



Brian E. Grabowski

October 16, 1968 - September 4, 2018

Brian Edward Grabowski was born on October 16, 1968, to the legendary Leonard (Len) Grabowski, who taught Brian the essence of being a real man: honesty, respect, hard-work, patience, and being wildly protective of the people he loved. Brian's biological mother, Teresa Eldringhoff-Grabowski, died when Brian was only nine years old. She provided Brian with a deep spiritual foundation which instilled in him a strong moral compass. After losing his wife at a young age, Len married Linda Niggli, also known as "Mom" to Brian. Linda taught Brian to open every inch of his enormous heart and to love wholly, deeply, compassionately, and honestly; this was a gift that he subsequently shared with everyone he met. Being raised in a home with nine brothers and sisters, Brian also learned to be resilient and adaptable. At age 12, Brian was building a ramp with the neighborhood kids when a piece of metal was caught into his left eye. He lost that eye. But even with such challenges at age 12, Brian made no excuses for himself. He went on to master everything he touched.

Throughout Brian's life, he held many titles. He was as a ski instructor in Tahoe, so he was a master skier. He was a bartender at Bass Lake, so he could mix an impressive cocktail and hold a deep conversation. He worked as a truck driver for Producer's Milk; he could drive anything. He owned a lawn maintenance company. Brian also worked as a water well driller in Coarsegold, California and an oil well driller in Bakersfield, California. He also

became a pilot. Then, Brian finally found his deepest passion for helping others by becoming a Certified Ocularist. During the 20 years he founded and ran Grabowski and Associates, he grew the company from one office in Sacramento to eight offices across Northern California. He was passionate about his profession because he helped people regain their dignity and comfort, making prosthetic eyes. The people he served trusted him wholeheartedly because they knew that their eye maker was just like them, that he, too, had suffered a similar loss. He considered every patient a member of his extended family.

Brian's work allowed him to travel extensively and collect even more family along the way. In 2010, he traveled with his friend Tabby, who became his wife, to Nicaragua on a scuba diving trip. After hanging out for one night, Brian and Tabby found that they loved Nicaraguan Rum and laughing. After a week together, they planned their future. On the plane ride back to the United States from Central America, they agreed to purchase a sailboat together and learn how to sail. They spent the next five years sailing around Southern California, where they focused on diving, fishing, and loving each other. They were married by Brian's "brother," Rick Allison, and honeymooned on the sailboat in August of 2014.

Brian collected many more extended family members who also enjoyed his deep sense of adventure. On Harley-Davidson rides to almost every state, he traveled with "brothers" Tim Burnett, Darrell Green, Jr., Chad Schnabel, and many more. Memories of their escapades provided great stories and jokes for every gathering. Dirt bike riding was another passion that extended his immense family. Through dirt bike riding, Brian met Chase Quinn, and "adopted" him as his surrogate nephew. Chase and "Uncle Brian" amassed memories throughout Chases' childhood that most people couldn't collect in a lifetime. When Chase became a man, he moved two doors down from "Uncle Brian." Indeed, they were so close that Brian officiated at Chase's marriage to

his beautiful wife, Korbin.

Brian had many dear friends, but few were as special as Darrell, Chad, and Steve. Darrell Green, Jr., Brian's best friend since kindergarten, were each other's rock. Although they didn't have to speak on a daily basis, the love and connection between the two men was bottomless. They carried each other's burdens and victories as their own. In Brian's younger days, Chad Schnable and Brian were inseparable, and their names were always mentioned in tandem. Additionally, Steve Shahan, Brian's adopted "Grandfather," was his mentor. Steve and Brian spent hours examining the best route to take on a razor route, and they schemed the best way to run a business. It's true that Darrell, Steve, Chad, and Brian shared memories that could easily be written into a best-selling Netflix series.

Brian will be remembered for his ability to quietly contribute value to any conversation. He is survived by his wife, Tabby Grabowski, his canine sons Henry and George Grabowski, his mom Linda Grabowski, and his eight brothers and sisters: Tom Niggli, Elizabeth Licursi, Mark Grabowski, Peggy Oaks, Robert Grabowski, Carol Gregory, Julie Boyer, and Annette Grabowski. He is preceded in death by his brother Ron Niggli. He is also survived by his stepdaughter, Lacey Kerr, his son-in law, John Kerr, and his two adored granddaughters, Katherine and Amelia Kerr, who lovingly called him Briney. He leaves behind 28 nieces and nephews, 12 great nieces and nephews, and thousands of people who called him Friend.

Brian will truly be missed by all that knew him.

Tributes and condolences may be offered by logging onto www.salseranddillard.com.

Should dear friends desire to contribute, please consider the following amazing young people, who were devastated by this accident.

<https://www.gofundme.com/lance-nelson&rcid=r01-153643413491-26790dc465f241c3&pc=ot_co_campmgmt_w>

<https://www.gofundme.com/kira-drury&rcid=r01-153651817565-1ed180eb9fe14635&pc=ot_co_campmgmt_w>

<https://www.gofundme.com/raegan-heitzig&rcid=r01-153651923624-27472227a95347cd&pc=ot_co_campmgmt_w>

<https://www.gofundme.com/jordan-heitzig&rcid=r01-153652043496-4a4c862895bc4085&pc=ot_co_campmgmt_w>

Cemetery Details

Tulare Cemetery

900 E. Kern Ave.
Tulare, CA 93274

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP **12**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (PT)

Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel
127 E. Caldwell Ave.
Visalia, CA 93277

