

Jon Absey

December 28, 1967 ~ January 31, 2026

Thoughts and prayers to the Absey family.

- Sam Lucier

One heck of a Man..

- Claude Nelson

Hello! I am so sorry to hear about Jon. My brother Ron was great friends with Jon. Jon was a wonderful person! He will be greatly missed.

- Patty(Kane)Koenigs

Sending love and comfort blessings to all of Jon’s family and friends. Love & God bless. George & Brian

- George & Brian Severson

Jon was my co-worker, my neighbor and lucky me, my friend. When Jon was on the Jazz court he was my co-worker, I was an NBA referee for 18 years and I got to see the best mascot in the whole NBA do his magic up close, many times I would tell him that the fans would be happy if he waved a flag on a 10 foot ladder instead of his thirty foot ladder!! A few years into being a referee we moved to South Jordan and found out Jon's house is a stone's throw from my house, going over to his house made me laugh because he was like Batman, Jon the yard worker in the day and the Jazz Bear at night, and nobody living close to him knew. And last, I get to proudly say he was my friend, from charities he would invite me to come along with, to sitting with him because he wanted to watch as many sunrises as possible after getting sick. I will never look at another sunrise the same way. I have met a lot of people in my life and Jon was truly a special person. He would give you a hug with all his love. Will really miss him!

- Gary Zielinski

Jon You were my brother from another mother. The silence you left behind is heavy. You were more than a friend you were family, chosen and forever. You showed up in my life with loyalty, humor, kindness, and a heart bigger than any room you walked into. You loved deeply, gave freely, and never asked for recognition. You made people feel seen, welcomed, and safe just by being you. I miss our talks, our memories, and the way you always knew how to lift others up, even when you were hurting. I miss your wisdom, your stories, and the way you carried so much love for your family and for the community you served so tirelessly. You left a mark on this world that can never be erased. I will carry you with me—in every smile, every act of kindness, and every moment I try to live the way you taught me to: with compassion, courage, and love. Until we meet again, my brother… thank you for choosing me as family. I love you. I miss you. Always. God Bless You Andy

- Andy Chudd

Godspeed my brother. You was an amazing, inspiring person both on and off the court. The love that you had for so many people, is going to live on. Until next time. Love ya brother, Travis

- Travis Rice

I worked at the arena supplementing my income for years as a lowly security officer. Jon would always greet me with a smile and a pat on the back. On cold winter days when he would find me posted up at the gate to the back lot, he would stop and ask if he could grab me a coffee. I would tell him I was fine but thanks anyway. When Jon found out I didn't drink coffee, he surprised me on many occasions with a hot chocolate. That's who he was, (is) always looking out for others. Till we meet again brother!

- Greg Duncan

My heart goes out to the Absey family with the passing of Jon. What an amazing person, and such a great loss to all whose lives he touched in so many different ways.

- Colleen (O'Leary) Stinar

I belong to the Delta Center family that Shana and their daughters shared Jon with. Never have I met a man who was so full of life that he made thousands smile every day he went to work… not to mention those he cheered up through his many charities. He will be missed so much by us all. RIP my dear friend. May God bless his family through this very tough time.

- Harmonie Race

Jon was my mentor in the mascot industry and one of the best friends I could ever ask for. Every time we talked on the phone, he was always so happy to hear about my performances and adventures with my mascot. He helped shape me into the mascot performer I am today and for that I am forever grateful. I am going to miss you Jon and I will always carry you in my thoughts and in my heart. To the Absey Family, I am so sorry for your loss. The world lost the best mascot performer, friend, and family member anyone could know. I am sending my deepest and most heartwarming thoughts, prayers and condolences to all of you during this difficult time. I know Jon is watching over

you all and smiling down from heaven above. Much love and sending bigs hugs your way.

- Ryan Mason

Vicki 12 years than Jon and remembers when he was born. Her Mother and Father Al and Maureen Srur are Jon's God Parents. Vicki was at Jon's Baptism. Vicki remembers Jon's dad yelling at the kids playing and getting into (Good Trouble) and the kids would hide in the corn field. Wish I could have met Jon but it's like I've known him reading about him online. I know his high school coaches Phil Myers Roger Morton. My family farmed by the Abseys near Lawton ND. And Jon's wife is a Christenson like one of my Grandmothers. Jon the Jazz Bear is like Bastian But the boy in the movie The Neverending Story. Bastian rides Falkor the creature that flys and saves the magical world of Fantasia. Just like Jon flying high at a Jazz game. Neverending Story is a great song. I'll think of Jon when I hear it. So sorry. Brad.

