



Brian D. Kellett

July 4, 1969 - September 13, 2020

Brian Delloyd Kellett, 51, of Memphis, was peacefully released from his broken body on Sunday, September 13, at home, surrounded by his family. He was born in Camden, N. J., the son of Carol and Dr. Gary Kellett. When Brian was four, the family moved to Memphis, which he would be forever proud to call home.

Brian was a 1988 graduate of Christian Brothers High School, where he excelled in wrestling, winning 10 first places during his sophomore, junior and senior years, and going to state his senior year. He was also named to the Memphis All Metro Wrestling Team for 1987-88.

He earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Missouri in Hotel and Restaurant Management in 1993, where he was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity. In 1994, he earned a master's degree in Hospitality Management from the University of Houston. During these years, he had the opportunity to gain experience in the hospitality industry in both London and Hawaii.

After college, Brian worked in hotel sales in Chicago, Dallas, and Atlanta, but he returned to Memphis in 1998 to accept a position with Flanagan Instruments, selling neurosurgical microscopes. It was an ideal opportunity to work side by side with his dad in the operating room. Medical sales proved to be a perfect fit for him for the rest of his career.

In 2006, Brian fulfilled an entrepreneurial desire when he started Kellett Medical, LLC, where his positive attitude, ingenuity, and drive helped him establish a capital equipment distributorship that flourished for a decade. At the time of his death, he was employed by Smith & Nephew as Account Manager for Advanced Wound Care - BioTissue.

Brian was a member of First Baptist Church of Memphis, where he was a member of the Connect Four Sunday School Class and served as an endowment trustee. He also volunteered in the medical startup accelerator Zeroto510, where he served as a mentor to medical device innovators and entrepreneurs. Through this, he served as a consultant to Somavac, a Memphis-based company that developed a surgical drain pump capable of continuous suction to guard against infection.

Brian had an abiding passion for cars -- all kinds of cars -- but especially Porsches. And while he enjoyed the hunt and purchase of a different car, the thing that most enhanced that interest was racing. He was a recreational racing enthusiast. After demonstrating his

skills on the track, Porsche Club of America certified him as an Expert Driver. Throughout his life, he owned 37 cars.

Never one to sit still or enjoy a lazy afternoon, Brian was an avid hiker, climber, camper and runner. And on many a summer day, he could be found boating on Pickwick Lake, which might include teaching a newbie how to water-ski. Most of these activities usually included one or more of his daughters, along with his many nieces and nephews, whom he also taught wrestling holds and moves. No one could ever claim to be bored when Brian was around. He was always eager to be everyone's game or activity partner.

He was presented with difficult experiences throughout his life, beginning as a child. He not only met those challenges, he conquered them, choosing not to use them as excuses but as inspiration to be a

better man, an understanding and loving human. Ever since his latest challenge, metastatic melanoma, showed up four years ago in a blitz, Brian fought it courageously and mostly in private, never feeling sorry for himself and always searching for the next answer. Always living each day to the fullest and loving his family all so well. For Brian, family was everything. He and his siblings enjoyed an exceptional bond that grew from their common trials and commitment to one another. He was a husband who exceeded all of Jennifer's dreams, inspiring her to dream even bigger with him. And above all else, he loved being a girl dad to Abby, Catherine and Elizabeth, the lights of his life.

Brian was preceded in death by his parents, Carol Kellett and Dr. Gary Kellett; and his grandparents, Eve and Orville "Kel" Kellett, Ruby Clarke (Jess) and Pierce Ketchersid. He is survived by his wife, Jennifer Cameron Kellett; and three daughters, Abigail, Catherine and Elizabeth; all of the home. He is also survived by his stepmother, Lisa Barber (Mike), of Jonesboro, Ark.; one brother, Gary Kellett, Jr. (Kellie), of Memphis; two sisters, Sidney McWilliams (Mike), of Ridgeland, Miss., and Dr. Jennifer Giles (Gary), of Dallas; a huge fan club of in-laws, extended family, close friends and colleagues; and 15 nieces and nephews.