Mass of Christian Burial

SEP **13**. 10:30 AM (PT)

St. Aloysius Catholic Church
125 E. Pleasant Avenue
Tulare, CA 93274

Tribute Wall



“ *Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel created a Tribute Video in memory of Brian E. Grabowski*



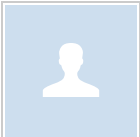
Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel - September 04, 2018 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ *Daniel Burnside sent a virtual gift in memory of Brian E. Grabowski*



Daniel Burnside - September 16, 2018 at 11:18 AM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Brian E. Grabowski.*



September 13, 2018 at 12:00 PM

LC

“ *Linda, Annette and all family members.....we were just heartbroken when we heard about Brian. He was loved by so many and will be deeply missed. Our hearts and prayers are with you during this most difficult time. Rest assured that Brian will live on in your memories and will be watching over us all. With deepest sympathy, Linda & Dewane Crase and Johnny & Kathleen Lopes.*

Linda Crase - September 12, 2018 at 06:28 PM

MJ

“ *So many great memories with Brian. He always made me laugh...especially with his laugh. He will be missed greatly!*



Monica January - September 12, 2018 at 06:27 PM

BE

“ *Tabby and extended Grabowski family,
Condolences and love for your difficult loss.
God bless you all,
Barbara Zenner Ellenberg*

Barbara Ellenberg - September 12, 2018 at 03:14 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Brian E. Grabowski.*



September 12, 2018 at 02:17 PM

MF

“ *Much love, Evelyn & Jerry Fabrie purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Brian E. Grabowski.*



Much love, Evelyn & Jerry Fabrie - September 12, 2018 at 11:53 AM

HE

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



heather - September 11, 2018 at 11:17 AM



“ *Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Brian E. Grabowski.*



September 11, 2018 at 08:53 AM



“ *Love's Tapestry was purchased for the family of Brian E. Grabowski.*



September 10, 2018 at 06:04 PM

RC

“ Rainbow Tree Company purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Brian E. Grabowski.



Rainbow Tree Company - September 10, 2018 at 12:29 PM

BR

“ Brian I really didn't know you but your wife told me so much about you I feel like we were friends. You were generous and kind, even offering to help my daughter once she arrived in Monterey, and even to help get her sister there any time she wanted to visit. I wish I had more time to get to know you, you will be missed by all.

Brandon - September 10, 2018 at 10:59 AM

DN

“ 2 files added to the album New Album Name



Donnie Newman - September 08, 2018 at 04:18 PM

DN

Godspeed brother Brian. “The most interesting man in the world” You will be missed. May the lord embrace Tabby & your entire family during this difficult time.

Donnie Newman - September 08, 2018 at 04:38 PM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Brian E. Grabowski.



September 08, 2018 at 12:31 PM



“ When we first met was in high school. You were my fun a goofy buddy. We laughed and messed with our teachers. Copied off each other more me than you. Lol. I always thought about you after we were out of school. I got married and moved away. I always asked for your advice on guy troubles. Like my lil bro. I'm glad I got to see you a few years back and caught up a little. You were right Shawn was a keeper. 33 yrs the 21st. 2 kids and 5 granbabies. I'm glad to hear you found your true love. Your missed so much. So sorry to his family and friends. He was always a good and loving free spirit. I know heaven has gained a great angel. Miss ya friend. Sharon Hanshew

Sharon Hanshew - September 08, 2018 at 01:16 AM

LS

“ *No words can express! Brian you were an absolute pleasure to know. Thank you for sharing so much of your time with our family. We all loved you, especially all of our kids. My deepest sympathy to your family. Tabby we love you and you will always be our family.*



laurie switzer - September 08, 2018 at 12:05 AM

SG

“ *Soledad Guzmán lit a candle in memory of Brian E. Grabowski*



Soledad Guzmán - September 07, 2018 at 09:05 PM

JT

“ *Brian was larger than life. My children, entire family and especially my husband Wayne fell in absolute love with him the first time we met at Bass Lake. We were so happy Tabi and him fell in love with the river and were so close to us now. There is no getting over this. You just pick up and try and carry on. Knowing our lives will have a huge void and that this earth lost such a beautiful man. May heaven celebrate him like us. ❤️*

jan thomson - September 07, 2018 at 04:22 PM

JM

“ Janet And Tony Mendes lit a candle in memory of Brian E. Grabowski



Janet and Tony Mendes - September 07, 2018 at 03:44 PM

KA

“ Brian I am going to miss you so. I remember the first Family Reunion you took part in and how much fun, love and joy you added to each day. The Ackroyd Tribe had no other choice then to adopt you as one of the family. I am honored to call you "Brother Brian". Thank you for being a wonderful human being and adding so much to all our lives. We love you!



Kimberly and Tyler Ackroyd - September 07, 2018 at 02:41 PM

HE

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Heather - September 07, 2018 at 01:58 PM

AS

“ *Annette Silva lit a candle in memory of Brian E. Grabowski*



Annette Silva - September 07, 2018 at 01:51 PM

HE

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Heather - September 07, 2018 at 12:49 PM

DW

“ *Dana Williamson lit a candle in memory of Brian E. Grabowski*



Dana Williamson - September 07, 2018 at 12:09 PM

KW

“ Prayers to the family. So many childhood memories come back to me of Brian, but the best one was when he was there to give me support and help when my mother and his father were going through their cancer treatment and were honored from the Cancer Society. He had a great heart and helped so many. Brian you will be truly missed.

Kristine Avila Willard

Kristine Avila Willard - September 07, 2018 at 09:32 AM