

Joshua Brandon Van Alstyne

July 2, 1985 ~ April 25, 2023

Our beloved and beautiful son, brother, uncle, and friend, Joshua Brandon Van Alstyne, of Salt Lake City, Utah, was taken from us suddenly in the early morning of April 25, 2023. He was 37 years old.

Josh's adventure-filled life began on July 2, 1985. As the youngest of five children, he had to grow up fast. As soon as he could stand, he was jumping. As soon as he could walk, he was running. He made fast friends with everyone while growing up in the Salt Lake area.

Josh graduated from Woods Cross High School, was an Eagle Scout, an avid outdoorsman, a self-taught historian and a gentleman. He was comfortable guiding a raft on the Colorado, leading an expedition to King's Peak, backcountry skiing or adventuring abroad. There was no challenge Josh believed he couldn't conquer.

Inspired by 9/11, shortly after he was eligible, Josh enlisted in the Army to fight for America in Afghanistan. It wasn't enough to be a soldier, Josh overcame the odds and became a Special Forces medic serving multiple tours over 8 years overseas, in Afghanistan and other countries in Europe, Asia and Africa. Incredibly, Josh's 7th great-grand uncle is Thomas Knowlton. Thomas was known as the 1st Intelligence professional. As head of the Knowlton Rangers in the Revolutionary War, Thomas was the first special forces soldier. This always inspired Josh. Despite the unimaginable hardships he faced, Josh formed strong bonds with his fellow soldiers and the local people he encountered, leaving an indelible mark on their lives. His time in country was, for him, the best of times and the worst of times, a time of purpose and a time of bewilderment. He was the recipient of many awards for his service including a Bronze Star and "V device" for exceptional valor and courage in battle, and Silver Star pending.

In his civilian life, Josh was the epitome of a loving and adventurous uncle to his niece and nephews. His boundless energy took him around the globe to at least 55 countries, skiing in South America and New Zealand, exploring Africa, visiting Mount Everest Base Camp, scaling the Great Wall of China, and hiking in the Amazon. He also managed to golf at Cypress Point, attend The Masters, and ski every chance he got.

Josh was stubbornly strong minded, confident and determined to live life to the fullest. He bought a home near Parley's Canyon that was always in a constant state of upgrade. He made a living teaching himself to trade the stock market.

Josh was highly intelligent, resourceful, ambitious and determined: he had a personality of cool, of fun, of hard work and goals. Though he built protective walls around his true nature, Josh's genuine essence was one of profound sensitivity. He was deeply affected by the cruelty and injustices he witnessed but continued to face life head-on. Josh was the most interesting person to talk to. We will all miss his rants on how Justinian II was underrated.

Though he is no longer with us, Joshua's light will continue to shine in the hearts of those he left behind. We are heartbroken. There will always be a void in our lives that will never be filled. He was a precious son, an incredible

brother, a loyal friend, and the most beloved uncle.

Josh is survived by his parents, Peter and Mary Ann; his siblings Pete (Sera Kain), Mathew (Catie Grimes), Eliza Drebing (Travis), and Jake; his nephews Austin, Brendan, Asher, Henry, and Jack; his niece Riley, numerous cousins, aunts, uncles, and countless friends.

A service to celebrate Joshua's life will be held at noon, May 3, at the Utah Veterans Cemetery and Memorial Park, Camp Williams, Bluffdale. A viewing will begin at 11:00 AM, with burial following the service. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to a charity that embodies Josh's spirit of love for mankind and compassion.