Pallbearers will be Gary Kellett, Jr., Ben Cameron, Mike McWilliams, Gary Giles, Richard Wright, David Breckenridge, Greg Davis, and Jonathan Pekar. Honorary pallbearers include Mike Barber, Mike Cameron, John Ford, Ken Cowin, Greer Richardson, David Richardson, Billy Schaffer, Byron Freeman, Perry McCall, John Christianson, Britt Shea, Chris McAfee, Flagg Flanagan, and Sage Hardy.

Due to Covid-19, all services will be private, and there will be no visitation. The funeral service will be live-streamed and a link will be provided here:

<https://www.facebook.com/fbcmemphis>

For lasting memorials, the family asks that consideration be given to First Baptist Church of Memphis (fbcmemphis.org), Methodist Hospice (methodisthealthcare.org), or Melanoma Research Alliance (curemelanoma.org). The family wishes to thank Dr. Michael

Martin of The West Clinic for his wonderful care of Brian, as well as Dr. John Brophy for his guidance.

Cemetery

Memorial Park Funeral Home and Cemetery

5668 Poplar Avenue

Memphis, TN, 38119

Comments



“ A webcast video has been added.



Memorial Park Funeral Home and Cemetery - September 16 at 05:04 PM



“ We are so sorry for your loss of Brian. We know he was a special man and a wonderful father and husband. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.
Jim and Nancy Mulroy

Jim Mulroy - September 21 at 01:55 PM



“ Brian seemed to be constantly working to make life better. Whether hustling to build a business or get a boat in the water, Brian was forever planing how to make life better for his family and friends. He was a strong, quiet, steady presence to everyone he loved. He taught me how to think outside of my narrow life experiences. When life became difficult (as it does for us all), he simply worked harder, with grace and persistence that I will always respect. He is loved and admired by many, but most by those who knew him best. I can only pray to be so blessed.
David, Julie, Edens and Lockard

David R Richardson - September 17 at 04:37 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Brian D. Kellett.



September 17 at 02:15 PM



“ Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Brian D. Kellett.



September 17 at 11:31 AM



“ Delightful Dieffenbachia was purchased for the family of Brian D. Kellett.



September 17 at 11:14 AM



“ Dad and Caroline purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Brian D. Kellett.



Dad and Caroline - September 17 at 10:35 AM



“ The Porter's purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Brian D. Kellett.



The Porter's - September 17 at 09:56 AM

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“ Brian was an inspiration to the team at the Melanoma Research Alliance. He reached out to us for help and support, which we gladly gave, but in turn Brian was very helpful, giving, and inspiring to MRA.

Brian freely shared his experiences since his melanoma diagnosis and with various treatments. He read melanoma science news and frequently conversed with staff about the latest treatments.

Brian helped advise on the design of an upcoming large clinical trial that will benefit hundreds of patients on the study and, potentially, thousands of patients in the future if the trial of treatment combinations pans out.

On behalf of the entire MRA, we extend our heartfelt well wishes to Jennifer and the girls, and all of Brian's family, friends and colleagues. He was an inspiration and will be greatly missed.

Dr. Marc Hurlbert, MRA Chief Science Officer

Marc Hurlbert - September 17 at 09:49 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Brian D. Kellett.



September 16 at 10:11 PM



“ Tropical Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Brian D. Kellett.



September 16 at 10:02 PM



“ Chris and Sarah Ware, Mason, Lily and Alaina purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Brian D. Kellett.





Chris and Sarah Ware, Mason, Lily and Alaina - September 16 at 08:39 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Brian D. Kellett.



September 16 at 07:20 PM



“ Brian gave me my first opportunity in the medical device industry and taught me so much about the business.

I'll never forget the time we were driving back to Memphis from Kentucky and just missed several tornados outside of Jackson, TN. The area was completely devastated and we must have seen twenty 18-wheelers flipped over by the high winds.

Brian was a great teacher, extremely passionate about life and one of the most driven individuals I've worked with. I will miss him dearly and his memory will be a blessing.

David Yaffe

David Yaffe - September 16 at 06:02 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Brian D. Kellett.



September 16 at 05:30 PM



“ Much love to you, Jennifer, and the girls. You captured the essence of the Brian I knew. While we had only been around him a few times, he made you feel like it had been a lifetime. He will live on in your memories and stories and will forever watch over his girls. Love you all.

Casey Tucker - September 16 at 04:20 PM