



Christopher Colly Lyons

October 11, 1982 - September 27, 2015

Christopher Colly Lyons, born October 11, 1982 in Traverse City, Michigan, died tragically in an airplane accident on Sunday, September 27 in Lexington, Texas. He graduated from TC Central High School in 2001.

Flying was his passion. He was a commercial jump pilot. He dreamed of being a corporate pilot. Christopher loved outdoor adventure and enjoyed camping, river rafting, sky diving, snowboarding and other extreme sports. As a world traveler and living out West allowed him to enjoy these activities. Christopher showed us all how to live!!

Christopher spent many summers in Canada at Camp Bil-O-Wood where he learned to appreciate those outdoor activities. He truly learned to love adventure from his dad, Howard Walker. He was sensitive and loving like his father, David Lyons. Family was the most important thing to him and openly showed his love for his family and friends. Chris definitely had the magic touch for putting everyone around him at ease. He was a tall, handsome, fun loving young man with a beautiful smile. He was his generations Maltese Falcon. He lived his life to the fullest and made the most of his 33 years.

Christopher is loved by his parents Dianne and Howard Walker, sister Shen and brother Joshua Lyons (Holly Doran) and nephew Riley. He is loved by aunts, uncles, cousins and so many friends in many states.

He was preceded in death by his father David Lyons.

Visitation is scheduled for Saturday, October 3, 2015 from 5-8 p.m. at the Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home, 305 6th Street, Traverse City, MI. Life celebration service will be held Sunday, October 4, 2015 at 2 p.m. at First Congregational Church, 6105 Center Road, Traverse City, MI.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial contribution can be made in Christopher's name to Camp Bil-O-Wood, P.O. Box 1090, Blind River, ONT POR-1BC.

Events

OCT **Visitation for friends and family** 05:00PM - 08:00PM

3

Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home

305 Sixth St, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

OCT **Memorial Service** 02:00PM

4

First Congregational Church

6105 Center Road, Traverse City, MI, US, 49686

Comments



“ As one of SO MANY Dear Friends of Chris's that we are enjoying meeting has well said; "I know that Chris is alive in Christ, but I still miss him here." This quote too, special for my nephew Christopher; "Integrity; Something one keeps even though they are dead." Mr. Shuster Now for everyone and anyone to appreciate with us Chris's older brother
Josh's Words of Remembrance for Christopher
Sunday, October 4, 2015

On behalf of my family, I wanted to thank you all for being here to celebrate Chris with us today. There's the Texas crew, the Oregon crew, the Colorado crew, the Bill-o-wood crew, and friends and family from all over the country. It is very special for us to have you all here today.

We all know how great Chris was - his heart of gold, how fun he was to be with - but I thought that he would want me to talk about something a little bit different. I think Chris would want me to talk to all of you about our shared philosophy on how to deal with risk and getting the most out of life. And to help people process what may feel like a senseless tragedy, and it is difficult to understand, but is actually part of a bigger picture that is not senseless at all.

For people like myself and my brother who do dangerous jobs for a living, we wrestle with this paradox of it's never worth dying for but it is always worth taking the risk. Let's face it, it would be hard to justify taking an action that you knew was going to lead to your death, but I hope to shed some light on Chris's decision-making process to choose the profession he did.

Chris took the most challenging set of circumstances that he could sink his teeth into. That's why he was able to live in the mountains, travel the world, and ultimately become a pilot. Chris chose this path because he valued the personal growth that comes with taking and managing risk in your life. Everyone of us manages risk in some way, whether it's your career choice, your relationships, starting a family, but Chris made his decisions based on the value of personal growth, challenging himself and being a positive influence on the people and world around him.

You get personal growth through challenging yourself to see what you are truly made of, and if you don't take risk, you will not challenge yourself deeply enough. When you take that risk and put yourself out there, what comes back to you is a better understanding of who you are, a humbler view on the world, and true empathy. And as that builds in you, you in turn become a more thoughtful person who can positively influence the people and places around you.

