

Inmemori Infos and Tributes

<https://www.inmemori.com/bryan-u99gj/tab-infos>

Data gathered from the Infos and Tributes Tab

Infos

Benjamin James Ryan, 31, of Littleton CO, lost his life in an avalanche on April 29, 2023. Nature fed his spirit throughout his life, and it was in nature that he left this world. Ben was born on March 27th, 1992, to Alan and Jean (Zavadil) Ryan in Iowa City, Iowa. Twenty months later he was joined by his brother and best friend throughout his life, Nathan (Nate). He grew up alongside and developed deep bonds with his many Ryan and Zavadil Cousins.

Ben attended City High School where he ran track and cross-country. He then attended Iowa State University graduating with a degree in electrical engineering. While at Iowa State he made many friends as a member of the Iowa State Running Club and as a member of a band named "The Bricks". After graduation he moved to Lakewood, CO and worked at POWER Engineers, excelling as a control systems engineer specializing in wind farms. He recently received the 2023 RMEL Emerging Leader Award, recognizing him for making significant contributions within his organization and the electric energy industry.

It was at POWER Engineers that Ben met Katrina Lidgard the love of his life. He had found someone who shared his many passions and adventures and appreciated his eccentricities. She made his life complete.

Ben was an intense outdoors adventurer and shared his love of adventure with many friends and family. He climbed all of Colorado's "fourteeners", as well as the highest mountain in the lower 48 states, Mount Whitney, and the highest mountain in Mexico, Pico de Orizaba, and had his sights set on many more. He loved backcountry skiing, for four straight years he skied every month of the year. He continued his passion for running, completing the Pike's Peak and the Moab Trail Marathons and a Grand Canyon Rim to Rim to Rim run. In between all those adventures he enjoyed road biking, mountain biking, and dirt biking.

Ben was keenly intelligent, insatiably curious, and wonderfully creative. He was a talented musician learning to play the piano and violin as a child and later teaching himself to play the guitar and drums. He was a self-taught Astro photographer,

continually learning about the universe and capturing its immense beauty. He was a hobbyist car, motorcycle, and bike mechanic. He built his own camper for his mountain adventures, learning woodworking and sewing along the way. He also enjoyed growing vegetables and flowers in his backyard. Ben truly made the most of every hour of every day.

Ben was his own person; he did not concern himself with outward appearances, he focused on things that brought him deeper fulfillment and meaning. He had a calm laid-back manner, mixed with a quick, wry sense of humor. His smile and laugh radiating either pure mischief or pure joy will long be remembered.

He is survived by parents Alan and Jean (Zavadil) Ryan, brother Nathan Ryan, his sister-in-law Izzy Scoblic, and his love Katrina Lidgard.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Summit County Search and Rescue, the team who searched tirelessly to find and retrieve our Ben.

Link to donate: <https://www.scr.org/donate-become-a-friend/>

Ben was a talented writer and documented his many adventures. We invite all to read.

Link to Ben's Adventure Blog: <https://giantb.wixsite.com/ifitsgrassitgoes>

(Link only works on desktop)

Celebration of Life

Windy Point Group Campground

White River National Forest, Colorado, USA

Ben's full and adventurous life will be celebrated in the mountains of Colorado at 2pm on 6/18/23. Refreshments and snacks will be provided. Please wear something that reminds you of Ben!

Tributes

I knew Ben for almost 16 years and considered him a close friend, even though we may have not seen one another often.

There are a million and one amazing memories with Ben from high school, such as; running cross country, Ben teaching me to drive a stick shift car and how to play disc golf, hiking around the Coralville reservoir and working on film fest movies with him and Chris. I'm thankful that our friendship continued post high-school, even as we moved toward opposite coasts of the country.

