



Brian Kelley Garvey

April 13, 1954 - January 14, 2024

BLOOMINGTON - Brian Kelley Garvey left this world on January 14, 2024, surrounded by his family. Diagnosed with metastatic lung cancer in 2019, Brian lived a resolute life and was grateful for three cancer free years after his initial treatment.

He was born in Providence, RI to Janet and Bernard Garvey and grew up in South Bend, IN. Brian was a 1972 graduate of LaSalle High School in South Bend and also attended Indiana University. Survivors include his wife, Nancy Krueger; sons, Colin Kelley (Yurie) Garvey and Devin Bernard Garvey; grandson, Tenri Garvey; sisters Carol Sue O'Malley, Maureen Murphy DeBrito, and Mary Lynn Olen; and brothers Kevin Bernard Garvey and Sean Patrick Garvey.

Brian is preceded in death by his parents and sister, Nancy Lynn Seymour.

Brian had a lifelong love of the outdoors. As a young teen, he trekked, waded, fished, and trapped miles and miles of the St. Joe River. He looked forward to the yearly Garvey family gatherings on the Lake Michigan shore—a family tradition for nearly a century. An artist since the age of 5, he had a keen sense of design. He came to Indiana University in 1974 and enrolled in the Bachelor of Fine Arts in painting. A few years later he began his affiliation with the IU Museum of Art (now Eskenazi Museum of Art) as a draftsman, drawing

ancient artifacts from the world-famous Burton Y. Berry collection at the museum. He became senior graphic designer at the museum in 1980, spending over 40 years there applying his extraordinary artistic talents to exhibition and catalog design.

Above all, Brian loved his family, their home, and land. He restored his 1850s farmhouse, grew a large garden, cut an endless supply of firewood, made maple syrup, and raised sheep, chickens, and for a time, goats and a horse named Joe. In addition to his enjoyment of the extended Garvey family, his two sons, and new grandson he had yet to meet, Brian had a wide range of friends. Quick witted and generous with his humorous quips and vast knowledge of trivia, Brian never knew a stranger. For 27 years, he was a good friend of Bill W. and believed in the service of helping yourself by helping others in their recovery.

Brian will be sorely missed.

Memorial gifts can be made to Amethyst House where he served on the board for 20 years.

Allen Funeral Home and Crematory 4155 South Old State Road 37 is handling the arrangements and online condolences, photos and memories may be shared with family and friends at www.allencares.com.

A celebration of Brian's life will be held at the Buskirk Chumley Theater (114 E. Kirkwood Avenue, Bloomington, IN 47408) on June 9th, 2024 at 2pm.

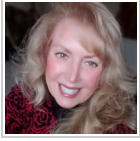
Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JUN 9. 2:00 PM (ET)

Buskirk Chumley Theater
114 E Kirkwood Avenue
Bloomington, IN 47408

Tribute Wall



“ *I was so crazy about Brian when I met him at holy Cross School in South Bend Indiana. He was so creative and such a master of art even then in grade school... I think I had a crush on him for so many years, but I'm glad he found his forever someone and had a wonderful life because that means a lot to me. God bless you Brian and God bless your family who will miss you dearly for the rest of their lives*

Katherine Radican - February 15, 2024 at 04:24 PM

NS

“ *Dear Nancy - My heart goes out to you and all family and friends affected by the terrible loss of a truly amazing and talented person. Always quick with a smile and a sparkle in his eyes, and maybe a photo of an abandoned quarry workshop to share. I always looked forward to bumping into him on campus or town. Please accept my deepest condolences.*

Natalia Schau - January 31, 2024 at 12:13 PM

TO

“ *Nancy
Brian was more than a friend. He was my brother-in-law. We knew each other as kids, and in the last few years got to know each other again here in Bloomington. He was a wonderful guy. I relish the times we did get to spend together. Rest in peace Brian*

Tim O'Malley

Tim O'Malley - January 29, 2024 at 09:02 PM

DS

My heart breaks for your family....Sending prayers and comfort to all.

