

Gregory Michael Thornton

December 31, 1975 ~ March 28, 2023

We are devastated to announce the unexpected passing of Gregory Michael Thornton, beloved husband, father, son, brother and uncle, on March 28, 2023. Despite being one of the toughest and healthiest guys around, he succumbed very suddenly to bacterial pneumonia at the age of 47.

Greg was born on December 31, 1975 in Salt Lake City to devoted parents Rex and Mary, who loved raising one son alongside his four sisters. In his youth he took great pleasure in playing sports, especially basketball. He had a great singing voice which he began to develop in high school choirs and leading roles in musical theater. He was incredibly blessed with a strong group of friends who were known for their many shenanigans. In spite of all their mischief he graduated from Highland High with the class of 1994. He went on to earn a bachelor's degree in communications from the University of Utah in 2000.

Greg met Cindy Burningham when they were both 14-year-old participants in the Hill Cumorah Pageant. They were friends for a long time before he used his notably deep voice to persuade her to marry him. They were sealed in the Salt Lake Temple on September 25, 1999. Together they have raised four incredible kids: Bradley, Lincoln, Abigail and Quinn.

Greg enjoyed many hobbies and interests. He loved running, camping, smoking meat (especially turkey legs for Thanksgiving), skiing, fishing (even though he was largely unsuccessful), hiking, making popcorn, attending U of U and Jazz games and reading cowboy books. Greg was a faithful member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He served as Young Men's president, Bishop and High Councilor. But his favorite calling was as a Primary teacher.

In his day job as a financial planner, Greg found satisfaction in caring for his clients and helping them prepare for their futures, and providing for his family. But his real job was to be a husband and father. Nothing surpassed his love for his kids. For every birthday and Christmas he would ask for "gifts of time" with them. He was their cheerleader and unofficial coach at every sport they participated in, but especially basketball. He loved taking them to lunch, to sporting events, and on fun one-on-one trips around the country. They were his world and his greatest joy.

He is survived by his wife, children, parents, sisters (Wendy, Becca, Heather and Kristy) and their families.

A viewing will be held on Thursday, March 30, 2023, from 6:00-8:00pm at the LDS chapel (1970 East Stratford Ave). A viewing will also be held from 10:00-10:45am on Friday, March 31, 2023, at the same location. Funeral services will follow at 11:00 am. Interment will take place at Larkin Sunset Lawn.

For those who wish to view the recording of the services may do so here:
https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/jR3StEW77sRO7Dw5kAvBXtLQtvzbm6FX5FIHnL77GcZKiJ-3wCyyzI44x-8kLvJl.lWrW

Services can be viewed for 30 days.