It is this progression that allows you to do things that are greater than who you are as an individual, and without people like Chris who are willing to put themselves out there, you don't build the modern cities of the world, you don't find cures for diseases, and you certainly don't get people to the moon. These things don't get accomplished without risk, and Chris decided to put himself into being part of that progression.

And I don't know if Chris was going to do anything great, but he had certainly already accomplished so many cool things, and I'd like to think that he would at least continue to do that. But he put himself out there, he was on the dance floor, he wasn't standing in the corner, and that's what really matters.

Now for us as we reflect on his life and the way he lived it, we have to keep moving forward, not only because that is what Chris would want us to do, but also because it is what we must do to honor what he stood for. Don't be defined by the risks that you didn't take; be defined by the risks that you do take. Don't let that scare you, let it motivate you, let it inspire you. Honor Chris's memory not by thinking of his untimely death as a loss, but by joining him in being bold in the face of adversity and uncertainty.

So keep your chin up, he did it right.

SO BIG THANKS Josh for these heartfelt comforting words!
AG!

Gail Pardy - November 18, 2015 at 02:30 PM



“ Dianne, I was not fortunate enough to know Chris, but I do know you. As a mother I cannot imagine how you are feeling now. My prayers are for all of the family and friends of Chris. I spoke with Gail today and mentioned how blessed I was to have our lives connected so many years ago. May you feel peace knowing where Chris is and treasure the meaningful memories you have.

Dee Williams - October 13, 2015 at 03:58 PM



“ Saturday night, friends of Chris organized a Memorial for him at the base of Sunlight Mountain where they all use to snowboard on outside of Glenwood Springs whenever Chris was in town. He boarded with my daughter and friends for several years and they cherished his friendship deeply. He will be in all of their hearts for many years to come. May God Bless and keep his family and friends in His circle of loving care.



Mary Weaver - October 11, 2015 at 08:21 PM



“ We had only one encounter with Chris Lyons in August 2009, but he certainly made an impression on us. Chris was our guide that day for our first rafting adventure. Without a doubt, he enhanced our experience with his mere presence. He possessed a special charisma that anyone who knew him probably embraced. After our fun day, he posed for pictures with us, taken on his camera/phone. He assured us he would email them to us, but I would not have been shocked if it didn't happen considering how many people he encountered every day, week or month. He was a man of his word and within days we had the picture of this tall, lean, handsome young man standing between a mother and her daughter. In spite of his full schedule that day, he took time to chat with us, which gave us a peek into the essence of his being. We wished him well and never dreamed his journey would end so soon. I am the mother of three 30 somethings, and find this just heartbreaking. Colette & Laura from Illinois & Missouri

Colette - October 05, 2015 at 02:02 PM



“ I can't imagine the devastating loss of such an awesome son. Our heart goes out to you. Our thoughts and prayers are with you as you try to recover from this.
Mona and Gwyn

Gwyn Field - October 05, 2015 at 09:46 AM



“ Dear Chris and Howard,
An hour doesn't go by that I am not thinking of you and the family.... praying... asking the Lord to send His love and mine into your heart. I was so glad to have visited with him at your home at our last mini family reunion that you hosted. Oh.. he was so handsome... so full of life. He reminded me so much of my son, Jared as well as his cousin, Jacob, (Jay's son.) I feel privileged to call you (and Chris) family. I wish I could be there in Traverse City at this time. I hope we can travel up there soon to pay our respects and share our condolences in person.
Love,
Timari, Jordan and Moriah

Timari Deane - October 03, 2015 at 11:57 AM



“ I am sorry, Dianne, I meant to say your name, but then again, I trust Chris can hear it, too, in the Spirit of our Lord!

Timari Deane - October 03, 2015 at 12:02 PM



“ So sorry to hear this about Chris. I went to Norris With Chris and have many great memories of him. I enjoyed following him on Facebook and seeing all of his adventures. I know he will be missed by many. What an incredible life he had. Thoughts and prayers to your family.

