



Brian Michael Burandt

May 16, 1965 - November 9, 2017

Brian Michael Burandt's life followed a fiercely independent path. He lived on his own terms and made friends in America's biggest cities, smallest towns and remote wilderness areas.

He was born in the small town of Mason, Michigan during the 1960's when authority and conventional wisdom were being questioned everywhere.

Brian travelled west to California with his mother Judie and brother William, and lived in the cities of Berkeley and Santa Cruz.

Missing small-town life, he returned to his Michigan where he lived with his grandparents in rural Michigan. Brian graduated from high school there where he started on the football, baseball and basketball teams – helping Chippewa Hills win the baseball state championship in 1983.

Brian wanted to attend college in Northern California, so he enrolled at San Jose State University and worked toward a business degree. He eventually grew bored with traditional education and wanted to make his own way through practical experience.

Brian worked a variety of jobs and eventually settled in the hospitality industry where he developed excellent hosting skills that utilized his listening and conversational abilities. He was well-informed about current events and held strong opinions that generally favored the underdogs and questioned the powerful, but enjoyed engaging people with divergent viewpoints.

Brian met his true love, Maya Raman, in 1997 while working together in Oakland. Each were independent souls who eventually parted but reconciled

after both moved to Chicago. Maya's passing earlier this year affected Brian profoundly, but he found the strength to provide comfort and support to Maya's grieving family and friends.

Brian often spent time in Chicago and other cities scouring old stores in search of odd and beautiful things that were artfully displayed in his home. While he loved living in the big city, Brian treasured his time in the outdoors, especially trips to wilderness areas. Most recently, he travelled with his friend Kevin to remote parts of the Southwest, and to Lake Superior where they camped under the stars.

Brian was intensely loved by his family and friends, including his mother Judie, father Michael, stepfather Craig, brother William, half-sister Kelly, half-brothers Michael and Todd, Grandmother Betty, and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins from the Guerriero, Burandt and Raman families.

In lieu of flowers please consider donation to the Sierra Club.

Previous Events

Memorial Celebration

NOV 18. 1:00 PM (CT)

Barr Funeral Home
6222 N. Broadway
Chicago, IL 60660
(773) 743-4034
info@barrfuneralhome.com
<https://barrfuneralhome.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Brian ("Brybee") was a wonderful stepson to me. When I first considered marrying his mom Judie, the "advice" my Navy friends gave me was "It's okay to marry a divorcée, but not one with kids." Well, in my opinion, Billy & Brian were never a problem -- they were a huge plus!* ”

CRAIG REUBENS - June 01, 2025 at 03:38 PM



“ *Brian Michael Burandt* ”

October 08, 2023 at 11:31 AM

JP

“*Brian, I was devastated to learn of your passing this evening. I haven't seen you in years - the last time was a decade ago, years after we had fallen out of touch. I heard your heartwarming voice in a store I frequented in Oakland and sure enough, it was you. I was too timid to go over and say hi.*

You dated my sister Kristine for 7 years and were loved by my family. I considered you my big brother and were the most affable, down to earth and easy going, lovable people I had ever met, especially given that I'm pretty tightly wound and not always easy to get to know.

You knew I was studying architecture and launched into a great conversation about Frank Lloyd Wright and invited me to see an exhibit of his work at the Marin County Civic Center and that cemented it. My little brother was 4 when you came into our lives and you were wonderful to him as well.

It was a blast going to see live blues with you at Blake's in Berkeley or down in LA where it was remarkable to watch you hit it off with Harmonica Fats. You were simply one of the best people persons I've ever known, and there was a huge hole in the lives of many in our family when you and my sister broke up. There's an even bigger hole now. My Mother and I are heart broken.

May you Rest In Peace, Brian and may God keep you in his eternal, loving embrace.



john Proctor - September 15, 2018 at 01:42 AM

MO

“ Met Brian back in the early nineties thru my brother Joe. Just a kind free spirited person that always made people smile and enjoy the moment. We had nice golf outings but more importantly great conversations about life and the meaning of it. Lost contact with Brian over the years but will alway remember him as a great friend. I was there when he first met Maya and he told me he met the one. So sad to hear of his passing but so happy I knew him. Miss you brother!

