



John Casey Preston

August 22, 1967 - March 31, 2017

St. George, UT – John Casey Preston, beloved son and brother, passed away March 31, 2017, at his home. He was born on August 22, 1967, in Denver to John and Nancy Kohl.

John lived in a variety of places with his family. He remembered fondly the three years he spent in Germany, where his father was stationed with the Army. Later the family moved to State College, PA, followed by a move to El Paso, TX, where he graduated from Coronado High School. The family eventually moved to Las Vegas where John attended The Community College of Southern Nevada and UNLV. He worked in retail and food service until his father was called once again to Texas. John loved living in Laredo and sharpening his Spanish language skills, which he used with his friends there and later in Danville, CA, where he worked again in the retail industry. Upon moving to St. George, John became his father's caregiver. He was a loving and caring son to both of his parents.

John loved seeing the world. He traveled to Mexico, Great Britain, Vietnam, Cambodia, Serbia, and many other countries where his favorite pastime was getting to know the local people. He was an avid photographer who captured and cataloged every moment of his travels with his camera. He also was always ready for another road trip. He was especially looking forward to repeating his last trip to Yellowstone National Park and on to visit his friend in

Wisconsin.

Of all the places John spent time, he held San Francisco closest to his heart. On days off from work he took the BART into the city where he walked its hills and hiked its trails. He said he felt at peace there. Those who loved him wish him peace now.

John is survived by his parents and his brother Mark Kohl as well as aunts, uncles and cousins on both sides of his family. He was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents Claude and Edna Kohl and maternal grandparents Osal and Gladys Christensen.

A memorial service for John will be held on Saturday, April 29, at 11 a.m. at Grace Episcopal Church, 1072 E. 900 S., St George, UT.

Tribute Wall

TP

“ We are deeply saddened by John's loss. I will especially remember John for his intellect and playful wit. From the time I was a young boy to more recent years when we visited in Blackhawk, I have memories of digging into an amazing array of topics together. John was incredibly aware - whether it was the zeitgeist, tech, travel or nature. He loved to share his knowledge, and always made our exchanges interesting. I think I'll most fondly recall his knack for finding a way to find humor in almost any topic.

My family and I know that John loved to spend time in San Francisco, traversing the city and enjoying the nature woven throughout. For that reason, we are working with SF Parks and Recreation to plant a tree in his honor. It is our hope that John's spirit will live on in San Francisco, as he will live on in our memories. I will update this post once the location is determined.

Godspeed John.

Todd Parsons

Todd Parsons - April 29, 2017 at 04:01 AM

JF

“ JP and I were friends ever since we worked together at Pizza Hut in Las Vegas. I was a cook and he was a delivery driver. That was about 23 years ago. We used to go hiking at Red Rock Canyon and Mount Charleston. When he moved out of town we kept in touch by phone. We talked about everything. JP knew a lot of stuff. We didn't see each other often, but two years ago he visited me in Wisconsin where I live now. His favorite place here was Kettle Moraine State Park. We did a lot of hiking there. He really liked my dog Annie too. He was my best friend and I will miss him very much. Rest in peace, JP.

Jason Fleischfresser

Jason Fleischfresser - April 28, 2017 at 09:45 AM

JM

“ Jackie and Milton Mayfield purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of John Casey Preston.



Jackie and Milton Mayfield - April 26, 2017 at 05:31 PM

CB

“ I have many memories of my dear cousin, John, or “Johnny,” as he liked to be called, from our younger years. Every summer or two, Johnny, his kid brother, Mark and their parents, Nancy and John, would make the trek east to visit and stay at Grandmother and Grandfather’s ranch house in Hanover Township. With his dad being a minister, college professor and also serving as a chaplain in the Army, Johnny, Mark and Nancy had the adventure of moving around the country on a frequent basis, from Florida to Laredo to Las Vegas to El Paso to California. I enjoyed cousin John regaling me with tales of his experiences in these far-flung locales. Cousin John appreciated nature and had a keen eye for unusual plants, animals and exotic cultures. Living so far apart, we didn’t have the opportunity to visit often. This made the times when we were able to get together special, whether we were picking juicy raspberries in the hedgerows and cornfields near Grandmother and Grandfather’s house, or “roughing it,” sleeping in the canvas tent in their backyard, listening to the night songs of birds and wondering when a roving black bear might poke an inquisitive snout through the tent flap. John was a smart man who was very helpful to his parents and truly enjoyed seeing the world. Rest in peace, dear cousin. – Cousin Christopher

