



Brian David Szalanski

April 10, 1964 - August 19, 2020

Mr. Brian David Szalanski, age 56, passed away unexpectedly Wednesday, August 19, 2020 in Irons, Michigan. He was born in St. Clair Shores on April 10, 1964 to Leo and Bicia (Cipresso) Szalanski. Brian graduated from Central Michigan University with a double major in Statistics and Accounting (Fire Up Chips!). On September 19, 1992, Brian married the former Kelly J. Atkin.

Brian began his career as a CPA for Follmer Rudzewicz in Southfield, followed by BDO Seidman in Detroit. A position as a Finance Controller for T&N Industries, later Federal Mogul in Grand Haven, spurred Brian and Kelly's move to the west side of Michigan, where they made their home for 14 years. Brian and Kelly moved to South Carolina for a period before Brian accepted a position with E.D. Bullard Company in Kentucky where he worked until his retirement in 2016. After retirement, Brian and Kelly moved back to west Michigan where they co-resided in Norton Shores and Irons.

Brian was an avid fisherman and loved being outdoors in nature. Brian and Kelly's passion for the outdoors took them all over the United States where they logged thousands of miles hiking and camping through State and National Parks. He also was a devoted sports fan and was especially keen on hockey, golf, baseball, college football and college basketball. He had an uncanny ability to recall batting averages, team rankings, and other statistical details about hobbies he had a passion for that left friends and family awed. He could be relentless when challenged. Brian also was passionate about U.S. History, particularly the U.S. Civil War, and read extensively about the battles, military personnel, and presidents of the time, as well as visited several historical battle sites. But, more than anything, Brian loved making people laugh about the minutiae of everyday life. His humorous and fun-loving attitude is something that friends and family will miss dearly.

He is survived by his wife of 28 years, Kelly; sister-in-law, JoAnn (Dan Munson) Atkin; and brother-in-law, Dale Atkin and many cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents and sister, Linda Hysler.

According to his wishes, cremation has taken place. Due to the current pandemic restrictions, no services will be held at this time. Please share your memories of Brian here for others to enjoy. Memorials in memory of Brian may be directed to www.give.nationalparks.org.

Arrangements by The Lee Chapel of Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services, 6291 Harvey St., Norton Shores, MI 49444.

Comments



“ I still feel like we're in a really bad episode of the Twilight Zone.

Kel, we're here for you. Always. He loved you so much. He was loved by so many, but none more than you.

The two of you were like yin and yang.

Don said it best: Brian was simply Brian. And even though he's not here, he's here.

We would all do well to honor him by wholeheartedly embracing our weirdness and laughing every day.

JoAnn Atkin - August 31, 2020 at 01:35 PM



“ 3 files added to the album Kelly's memories



Kelly Szalanski - August 30, 2020 at 12:33 PM



“ Now that I have my emotions in better control, I want to comment on our family going back decades when "Linda," Ronnie and I, in our teens and early twenties, welcomed two new cousins into our family. First there was Lisa and then "Brian." They were so lovingly welcomed especially by Grandma Cipresso. What a joy it was watching them grow up with their unique personalities. Last February we lost "Linda" and now we lost "Brian." Our family will never be the same. I'm sure they are together now in their well rewarded place in heaven. You will be forever missed!

Donna Rodgers - August 29, 2020 at 11:44 AM



“ Kelly We are so sorry for your loss- Nothing can replace a dedicated friend and husband like Brian. He will always be close to your heart . We are praying for you. With much love- Dan and Robin Munson and family .

Dan and Robin Munson - August 28, 2020 at 07:26 PM



“ This was such a shock ...so sorry for your loss Kelly. Brian and I spend four years together as roommates at CMU, memories that last forever. Always quick with a joke, he always knew how to lighten up a situation, never taking anything too serious. We landed in different locations geographically, but his one line "text" messages were always good for a laugh and left no doubt who was sending them :-). You will be missed my friend...until we meet again.

Phil "Bubba" Knop

Philip H. Knop - August 28, 2020 at 04:39 PM



“ Brian was a great guy and such a good friend. As we both got busy with our lives over the past few years, we didn't see each other as much as we wanted. When we could get together it was usually for something to do with fishing or drinking beer, or both. We would hug each other hi, laugh and then just carry on like old times. He was such a damn good-looking guy with that big goofy smile and that laid-back attitude of his. I was so jealous of him, now I just miss him. Mary and I send our condolences and love to Kelly!



Gary Ledermann - August 28, 2020 at 03:54 PM



“ 6 files added to the album More memories



JoAnn Atkin - August 27, 2020 at 03:20 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Kelly's memories



kelly szalanski - August 27, 2020 at 10:25 AM



“ Though we were cousins, because of the travel involved in both our careers we seldom had an opportunity to share time together. My loss. But when we did it was obvious that his warm personality and sense of humor enable him to succeed in all his endeavors. His love of the outdoors was only exceeded, and cherished by his love for Kelly, and their happiness. May God, Brian's friends and family continues to look over Kelly.

Tom Landgraf - August 26, 2020 at 04:20 PM



“ 2 files added to the album Kelly's memories



kelly szalanski - August 26, 2020 at 02:41 PM



“ Our hearts go out to you Kelly. Although I don't know exactly what to say, as this is so sad and shocking. I will always treasure the fun Holidays and Euchre games while growing up with this family. Please know that I am with you in thought and wish you comfort and peace. Much love, Joel and Carol Johnson.