Cindy (McLogan) Jones - October 02, 2015 at 07:10 PM



“ Diane, Howard, and family - You are all in our thoughts and prayers. So sorry to hear of this tragic event. We remember Chris as one of the little ones from our West Junior High group, when we all taught together. We were all pregnant and having babies one after another. He was so sweet and curious when we got together with all of the toddlers. I remember once when the kids were all getting a little older we met at Mountain Jacks for Mother's Day. That was a huge gathering and a noisy one. So much love, enthusiasm, and energy. All so positive. Apparently his joy in life was ongoing, he will certainly be missed. Blessings to your family. Take care always.
Linda and Vern Barker
Stephanie and Jeff

Linda Barker - October 02, 2015 at 01:40 PM



“ Diane, Howard and family,
May our loving God wrap His arms of comfort around all of you. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

Darlene Miller

Darlene Miller - October 02, 2015 at 10:08 AM



“ Dear Diane, Howard, Shen and Josh,
Words can't begin to describe our sorrow on hearing the news of the loss of your dear son and brother, Chris. I knew him as a little tender hearted child who was loved and adored by people of all ages. He grew up to be a kind, loving young man who loved life and nature's beauty. You are in our thoughts and prayers. Hogg Hugs,
Cindy and Ed

Cindy Hogg - October 02, 2015 at 09:23 AM



“ Howard, Diane and Shen we are sending prayers your way. Jan and I are in Duluth visiting Gunnar and his new wife Natalie. I read the paper and shared with Jan about this plane accident. We are sorry we can't be there to simply give you all hugs. God Bless...Bob Brammer

Robert Brammer - October 02, 2015 at 08:29 AM



“ Dear Dianne and Howard - I was so saddened to hear about this tragedy in your family. I first met Chris when he was in high school, and we spent several Thanksgivings together at your house. I love being outdoors, just like he did, only he took more advantage of it than I ever will. He will be missed. Please accept my deepest sympathies. Lois Goldstein

Lois Goldstein - October 02, 2015 at 07:05 AM



“ Chris,
I keep clicking on this link to send you flowers but then coming back to this text box and wanting to tell you.... It snowed today in September, in Alaska. They were those big flakes that you would wake up early for those first tracks at Sunlight. In Glenwood, the trees are golden and the rivers are perfect for a little float on the paradise lounge. The swell at Tourmaline is inviting. There is nature calling all around that reminds us of you and I think that means more to you than those flowers. You were an inspiration to all of us and we know where you'll be, in the outdoors. You will be in our hearts always Chris.
My condolences go out to all the family and friends for this tragic loss. He will forever be with us on those perfect tracks with a grin, ear to ear.

Jani Schumm - October 01, 2015 at 03:29 PM



“ I only met Chris once, at Burning Man, but had heard many tales of his adventures. He was a dear friend of my daughter, and her boyfriend in Glenwood Springs. Even through that one brief visit, I was enchanted by his love for LIFE! Such a pure, genuine soul, living life to the fullest, and with a giant smile on his face the entire time. Chris, you are now flying free, a bright and shining star in the sky. My deepest condolences to the family, and wishing you comfort in your memories.

Sherry Wirtz
Windsor, CO

sherry - October 01, 2015 at 02:45 PM



“ Dianne, I am so sorry for your loss of your beautiful Christopher. My heart aches for you. 'Like a comet blazing across the evening sky—gone too soon.'
Barbara Raehl

Barbara Raehl - October 01, 2015 at 01:58 PM



“ Diane and Howard,
Words can't begin to say how sorry I am for your loss. Christopher certainly lived his life to the fullest and you can take comfort knowing he had no regrets. Again, my deepest sympathies.
Bill Costley

Bill Costley - October 01, 2015 at 01:13 PM



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Pete Sanok - October 01, 2015 at 01:10 PM



“ In my family research on the Fookes side, I ran across many people who have exciting lives. This man was one of the them. I had the pleasure of meeting his brother, Josh, when he was in the DC metro area one day as I'd shown him where the nearest men's wearhouse was for a wedding he needed to attend. I also had the pleasure of meeting his mother, Dianne and his sister Shen as they allowed me to look through family photos and reconnect with my side of the family. It was just plane nice to get to know some good people and to know that I am related to them.