While we didn't see each other often after high-school, we made sure to check in on one another every few months and it was always as if no time had passed. Ben would always start with "hey dude" or "hey man" and I would tell him he sounded "so Colorado". He was always keeping busy with running, hiking, biking, skiing, woodworking and amazing work achievements. It was such a pleasure hearing about all of his life updates and accomplishments, as well as seeing photos of his craft and adventures. The best part was hearing the passion radiating in his voice.

While what Ben had to share was always more interesting, he was an amazing listener and would sincerely act as if my updates were more exciting than his, which was never the case but something I always have and always will appreciate.

Many people that are close in my life who didn't know Ben personally, certainly knew of Ben. He was someone I told stories of often, because the way he embraced life to the fullest was awe-inspiring. Beyond that, he was an absolutely incredible person and friend. I will always continue to remember and share his stories. Rest easy, my dear friend.

-Alice Agassandian

I have known the Ryan family for about 20 years since I met Nate in third grade and our lives have been intertwined ever since. I have so many fond memories with Nate and Ben that it is difficult to put into words what their friendships have meant to me. After going through Hoover, City High and Iowa State with Ben and Nate, Cat and I followed their footsteps and moved to Colorado October 2021. Since moving to Colorado, I have grown closer to Ben than ever before. What struck me in this past year was Ben's

kindness and selflessness. Ben was more than willing to help us in any way that he could. Ben fixed up and loaned me one of his mountain bikes last Summer so I could begin to get into the sport. Ben lent me two sets of skis and gave me advice on the AIARE training I took with Nate this past Winter. Just three weeks ago Ben and Katrina helped us move and would not let us buy them a beer for their help. For someone who was insatiably active and driven as Ben was but still had the time and desire to help a friend with anything was truly a special quality that was uniquely Ben. Ben was the backbone of a friend group that was Ben, Katrina, Nate, Izzy, Cat, and me. We spent Halloween, Thanksgiving, New Years together in addition to numerous skiing and camping trips. I am so deeply sad that our adventures together have come to an end. There is a hole in our group that will never be filled. I can take some solace in recollecting all the adventures we had over the years.

Rest easy Ben. You will always be fondly remembered and loved.

-Wes Steffen

What a life of beauty, adventure, and nature he had. What a talented man! My heart goes out to Nate and the entire Ryan family, at this time of incomprehensible loss.

-Mercedes Bern-Klug

I will always remember Ben for his kind heart, his laugh, and his smile. Ben's creativity and ambition for living life to its fullest were an inspiration to me and many others.

Rest well, Ben. You'll be greatly missed, and we're all better for having known you.

-Morgan Robertson

I met Ben many years ago through the Iowa State Run Club. It's probably been 10 years since we last spoke but the passing of time doesn't make the passing of Ben any easier to learn of. Ben was always friendly and kind, a guy who we always enjoyed having in the club and go with us on trips. He fit into any setting and was simply a good dude. I pray that Ben rests in peace.

-Daniel Sevcik

We had the privilege of knowing Ben since the year he was born. He was the youngest/cutest guest at our wedding in Aug of 1992 wearing a little tuxedo. He sweetly grabbed all our attention through his youth, being so shy but always so curious, hanging so close to his brother. They often came as a pair lighting fireworks, digging for tadpoles, exploring the farm. The 20 plus cousins were so tight and I am pretty sure you could say they were all about a year apart. Ben lived with us for part of one of his college years as he interned in Omaha. The kids adored him, always was excited when he came home from his work and he acted like he appreciated their interruptions in his

room where he always kept the door ajar for them. He was one of the kindest young men we ever knew and that time we had with him we will always treasure and hold deep in our hearts.

"May eternal rest grant unto Ben O Lord and let the perpetual light shine upon him."

-Karla Zavadil and Family

Ben crammed in one hundred years of living into his 31. We are all shattered right now but we know that the wonderful memories we have of Ben will help us cope.

We hold Katrina, Allan, Jean, Nate, Izzy and all Ben's family in our hearts. We will all miss him.

-Rob and Robin Scoblic Family