



Andrew William Kratzke

June 6, 1983 - September 27, 2020

With deepest sorrow, we announce that Andrew William Kratzke, age 37, beloved son of William Paul Kratzke and Nancy Anne Mardis, brother to Lisa Hales Davis, Rachel Penn Kratzke, and Dimitriy Andreyevich Titov, father of Luke William Kratzke, favorite human of their dog, Meyer, family member to more, and fierce friend to everyone, passed away suddenly at his home in Memphis, TN on Sunday, September 27, 2020. The depth of this loss is immeasurable and the anguish unbearable. Anyone fortunate enough to have known and felt Andrew's presence, no matter how briefly, has lost a bright shining light.

Andrew's career as an accomplished chef formally began at the College of Culinary Arts at Johnson and Wales University, Miami, although his passion was ignited long before with late-night dinners prepared in the kitchen in the house where he grew up. His career pursuits saw him as sushi chef and lead line cook at the world-renowned Nobu Miami and interning and mastering sauté station in Manhattan, NY at Cafe des Artistes. It eventually called him home in 2011, where he worked at an array of Memphis eateries, including a stint as executive chef at Napa Cafe. Perhaps his greatest and proudest achievement was becoming a father on March 31, 2014.

Andrew was an Eagle Scout and an avid outdoorsman, whether recently foraging for chanterelle mushrooms, a passion he shared with William's wife, Marina Yurievna Kratzke, or summiting the 14,005 foot Mount of the Holy Cross with his beloved Uncle Mike Hisey, also a leader in the Boy Scouts. From an early age, he loved to go fishing with family, friends, anyone wanting to tag along, sometimes with those not necessarily wanting to tag along, but would for his sake, such as his niece, Taylor Hales Davis, and nephew, Parker Hales Davis, and oftentimes, alone, finding peace in nature. Andrew was an animal lover, and in a world where he could be anything, he was kind. For every kindness he will be remembered for, there were dozens more he did quietly that people did not know about.

Andrew tirelessly championed justice for his best friend, Troy Goode, who left behind a son, Ryan, only days younger than Luke and destined to grow up together, just as he and Troy did.

Private services will be held on Saturday, October 10, 2020. Weather permitting, this will be outdoors, as Andrew would have loved, and socially distanced.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks for donations to be made to Andrew's gofundme, which will benefit his and his sister's adoption agency, Holt International, the care and wellness of his dog, Meyer, and chiefly, to provide for his son's future, which Andrew cannot be a part of.

Comments



“ To Bill, Nancy, Rachel, Lisa and families,

We have such fond memories of our years together at BSLC when Andrew, Rachel, and Michael were tots.

We are deeply saddened by Andrew's passing. There are really no words!

But know....our hope is that each of you will forever be blessed with every good thought and feeling of your time with him on this earth....he really will never leave you.... he is in you!

We pray for the well-being of Luke, and of course, Meyer.

Thinking that Andrew would approve of the idea of having trees planted to replenish our National Forest.....in his memory and with gratitude for having known him and all of you,
we will do that!

With deepest sympathy,

The Bells

Bell - October 12, 2020 at 01:26 PM



“ What a lovely sentiment and gift of remembrance for our Andrew. Thank you for reaching out to us. Lisa

Lisa - October 19, 2020 at 08:11 PM



“ To Andrew's family, please accept my sincere sympathy for your loss of a wonderful young man. Andrew was one of my fine students in the fourth grade at Ridgeway Elementary School. He was an outstanding student in many ways, especially, his desire to learn. His pleasant personality, and his willingness to make our classroom an environment in which each student had the opportunity to achieve shall be remembered always. Andrew's smile would "light up" our area, when he was complimented for his exceptional achievements. Andrew shall remain in my precious memories always as a special youngster who possessed so much to offer this world.

Judy Duke-Galordi

Judy Duke-Galordi - October 11, 2020 at 06:02 PM



“ We are very lucky to hear from Andrew's much loved fourth grade teacher. Thank you for sharing your memories of Andrew, It means so much to us. Lisa

Lisa - October 19, 2020 at 08:13 PM



“ Nancy. I remember Andrew as a young man, arriving with his Uncle Mike for our backpacking trek to Mt Holy Cross in CO. It took some nerve for a newbie to join that group, but Andrew definitely meshed. Even then, his calm demeanor and maturity was apparent and he was already adept at making fun of his Uncle - a prerequisite for the trip. Since then, Mike would sometimes relay some info on Andrew's activities. I am deeply saddened by his passing - He will be remembered fondly.
Kevin Reed

kevin reed - October 10, 2020 at 09:36 AM



“ Nancy, I am so sorry for the loss of your beloved Andrew. I believe his sweet spirit will always be with you to comfort you. My thoughts and love are with you and your family and I'm sending virtual hugs to you all.

sharon O'Toole - October 07, 2020 at 02:22 PM



“ Andrew was the sweetest boy back in highschool and beyond. He was always smiling, stopping to show me his mom's wonderful art, loving on his kitties, and most importantly, being the Kratzkenator. The world is a different place without his gentle soul.



Sarah Dean - October 02, 2020 at 12:29 PM



“ From the moment Nancy & Bill received his portfolio from Holt International Children's Services, Andrew was their precious son, beloved brother to Rachel and Lisa, and an integral part of our extended community of families with beautiful children born in Korea. He couldn't have been more wanted or welcomed. We will never forget his beautiful smile and energy as a little boy. Our hearts are broken.

Miller & Nan Slaughter - September 29, 2020 at 08:00 PM



“ Prayers for you and your family at this difficult time. May your sweet memories give you comfort in the days ahead.

Sherry Wood - October 04, 2020 at 12:07 PM



“ Nancy - I'm so very sorry to hear of your loss. My deepest sympathies for you - Sandy Schaeffer

Sandy Schaeffer - October 05, 2020 at 03:07 PM



“ My heart and prayers are with you, Nancy, and all of your family.

Laura Edwards - October 05, 2020 at 03:33 PM



“ Nancy - I feel your sorrow. My arms are around you offering you comfort as you move through your grief. May your angels be with you now in your time of sorrow. We all feel Andrew's love as he is with you and the rest of the family.

Joan - October 06, 2020 at 03:40 PM