brennan got down on the floor and laid next to the tantrum throwing child. He calmly made funny faces and noises and quickly got the child's attention. Before long the child had a full exam, a diagnosis and a prescription to get better. My first impression of him never changed. A great man who made this world and other people better. I hope fond memories and his lasting love for his family soon fill the holes in your broken hearts.

Marie Arroyo.

marie arroyo - December 01, 2021 at 09:00 PM



“ I am praying for the family and I want you all to know how much I loved Dr Brennan. I am 68 years old and he was hands down by far the best doctor I have ever had. He used to tell me how amazing I was , yet he was the amazing one. There was a period of time in my life I was so ill and he always took time for me. He cared so well and encouraged me. We would share our faith in God, I will miss him so much. I told him many times "Don't you ever move or I will have to follow you" . Dr Brennan I will follow you to heaven when God calls me home. There will never be another like you.

Suzie Keller

Suzie Keller - December 01, 2021 at 03:30 PM



“ Dear Brennan family, my greatest sympathy is going out to the family. I am very heart broken to hear that Dr. Brennan passed away. Dr. Brennan was a great doctor, he was so loving, so understanding, every time I had to see him, he always greeted me with a smile and a handshake, he was always so patient with me when I would explain to him the way I was feeling, he would listen and then tell me what he was going to do or prescribe, if he was not sure he could help me he would refer me out to a specialist. I feel very lost because I know I will not find another doctor like Dr. Brennan.

The good Lord just received a beautiful person.

Dear Dr. Brennan RIP and till we see you again.

Sincerely,
Elsa Lopez-Montez

Elsa Lopez-Montez - November 30, 2021 at 03:14 PM



“ Dr Brennan was a kind human being, had the best side manners, listened to my concerns and the epitome of who a physician should be. You were one in a million Dr Brennan! May you Rest In Peace.

My deepest condolences to the Brennan family.

Leticia M - November 30, 2021 at 11:56 PM



“ Dr. Brennan, you will be greatly missed!!!

I never worked with Dr. Brennan one on one but I still remember the first day that I met him. He came by our office, introduced himself with a hand shake and then asked me "so what do you do here? how long have you been here? wow that's a long time you must like it here" :-) lol He was so friendly and enjoyed getting to know everyone!!! Out of all the times that I passed him in the hallway or the stairs, he always, always smiled and said "Hi how are you doing?" He never walked by anyone, employee or patient that he didn't acknowledge them with a great smile and ask how they're doing.

My deepest condolences the the whole Brennan family.

Belina Costa

Belina Costa - December 02, 2021 at 02:37 PM



“ I send my deepest condolences to the Brennan family. This last year Dr Brennan took time to listen to me and how I was feeling after my husband passed in November of 2020. He is a wonderful doctor and always made me feel important and my needs and concerns were being heard. The world lost another wonderful and can man.

Samantha Wagner

Samantha Wagner - December 04, 2021 at 01:29 AM



“ Dr. Brennan was my personal physician and a wonderful, friendly individual. I was unaware of his passing until I got a letter from Kaweah Health Medical Group. When the letter came and I read it, I was deeply hurt from losing a kind, helpful, and considerate person from my life. I know I will miss him. My prayers are for his family.

Jack Young - December 04, 2021 at 10:39 PM