- Brad Moe and Cousin Vicki Srur Moe

Jon Absey… my brother, I’m still shaking my head that you’re gone. Jon, I’ve known you a long time—and some of my best memories in this life have your fingerprints all over them. The charities. The laughs. The miles. The purpose. And especially our time with the Muscular Dystrophy Association—riding those Harleys to raise money for the kids, and then getting to spend time with them at summer camp, where you didn’t just show up… you showed them they mattered. You had a way of making everyone feel seen. Kids, families, volunteers—doesn’t matter who it was. You brought heart, grit, and humor into every room and every moment. And speaking of humor… I don’t think I’ll ever forget the day you went down on State Street on that motorcycle. Most guys would’ve been embarrassed. Not you. You popped up like, “Alright… who saw that?” and somehow had the rest of us laughing before the dust even settled. That was Jon—turning a hard moment into a story, and a story into a lesson. But what I’ll remember most is how you always ended our conversations. Every time. “Hey, big man… what can I do for you today?” That wasn’t just a line—that was your life. Service. Loyalty. Love. You were a giver, a protector, and a friend to the core. I love you, Jon. And I will be a better man because of you. Thank you for the miles, the memories, the causes, and the brotherhood. Until we meet, hug, and ride again…thanks for blessing my life. Godspeed, my brother.

- Curtis G. Marsh

John lifted Swing for Life to new levels! He lit up the stadium with his always great entrances! The high school ball teams went crazy every time he came to our cancer events. When he found out I was Lebanese, he came and enjoyed our bread that we sold at the tournaments! I know it doesn't work this way, I'm a two time cancer survivor, but I would take the million dollars we have raised to have saved his life! He was that special! My heart to you all, we were Missing him after he left with the Jazz, it has not Been the same! I would love to send some Amazing photos, if You feel like Contacting, Cathyhowa@gmail.com

- Kathy Howa

I'm still in shock over Jon's passing. I was really optimistic that Jon would beat this cancer. I'm so sorry for this devastating loss. I sincerely appreciate everything Jon has done for me as a relatively new mascot back in 2000. He mentored/ helped hire me as the Utah Starzz mascot. I'll always remember the audition as he had me wear a pink dinosaur costume on the concourse during halftime at an Utah Jazz game. Jon was always there to be a listener/ helper throughout my mascot career. He was always humble and happy to serve. I will definitely miss Jon.

- Dan Armstrong

Where to start when thinking about Jon’s impact on my life... We referred to each other as our ‘oldest friend’ as we met and played together when we were 5 or so. My family moved into the house a field away from his family down the dirt road in a small Minnesota town. We rode bikes and played together. Over the years, we lost and found each other again. Jon always showed up to meet me and my family whenever we passed through Salt Lake on the way to the desert, pass soccer tickets to us knowing my boys and husband, Ben, were huge fans! Jon made me feel like I had a special place in his heart, and I certainly had that for him. His smile, generosity, interest in others, selflessness, presence, humor and kindness was always ever present. He was a friend that was there for the people he loved. And he loved so many of us! I am grateful to have met him young, connected again as parents of young children, and to have shared many laughs and lunches over the years. He inspires me to do better, be better, give more and continue to live with the Carpe Diem spirit. What an impact he had on so many of us. His legacy lives on in us. Jon, Thank you for loving all of us! You were a superhuman to me and my family. We all miss and send love to you and your family, thank you for all that you shared with us over the years. Your spirit lives on, ~Trace, Ben, Aspen & Everest

- Trace Klein

We are so very sorry for your loss. Jon was an incredible person, and we were lucky to have known him. You're in our thoughts and prayers. Love...Ted

- Ted, Jen, Trevin and Brendan Roberts

You’re the man, Jon. Thank you my friend! You changed all our lives. We carry how special you were with us all around the world. Todd

- Todd Redding

Jon, Thank you for the love and joy you have shared with so many of us. You are a great friend and a wonderful inspiration to us all. To the Absey family, May your hearts be filled with memories of the love, warmth, and laughter Jon has given to you. Dale Scheett

- Dale Scheett

Jon is an incredible man and inspiration to others. We were fortunate enough to meet him and be neighbors with the Absey family.

- The Kissell Family

Jon was an extraordinary individual, and we were fortunate to have collaborated with him for many years. We gained invaluable knowledge from him, which we continue to incorporate into our program. Please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers. From all of us at the University of Utah, Swoop Mascot Program.

- Swoop Mascot Program

Thank you Jon for everything you have done for my grandkids they ll miss you so much. We ll never forget about you. You're so cool to everyone the spirit of giving to others and a true mascot we ll miss you Jon sending prayers

and love for your family

- Raelyn Beardall

Jon was an amazing man full of love, life and kindness..Shana my love and prayers are with you and your family. Rest in peace my dear friend ■

- Nola Wayman

I knew Jon for less than a year, but I will forever remember him fondly. He is one of the most kind, selfless, and generous men I've ever met. He always had a compliment to brighten my day and we enjoyed bouncing creative ideas off of each other. He left such a positive mark on my life and I know there are so many hundreds, if not thousands, of others who feel the same. Thank you, Jon, for making my world and so many others' a better place.

- Heather Harris

RIP Jon, You were and are very talented! You are missed. Glad I got to witness jazz games with you on the Harley.

- Adrian

Gone too soon!

- Claude Nelson

Jon. I still can't believe you are gone! I will always cherish our friendship. My heart goes out to Shana,your kids , and your grandson. Love you brother!

- Karl Willey