Christopher Bosch - April 18, 2017 at 05:16 PM

CZ

“ *Some of my fondest memories of childhood were spending wonderful summer days with my cousins, Johnny (always Johnny to me!), Mark, Todd, Alison, Christopher, and my brother Matthew at Grandmother and Grandfather’s house. We spent endless hours playing in the cornfields and woods behind their house, and it was always exciting when we found raspberry bushes! Johnny often had fun pets to share, and I was thrilled that he let me play with his gerbil. We all scattered to different states when we grew up, and I didn’t see Johnny as often as I would have liked. But I will always miss him, and see him forever in my mind running through the sprinklers at our grandparents’ house. Rest in peace, my dear cousin.*

*Love,
Catherine*

Catherine Christensen Zotnowski - April 18, 2017 at 02:35 PM

LC

“ My memories of John extend from his childhood days playing with his cousins and sleeping out in the tent at Grandmother’s and Grandfather’s house to my visit with him just last summer. He was a man of many interests, ranging from travel to nature to technology. John loved to explore the world, learning about other people, cultures and geography. He also enjoyed exploring places closer to home. I believe he found real joy in visiting the state and national parks in his area. During my visit last summer he offered to take me on several great hikes during my usual January Utah trip. Sadly, we were never able to share those adventures.

John loved sharing his travel adventures and technology expertise with his family. It was so nice to hear him talk enthusiastically about what he did and saw on his most recent trip and he was always very patient as he explained computer issues to his less than tech-savvy aunt.

John was a help to his parents, too. He was happy to run errands, keep the home technology up and running and provide any personal care that was needed. I know his strength, help and love will be missed each and every day by his them.

John, you will always live in my heart. Know that you were treasured and loved.

Love,
Aunt Louise

Louise Christensen - April 18, 2017 at 01:09 PM

MC

“ John preferred to be called Johnny. I can remember Johnny not long after he had learned to walk, I was walking up to the back door at my parents house ready to come in when Johnny and his dad came to the door and opened the door for me. Johnny wanted to see who was coming in. When Johnny saw it was me, he let go of his dad's hand and came toward me and fell out the door and began rolling down the outside steps. I quickly caught him and lifted him to safety. I wish I could have been with him when he was falling this time! Over the years we did not see each other very often, but was always a pleasure for me to hear about some of the great adventures he had in the course of his life. Our family, Suzanne, Catherine, Matthew and myself will miss Johnny always!

Merrill L Christensen
"Uncle Merrill"

Merrill Christensen - April 15, 2017 at 02:53 PM

AP

“ Some of my fondest memories from childhood are the summers spent at Grandmother and Grandfather's house in Pennsylvania. There were times the whole gang of cousins were all there at the same time - Johnny (still Johnny in my mind!) Mark, Catherine, Matthew, Christopher, Todd and Me (Alison). I remember us all playing baseball, picking raspberries, running through the corn fields and listening to Grandfather tell ghost stories in the backyard. I love that John was an animal lover and fondly remember his ferret - even though I heard he would steal the silverware and hide it in various nooks and crannies! Our family is small, and although we didn't see a lot of each other as the years went on, John's absence leaves a hole in the family tree that I know will be felt by many others. John - we will hold you in our hearts and minds and you will not be forgotten!

Alison Parsons - April 09, 2017 at 01:09 PM

SP

“ John, still Johnny to us his aunt and uncle, was a bright interested and interesting person. One of my last communications with him was getting his advice on how to successfully get a cake out of a cake pan. He loved his pets from ferrets, to snakes, to cats. He enjoyed time spent in the west deserts and travel in general. He was a helpful and loving son. He will be greatly missed.

Love,
Susanne and John

Susanne Parsons - April 08, 2017 at 09:20 PM

LK

“ John and Nancy,
We are so sorry for your loss. We always enjoyed visiting with John (and his snake) when we came to St. George. May he rest in peace.

Love,
Claude and Lenore

Lenore Kohl - April 08, 2017 at 02:19 PM

DA

“ Johnny was a very special and unique person, we are so sorry for our friends John and Nancys loss

Marvin & Drena Aspelin

Drena Aspelin - April 07, 2017 at 11:35 PM