Mike O'Leary

Mike O'Leary - May 16, 2018 at 10:28 PM

LM

“ Brian was a kind and dear brother and friend. When I first met Brian, he scooped me up in his arms and welcomed me as a sister. That hug of his was like a warm blanket, and was a reflection of his big heart and generous spirit. I will miss his sharp wit, infectious smile, and love of laughter and life.
Brian, thank you for being such a wonderful part of our family, and mostly, thank you for loving our dear Maya and bringing her joy.

I love you and miss you.

Laurie

Laurie Raman McMullen - November 18, 2017 at 11:06 PM

BK

“ I met Brian when we arrived at the dorms at San Jose State. He was the friendly guy with the Tigers hat who always had time to chat or shoot some pool. I have had the pleasure over the last 30 years sharing many adventures with Brian including golf, camping, boating, watching sports, countless nights on the SF nightlife scene, and just hanging out. He was always up for a good time, laughter and serious discussions about life: a rare individual who I never heard speak a bad word about another. Always positive and upbeat. Through out the years our connections ran from weekly to once a year but we were always quick to catch up and enjoy time together. Brian also introduced me to lifelong friends such as Kevin and Lucy McManus and of course his dear brother Bill.

I will miss you more than I can say. Happy Trails!

Bob Kadie

Bob Kadie - November 18, 2017 at 05:42 PM

BK

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Bob Kadie - November 18, 2017 at 04:51 PM

BK

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Bob Kadie - November 18, 2017 at 04:49 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Brian Michael Burandt.



November 17, 2017 at 10:26 AM



“ I knew Brian in San Francisco through his second cousin Kathleen. Brian was always fun to be around, and was very helpful and kind. He accepted people as they found him; I will miss him deeply.



Stuart Meighan - November 16, 2017 at 02:32 PM

KG

“ Our family has enjoyed many fun get togethers over the years. It was so nice when Brian was there. Always laughing, always caring. Truly a bright light.



Kathy Guerriero - November 16, 2017 at 06:04 AM

RC

“ I met Brian through our mutual friend Kevin McManus while they attended San Jose State. We became friends quickly and enjoyed the night life in “The City” south of Market. Brian spent a few months living with me while in San Leandro- always a fun time. I have thought of Brian often over the many years, and though we did not see or talk to each other, we did keep “tabs” on each other through Kevin. He was a great person, man and a great friend. I will miss him and think of him often. Rest In Peace Brian...

Rick Clemens - November 16, 2017 at 01:29 AM



“ Tropical Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Brian Michael Burandt.



November 15, 2017 at 07:36 PM

JR

“*Brian's enthusiasm and hearty laughter was balanced by his loving, tenderhearted nature. He could always be counted on to throw himself wholeheartedly into any project—from refinishing and arranging furniture to cooking, to arranging a reception or cooking up a meal fit for royalty. At home indoors and out—in political conversations or exploring Yosemite—he just seemed to fit in wherever he was. No wonder we loved him: he was irresistible!*”

Juanita Raman

Juanita Raman - November 15, 2017 at 03:26 PM

MC

“*Brain was an energy full of adventure and having a good time. I became friends with Brian and Bill through two of my older brothers. Football, baseball I was the little sister that did the stats. My deepest condolences to the family. Bill sending you a huge hug. I'll be letting Mom know too and I'm sure she will be sending you a hug as well.*”

Monique Simon Coon - November 15, 2017 at 09:49 AM



“*Brian taught his underage nephews how to mix mojitos one summer. They were mesmerized!*”

Mary Guerriero Edinger - November 15, 2017 at 09:15 AM

KG

So many fun trips to the lake with Brian! He was a joy to be around, always cracking a joke. Loved talking sports with him. I will miss you sweet nephew.

Kathy Guerriero - November 15, 2017 at 10:26 AM

LF

“ I was fortunate to become friends with Brian in high school. A friendship that lasted a lifetime. He will be missed
Larry Fish



Larry Fish - November 15, 2017 at 09:09 AM



“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



Barr Funeral Home - November 13, 2017 at 10:26 AM