



Patrick Joseph Jennings

January 24, 1960 - December 19, 2018

Patrick Joseph 'Joe' Jennings lived his life with vibrancy and grace. He came into this world on January 24th, 1960 at the Mayo clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, the fourth of four siblings. His mother deemed him her "joy pill", and anyone who had the privilege to know him knows he wore the title well. Peacefully and in the company of family, he left this life on December 19th, 2018 in Rockville, Utah after a long struggle to recover from complications from surgeries meant to repair an old sports injury.

From the first sips of coffee and a bite of peach jam spread over toast, he would carry joy and happiness throughout his whole day. He loved and was made whole by the life he lived: he deeply adored his wife and children, he loved his restaurant, and took great pleasure and satisfaction in cooking wonderful food for other people. We saw him smiling with an all knowing nod of living the good life, he was ever grateful for the dream life he lived. He was a fair and conscientious man, loved by the family he made at the Bit & Spur Restaurant, where anyone who worked or ate there came to know it was a special place.

Joe was astounded by the beauty of Zion Canyon, by the pleasure of hot rocks and of a cool dip in the river. He loved to exert himself out on the roads and trails on runs and bike-rides. He loved finding new music and enjoyed playing guitar and singing in his impassioned and soulful voice; he was a

voracious reader of everything from novels to magazines to the pages of the morning paper. He shot an excellent game of pool and loved sports, and in sitting with him and watching a game, you could not help but be infected by his passion and cheer. You knew you were in good hands when you were with Joe: he put his special touch on everything, from making dinners to creating celebrations, vacations to lazy Sunday mornings with family. He was beloved by his wife and children, his friends and family, his neighbors and employees. His zest for life, his contagious smile, and his bright, ringing laugh will be deeply missed.

Joe grew up in Santa Barbara, California. He graduated from Bakersfield High School and attended San Francisco State University before heading to Zion Canyon to live in Springdale and Rockville, Utah. Joe was preceded in death by his parents, Barbara Jennings Hollister, Wilson Kenneth Jennings M.D., and J.J. Hollister III. He is survived by his beloved wife Patricia 'Trish' Farnsworth Jennings, his children Hank and June Jennings, and his siblings, Bill Jennings, Matt Jennings, Sara Jennings Pelton, Scott Hollister, George Hollister, and Cate Wallenfels Hollister.

Please honor him by reaching out to others, by letting your eyes sparkle, and by daring to live your dreams. In lieu of flowers, please donate to your local NPR station, to Doctors Without Borders, or to the charity of your choice. Come celebrate Joe's life with us on January 19th, 2019 at 5 p.m. at the Bit & Spur Restaurant.

Tribute Wall

AL

“ To Trish, Hank, June and to the rest of Joe's family and friends,

Warm thoughts and prayers for everyone, especially to Trish, Hank, and June as we celebrate Joe's life. I wish I could have been there at Bit & Spurs today 01/19/2019. I have been thinking of Joe a lot especially since the moment when I found out he did not make it. I will always remember that text and moment because it came as such a shock.

Joe and I were high school friends at Bakersfield High School (BHS). We both had long hair back then although his was always the more special blonde color. We played soccer at BHS, hung out, went cruising in my 1977 Z28, and ate a lot of Chinese food together. My family owned a Chinese restaurant, so we always got free food to take out. We were lucky carefree teenagers in many ways. I remember Joe's family house on Panorama Drive overlooking the oil fields of Bakersfield and Oildale. Back in those days we always called each other by last names. He was Jennings and I was Lee.

For reasons I don't recall, I lost touch with Jennings after high school. It was not until our 30th reunion that we caught up with each other. It was like old times. Now how I wish I should have taken the time to drive up to Zion and Bit & Spurs to spend time with Joe and the family all these years. I will not forget you Jennings, that voice, that smile, that long blonde hair, and especially the friendship. With the passing of some time, and the pain and shock of losing you so early subside, I will continue to remember you and honor you as your well written obituary stated - reach out to others, let our eyes sparkle, and dare to live our dreams

*Sincerely your friend,
-Andrew Lee*

Andrew Lee - January 19, 2019 at 04:34 PM

MW

“ Trish,

I've had countless fond memories of my time with you and Joe over the years. My heart goes out to you, Hank, and June.

You had such strength and grace in the final days and I'll always be here for you and the kids if need be.

I have Joe's picture on my radiator next to a petrified wood that he gave me on a bike ride doing the Anasazi Trail. In addition, I'll never forget my and your bike ride on the "slick rock" when I took a tumble and fell and got road rash (you were so sweet!)

You and Joe enriched my life in ways of love I can't express in words.

I'll never forget Joe :(

Love, Mike Wangeman



Michael Wangeman - December 30, 2018 at 03:23 PM

AB

“ Dear Trish and family and all your beloved friends in the canyon, my heart goes out to you all with this tragic loss of such a terrific person. I always thought of Joe and the Bit as the best! All my deepest comforts to all his companions, Anne Weiler Brown

Anne Weiler Brown - December 27, 2018 at 08:28 PM

KM

“ Heavy Hearts as we hear of Joe's passing. Our condolences go to out to the Jennings Family and especially Trish. We want you to know We Love You. We have been huge fans of the Bit and Spur. We truly are lucky to have had the opportunity to share many great meals with friends and family and a round of pool or two. Your laughter and smile will forever brighten our lives. Kenny & Gerene Mason Family.

Kenny & Gerene Mason - December 25, 2018 at 07:59 PM

LA

“ My heart goes out to Trish and her family during this time. Joe was a wonderful man and husband and father. He left this world a better place and lightened all who knew him! Praying for Joe's family to have peace and remembrance of good times with the husband and father that was truly, “ one of the good ones”. Much love sent your way Trish!

Lori Arnold - December 22, 2018 at 09:32 AM

RC

I haven't seen Joe in years but Joe had a laugh that one would never forget.....I haven't. Very sad to hear of his passing. RIP Joe.

Regis Coyle - December 24, 2018 at 01:17 AM

RP

I knew Joe from the 4th to 6th grade at Jefferson Elementary on Alameda Padre Serra (1972-74). As a playground/after-school sports teammate, Joe was very special and brought out the best in all of us both on and off the court.

I've thought about Joe from time to time, and I'm saddened to know that I cannot have that reunion I've hoped for. What I do know from the beautiful obituary and comments, is that Joe lived his life to the fullest, and that confirms my belief in him those years past.

Thanks to those who have been a part of his life. I just want to share my memories from long ago and confirm to you that he was always that way in the time that I knew him.

Bob Perry

Robert Perry - December 26, 2018 at 12:54 AM