

Robert Thomas "Tommy" Gardner

April 29, 2004 ~ June 4, 2024

Elder Robert Thomas “Tommy” Gardner, 20, passed away on Tuesday, June 4, 2024 while serving as a missionary for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints from injuries sustained in a car accident near Beulah, North Dakota.

Tommy was the first child of Robert Joseph Gardner and Kimberly Thompson Gardner. He was born in Salt Lake City, Utah on April 29, 2004 and he graduated from Riverton High School in 2022.

It might not be a coincidence that Tommy was the first child since he was so competitive. When it came to sports and athletics, his competitive side came out regardless of whether it was something intense like sprinting and running (which he excelled at and even had Olympic aspirations), drum line, volleyball, basketball, baseball, or even activities that aren’t generally competitive, like hiking and guitar. This competitive side made things fun, but this is just the beginning.

Tommy cared about those around him and he took an interest in the things that were important to them so he could best relate to others. He always knew when someone needed something and didn’t hesitate to share, even if what he was sharing was simply a joke or the Gospel.

During the last 17 months, Tommy dedicated his time to sharing the restored Gospel of Jesus Christ with the people of North Dakota, South Dakota, and Montana. He had a powerful testimony of the Atonement of Jesus Christ that demonstrated Christ’s compassion and love for each and every one of us. Tommy wanted to share that knowledge with others so they could find solace and peace in this life and the next. Tommy loved the people he met while on his mission, which was spent mainly serving the people of the Lakota tribes.

Outside of his mission, Tommy loved people in general. It didn’t matter if you were young or old, Tommy wanted to spend time with you and make you laugh. He had a great sense of humor and could make anything funny. The way he spoke was unique to Tommy and it showed he was a genuine and honest person. That might be why we all love Tommy so much.

His competitive nature also showed in his other accomplishments. He worked hard to become an Eagle Scout, but he had to do it as soon as he turned 14 so he could receive it as soon as he was eligible. He also enjoyed his video games and he would occasionally let others win so they could feel the joys of taking first place. Even then, he was truly winning when it came to building relationships.

He is survived by nearly everyone in his immediate family, from his parents and two brothers, Cameron (15) and James (10), as well as his beloved dog Rosie, to his maternal grandparents, Dale and Catherine Thompson, and from his paternal grandmother Eme Gardner, to many aunts, uncles, and cousins, the relationships he built will be cherished.

He just had to be first in almost everything.

He is only preceded in death by his paternal grandfather Robert Duane Gardner, and his cousin Keaton Riley Thompson.

Funeral services will be held at 10AM on Saturday, June 15, 2024 at the Rose Creek Crossing Ward, 13434 South Hawthorne Way in Riverton, Utah. A visitation will be held Friday evening, June 14, 2024 from 6-8 PM at Larkin Mortuary - Riverton, 3688 West 12600 South in Riverton, Utah, as well as Saturday at the ward prior to services beginning at 8:30AM.

Funeral services will be streamed via Zoom for those wishing to attend virtually. To watch the services, please click the "Watch Services" link above.