I had just one more to go in this family and the chance for me to make my way to meet him was snatched away. Although, I HADN'T met him, I feel as if I was robbed of that pleasure.

My thoughts and well wishes are with Diane, Josh, and Shen. As well as all those who were closest to him!

A not-so-distant cousin - Maurice Fox

Maurice Fox - October 01, 2015 at 12:37 PM



“ Only met him once, but it was definitely memorable. It's kind of hard to forget a dude that had the personality Chris had. Fun loving and a daredevil. RIP Chris. Prayers and support for his family and friends



Nate Messersmith - October 01, 2015 at 12:19 PM



“ We met Chris while living in Glenwood Springs, CO. Such a wonderful person! Sand volleyball was always a blast when he was around! He lived life how we all should. Our prayers and condolences to the family.

Kelli and Robert Phelps
Sioux Falls, SD

Kelli Phelps - October 01, 2015 at 11:59 AM



“ I went to school with Chris from 2nd grade on. He was always a very nice and caring guy. The world isn't as nice without him in it. I am very sorry for your loss.

dani sudekum - October 01, 2015 at 11:19 AM



“ I worked with Chris over several winter seasons at Sunlight Mtn Resort in Glenwood Springs, Colorado. He always had a smile on his face and lit up every room he walked into. He watched out for me like he would a little sister and, as an only child, I was grateful to have a figure like that in my life. I will always remember the great times we had "shredding the gnar" and will keep his spirit alive and strong in winter seasons to come. My deepest condolences for Chris' family. He loved the life he lived and lived the life he loved.



Carli Dean - October 01, 2015 at 11:10 AM



“ My condolences to your family, Dianne. Chris was a tender soul who touched many lives.

Carol Roehrich - October 01, 2015 at 10:53 AM



“ Dianne and Family ~ So sorry to hear of your tragic loss. Please accept our sincerest sympathy. Love and prayers,

Steve (Kit) and Cinda Simmons - October 01, 2015 at 07:58 AM



“ Till the rivers run dry Chris Lyons, you will be remembered and loved as a man of nature and a man of virtue. Dianne, Chris, Josh and Shen your beloved Chris will always hold a special piece of our hearts. His adventuresome spirit will never be forgotten. Love to you all.

kim - September 30, 2015 at 09:28 PM



“ The Bunbury family is grateful for knowing Chris and is forever blessed by our friendship with you all.

kim - September 30, 2015 at 09:32 PM



“ Chris definitely knew how to enjoy life. The community of Glenwood Springs, CO will miss his genuine smile, and lovable character. There are many people here who will always remember the great times! We send our sincerest condolences to his family, and friends everywhere.

Ryan and Molly Moyer - September 30, 2015 at 06:40 PM



“ Dianne, I am so sorry for the loss of your wonderful boy. I still see him as the "boy" living up the street on Webster with his gentle manner, big smile, and huge brown eyes. He grew into such a handsome young man and lived life to its fullest. My heart aches. May the happy memories of his life with you bring comfort in this time of grief for you, Howard, Josh and Shen.
Love, Mary Sue

Mary Sue Christian - September 30, 2015 at 04:13 PM



“ Our loving sympathy to the pardy's, lyon's & walker families. I have heard so much about Christopher through his loving auntie Gail. And seen so many pictures too. We are praying for you & thinking of you all. May God bless you.

scott & johanna carter & family - September 30, 2015 at 02:37 PM



“ My sincere condolences on your loss, Chris shared a house in Colorado with my Son Nick and his roommates. I send my sympathy to your family and pray that your memories will help you through this difficult time. Cathy Riehl- Zima

CATHY ZIMA - September 30, 2015 at 10:43 AM