Debbie Scholl - March 26, 2024 at 11:31 AM

KA

“ *It was an honor and privilege to walk this earthly road with Brian for a while. He had a gift of making you feel like you were special to him. Honest, humble and kind. We were blessed to have him with us. See you down the road, my friend. Blessings to his family as you mourn his loss in your lives. 🙏*

Katrinka - January 23, 2024 at 07:39 PM

JH

“ *Brian and I were friends and classmates at Holy Cross School in South Bend from 3rd to 8th grade. In class we always seemed to be assigned seats next to or across from each other. We helped each other, competed with each other, and sometimes we teased or annoyed each other. Brian was an excellent artist and I always had nice colored pencils which he borrowed. Sometimes he would draw pictures for me.*

We attended different high schools so we did not keep in touch, but sometimes we ran into each other.

I remember he told me to always look for a building that said "Garvey " on it, located on the north side of the Chicago Skyway Bridge. Even now, I think about my looking for that building and I think about Brian and it makes me smile

Rest in peace Brian and I hope all the family finds comfort in the knowledge that he made a difference in the lives of many people

Judy (Ciesielski) Hums - January 22, 2024 at 10:32 PM

PW

“ Nancy and Colin, So sorry for your loss! Brian was one of a kind! I first met Brian on Garvey Pattern Little League team and reunited in Bloomington many years latter. I always loved running into Brian...quality human being....the best.

Paul E Wilson - January 22, 2024 at 11:36 AM

RH

“ I'm terribly sad to learn of Brian's passing. He was one of the best of us.

Ramsay Harik

Ramsay Harik - January 21, 2024 at 09:38 AM

DB

“ Nancy and Colin, I am so sorry for your loss. I always loved Brian's spirit. May your memories sustain you during this difficult time.

Donna Bernens-Kinkead - January 21, 2024 at 08:12 AM

BS

“ I became friends with Brian's son Colin when I was 10 years old and have many good memories of Brian. Him setting up campsites for us boys in the woods, making maple syrup with him, going to the demolition derby to watch a car he painted get smashed, the paintings he made on the ceilings of his sons' rooms. I feel the loss of his passing. Rest in peace, Brian. --Ben Stowe

Ben Stowe - January 20, 2024 at 12:27 PM

KG

Yeah, he painted the demolition derby car as The Thing swinging his fist, saying "It's Clobering Time!" I know there was a photograph of that. I'll look.

Kevin Garvey - January 21, 2024 at 02:58 PM

LR

I met Brian in art class at LaSalle high school and observed his innate perception and felt his quiet settled soul as a human. I was awestruck by him and respected him a great deal. I learned a lot from him though we were never really friends as such. I had the opportunity to see him with his wife and learn of his difficulties at Jim Swopes celebration of life, but dared not intrude. My heart goes out to all his family and our friends who will miss and remember him dearly as a strong and beloved friend and kind human who like me found solace in the wilderness. He will be missed terribly as his presence was always felt.

Leigh Robison - January 22, 2024 at 11:10 AM

BS

“ I was so sad to learn of Brian's passing. He was such a kind and genuine person with a wonderful sense of humor. My husband and I will both miss him dearly.

Beth Sarchet and Doug O'Mullane

Beth Sarchet - January 20, 2024 at 12:15 PM

PS

“ What could possibly be said about Brian; all I can say is that someone should write a book. Everybody loved Brian and everybody was on his cheerleading team. Personally, I can't think of a person who has ever led a more charmed life. He had the most satisfying work life that was the absolute dream of artists everywhere. He was married to Nancy, who was truly his soulmate, love of his life and best friend. He had two sons, of whom he couldn't have been more proud, as well as everyone who knew of their accomplishments. He lived in an idyllic homestead surrounded by all the accoutrements of nature. He enjoyed so many pastimes, each of which were a world unto themselves. He had a family, including his mom and dad, his brothers and sisters including all the nieces and nephews of whom he loved so dearly and savored on yearly vacations for as long as I can remember. A testament to his wonderful life is that you would never find one person who could ever say one unkind word about him. He always did the right thing, he always said the right words and he always brought out the best in everyone in the time that he shared with them. Brian truly led a charmed life, and that can surely serve as a soothing balm to we who suffer his loss. So, if someone should decide to write a book about Brian, I would hope the title would read, "What a Great Guy". Undoubtedly Brian will rest in peace.

