

Connor James Turley

November 22, 1996 ~ October 15, 2021

Connor James Turley was born November 22, 1996-he was 24 years of age. He was cherished from the beginning. Born with high levels of bilirubin, he would spend his first few days in a light bed with either his mom or dad lying next to him so he wouldn't overheat. He was a fun-loving and energetic child who was always hugging and kissing his mother and father, brother, and two sisters. When he was not much older than a toddler, he would wait for his father (who is a Soldier) at the door to return from work. He would salute smartly and then do push-ups, sit-ups, and then run around the kitchen and dining room for his dad's amusement. He wanted to be everything when he grew up: Soldier, Engineer, Astronaut, Fireman, Doctor, and Teacher. Once when he was very young, he attempted to jump from his parents' staircase and broke his collar bone. It would not be until he was going to bed and putting on his pajamas that his mother would discover the injury as he couldn't lift his arm to pull on his top.

Connor was a fun and animated little boy. He loved all things "Toy Story". One day he would be "Buzz" and the next day he would be "Woody." He loved his mom to read stories to him. His love for his mom was deep and profound and he was so affectionate with her as a little boy. He developed a love of reading, and when he could read on his own, he read and loved "Captain Underpants" books. He would read them voraciously as a young child, to the point of dressing-up as Captain Underpants any time he could!

Connor's first friends were his family. He made so many fun memories with his cousins. Staying at Grandma Kathryn's, going to Bear World, swimming at the sandbar, green canyon, and lava hot springs. Going camping and to Yellowstone, Lagoon, and Disneyland. Various picnics, parties, and parades. So many good times shared together.

He loved to spend time playing with his mom, dad, brother and sisters. His favorite friend by far was his big brother, Michael. While Michael was 10 years older than Connor, he was so kind, patient, and nurturing with him-as a big brother should be. He introduced him to his love of Disney movies, especially his favorite movie: "The Nightmare before Christmas". They shared a love of art, anime, and gaming. Michael was always so kind to share his things and his time. While it might annoy many other older brothers, he would often allow Connor to tag along with his friends. They had a very special bond that will never be broken, just like the brothers in "Full Metal Alchemist".

He spent a great of deal time with his big sisters; Shantel and Alyssa. He attended concerts, movies, and plays with them over many years and over many interests. They spent a great amount of time "scaring" each other, jumping on the trampoline, listening to music, talking about life, and driving each other on errands. They were his favorite helpers, teachers, and first playmates. His big sisters were great caretakers for him; always wanting to spoil him when he was a baby and when he got older. Their bonds would only gain strength as they grew older.

He loved travel with his family and was able to visit some amazing places with them such as: Washington DC, New York City, and San Francisco. Disneyland and Disneyworld would certainly be among his favorite places, spending many fun-filled trips to both with his family.

In his youth, Connor was involved in baseball, basketball, soccer, and football but none of these activities would be as fun or interesting to him as art or music. He would often jump off his parents' backyard shed onto the trampoline with his friends, much to the surprise and chagrin of his parents. He seemed to be cracking jokes and making people laugh all the time, he was a natural comedian. He developed a skill for putting together stop-motion, animated movies when he was in elementary and junior high school. He watched and imitated the "blue-man" videos on YouTube and created an entire library of his own versions with animation, music, and witty dialogue which he wrote himself. He always had a great interest in the craft of making movies. He and his parents would watch movies and he would critique the movies' "weak" as well as "strong" parts from production quality-to script-to dialogue-to acting. He was a young Spielberg in the making. He would also create "crank" phone-call videos with his friend on a computer program that simulated and changed voices that were both infuriating to his parents and undeniably, hilarious. As Connor grew older, he developed a keen interest in music and began to teach himself to play the guitar, banjo, and keyboards. His natural talent for music was as apparent as it was for art and animation, and he could play beautiful versions on his guitar after only a few times listening to a song. He seemed to channel natural music talents from his mother's family as well as his Grandfather Turley.

Connor attended elementary, junior high school, and high school in West Jordan, graduating from Copper Hills High School. Upon graduation, though he wanted to complete college he felt that a trip overseas to teach English might be a good training opportunity as well as a great adventure. He spent four months in China teaching elementary-age Chinese children. His connections with these children (and fellow teachers) would endure for several years after the trip and was a source of great joy and pride for him. He returned with many tokens and gifts from these children, who clearly loved "Teacher Connor" as much as he loved them. He expressed a desire to teach children in the future as a profession and we are sure that will be his vocation in eternity. In China, he also visited many large cities and natural landmarks, sampling the culture and beauty of the country with the highlight being his trip to the Great Wall of China. His pictures and those of his fellow teachers on the Great Wall with the look of wonder and joy on his face, will forever be a source of strength for his family.

After returning from China, he attended both Weber State University, as well as SLCC. Connor enjoyed hanging out with his friends, going on long drives, listening to music, going to concerts, gaming, playing with Violet, and walking his dog. He worked in several jobs and continued in college classes until shortly before he lost his battle with mental illness on October 15, 2021.

He is survived by his mother-MaryLou, father-Michael, sister-Shantel, brother-Michael, sister-in-law- Arleigh, sister-Alyssa, brother-in-law-Steven, nieces: Julie, Petra, Mila, Violet, nephew-Enzo, Grandpa Boyd, and Grandma Sue; aunts, uncles, cousins, friends, and many others who cared for him more than his illness could allow him to accept. He is preceded in death by his loving Grandmother Kathryn, Grandpa George, Grandpa Mike, Grandma Barbara, Uncle Keith, Uncle Steve, and his beloved Dog and best friend, "Buster."

He will always be son and brother, uncle and nephew, cousin and friend. He was an artist and musician. A lover of literature and sushi. A sharp intellect who could debate the most educated to a stand-still. He was an advocate for those he felt were not treated fairly or kindly, and he had great empathy. While he was full of love and kindness, he was also full of pain and suffering. As a family, we are glad he is beyond that pain and suffering but we will love and miss him every moment of every day until we meet him again as an eternal family.

Connor's funeral service will be held on Friday, October 22, 2021, at 11 a.m. at Larkin Mortuary, 3688 West 12600 South, Riverton, Utah for family and close friends. A viewing will be held from 9:30-10:30 a.m. at the mortuary prior to the service. Interment will be in the Payson City Cemetery, Payson, Utah.