Pius Skarich - January 20, 2024 at 11:20 AM

GM

“ Dear Nancy, We send our sympathy. The two of you did so many things, including caring for the cemetery down the road. Brian had so many skills and talents and showed his caring in so many ways. Glenda and Patrick Murray

Glenda E Murray - January 20, 2024 at 11:11 AM

CS

“ Absolutely one of the dearest men I have ever had the pleasure to have know. I will miss his quick wit, broad smile and the glint in his eyes when he laughed. My deepest condolences to his family that he truly loved.

Caren Stoll - January 20, 2024 at 12:53 AM



“ So very sorry for your loss! Brian's mom, Janet and her sisters were my mom's (Mary Calloway) first cousins and I know the fun they all had when they were younger! The Murphy reunions back in the day were such a fun way to see each other and keep connected! I sure miss those days! Rest in peace, Brian!💙

Cheryl Crone - January 19, 2024 at 03:23 PM

BL

“ To Brian's family: I am so very sorry for your loss. Brian was a jewel of a man in so many ways and my favorite experience with Brian? Having some of the best belly laughs of my life. He will be truly missed by all that knew him. Sincerely, Bess Lee

Bess Lee - January 19, 2024 at 11:24 AM

BL

“ To Brian's family: I am so very sorry for your loss. Brian was a jewel of a man in so many ways and my favorite experience with Brian? Having some of the best belly laughs of my life. He will be truly missed by all that knew him. Sincerely, Bess Lee

Bess Lee - January 19, 2024 at 11:17 AM

DP

“ I worked at Metropolitan Printing Services for 40 years. Brian was always one of my favorite customers. He was a great guy and I know he will be sorely missed.

Debbie Purcell - January 18, 2024 at 06:34 PM

KH

“ Brian spent a lot of time at the Sweeney house in South Bend while growing up, he and my brother John watched “Shock Theater” every Friday night without fail. Brian and I renewed our friendship when I was a docent at the IU Art Museum, I was so lucky to see him more frequently., Carter and I extend our deepest condolences to all of you.
Kate and Carter Henrich



kate henrich - January 18, 2024 at 04:55 PM

KS

“ Brian was my husband Jim (his sister, Nancy’s son). I remember spending time with Brian and his wife, also named Nancy, at their beautiful home in Bloomington. He walked us through their stunning property and told stories about their land, animals, and how they made maple syrup. Brian took us and our kids on hay rides. He was a wonderful brother to his sister Nancy- especially when she was battling cancer. Brian adored family. Sending love and prayers.
Kristin Seymour

Kristin Seymour - January 17, 2024 at 09:33 PM

JC

Brian rented McConnell farmhouse from my parents while studying at IU. His fondness for the area showed when he made his home in the same neighborhood. It was always our pleasure when Mike and I would cross paths with Brian. He would talk of his family, animals and happenings in the neighborhood. He will be missed. Comforting prayers. Judy Childers

judy Childers - January 19, 2024 at 11:12 AM

MS

“*Brian Garvey was a man of many abilities. When people speak of heroes they often have a certain archetype in mind. Mine is of a man who taught me how to throw hay in the summer heat. How to win a game of pickup basketball. How to milk a goat and process a chicken. How to look a little boy who's so angry at the world straight in the eye and say "what's got your tail all tied up?" How to fix just about anything. How to sound like a professor in a crowd of strangers. How to ask a girl out. How to sound like you know everything about a particular something even if you don't. How to be a confident man in a cold world. I could go on. Above all he taught me to have the courage to change the things that I can and the wisdom to accept the things I cannot. Rest in peace my hero.*

Mason Swoape - January 17, 2024 at 09:32 PM

KG

“*Brian was delightful company and very talented. Here is a sketch of our daughter Rita he drew at a family reunion years ago. I will miss his cordial bright smile and quick wit. Rest in peace.*



Kathleen a Garvey - January 17, 2024 at 08:20 PM

AK

“ *" Friendship " " Feast of the Hunter's Moon"
"Eminent Victorian New Years Eve " Thank
You so much Dear Brian for Many Memorable
Time Passages. I Hold you and Your entire
Family in the Most Highest region of my Time
and Experiences here on Earth . Many years of Gatherings , Here
There and Everywhere will stay in my Heart Forever ~ Peace and
Love My Friend ~ Was fortunate to see you last toting Odins Ladder
with much of your Family along the Shoreline of Lake Michigan .
T'was a Beautiful Day Indeed ~ Into the Mystic 🌌🌠 Slàn leat*



AI Koch - January 17, 2024 at 06:34 PM