Carol R Johnson - August 26, 2020 at 02:29 PM



“ My heart breaks for you, Kelly as you go through the days without your best friend by your side. I will continue to remember Brian as a "solid, good dude" who was patient, kind, always willing to lend a hand and consistently funny even when he was not trying to be! Your friends and family have written such lovely messages and seemed to sum up his impact on their lives perfectly.

No doubt that Brian will always be a part of our lives and in our hearts. If he left us with one wise, life lesson it was this, "There's no time for mustard!"

JoAnn, I love you. Sending you many hugs and lots of love and love and support.
Love plus the square root of pi - Nancy

Nancy McInroy - August 26, 2020 at 12:39 PM



“ When it comes to Brian, I could probably write a book about our time together and many antics. He was probably the best brother-in-law anyone could have ever had! Brian and I had many great memories together along with our spouses.

One of my favorite memories was sitting in the hot tub in Grand Haven in the middle of winter as the steam rose to the sky and the snow fluttered to the ground. But there are many other great memories I'll treasure, from touring the Jack Daniels distillery to boating and from Salmon fishing on Lake Michigan to one of Brian's and my classic bocce ball games.

Of course, Brian's passion for card playing made him the guy you wanted on your team at the Guy's Weekend Away (GWA) at my parent's cottage. While Brian could sit around, he always seemed happiest doing. Anything but a stereotypical accountant, Brian brought fun and love to everyone and it is a tragedy that he departed our earth for heaven much too soon.

Brian will truly be missed by me and those that knew him.

David Roznowski - August 26, 2020 at 11:37 AM



“ I work with Brian at T&N / Federal Mogul and E.D. Bullard, Brian was a great guy we are going to miss him. My condolences to Kelly and family and friends.
Jose Zarate.



Jose J Zarate - August 26, 2020 at 10:12 AM



“ Thank you Jose (and Carla) for your posts. Brian was as driven at work as he was for all his other passions in life. The fact that he sought out Eric and yourself to work with a second time, speaks volumes to your integrity and friendship. Thanks to all he worked with for your kind words.

kelly szalanski - August 28, 2020 at 05:18 PM



“ I worked with Brian at Bullard.. he was a great Boss and a very special friend. He will be missed dearly. So sorry for your loss Kelly. Carla

Carla Anderson - August 26, 2020 at 08:18 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Holly Lako - August 25, 2020 at 08:53 PM



“ One of my best friends. 45 years of friendship. However, even a very powerful word like friendship cannot really characterize our relationship. It was so much more to me. Like anything long term, we certainly had our ups and downs. However, the core of our relationship never wavered at anytime, am totally convinced of that. One of the most intelligent, honest and funny people I have known or ever will know. Brian was simply Brian and that really does say everything to all of us that knew and loved him so dearly.

The word 'passing' is interesting in this context. I do believe that people like Brian who had (and will continue to have upon me) such a great effect are never really that far away. They are simply someplace else, but still very close nonetheless. In Brian's case, I am convinced he is scouting new fishing territory to conquer. I will meet him there one day and no doubt he will chastise and tease me relentlessly that I 'missed out on the action'. We will then proceed to terrorize the salmon, steelies, pike, bass, and every other finned creature of the deep. After words we will talk baseball long into the nite.....

Don

Don Purdie - August 25, 2020 at 03:43 PM



“ I couldn't agree more, Don. The English language and all it's meanings are important at times like these. I may have Lost Brian last week, but I am certain I will Find him again. And I am hopeful he will be standing on top of Half Dome in Yosemite National Park, with his hiking trail reference guide in hand, scribbled paper marking a page, and say "It's going to level out ahead" and smile.....

Kelly Szalanski - August 26, 2020 at 09:42 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Kelly's memories



Kelly Szalanski - August 25, 2020 at 02:00 PM



“ 1 file added to the album More memories



JoAnn Atkin - August 25, 2020 at 01:26 PM



“ 3 files added to the album Kelly's memories



Kelly - August 25, 2020 at 12:41 PM



“ To the Szalanski and Atkin family, Jo and most especially Kelly. Linda and I grieve with you and offer our sincere condolences and prayers on Brian's passing. While Brian and I did not communicate often since Linda and I left Michigan, I did and still consider Brian a friend and one I am privileged to call him so. I have fond memories of "Guys Weekend Away" and the poker games the went into the wee hours of the morning and the camaraderie that Brian shared with us as pretty much the life of the party. I enjoyed the many lively discussions with him on military history, politics and many other issues. He was a very patient, yet passionate person and larger than life, so rare in this day and age. I am reminded of a quote by Helen Fitzgerald...

"Don't be surprised if you grieve more for a friend than you did for a recently deceased relative. The old saying, 'You pick your friends, relatives are thrust upon you,' holds true here. Friends are special people in our eyes because we hold them to be. Friends fill time in our lives that will be vacant when they die."

I will miss you Brian, but I smile knowing that one day we'll all meet again on the other side.

Skip Bayro

Skip Bayro - August 25, 2020 at 12:15 PM



“ 9 files added to the album More memories



JoAnn Atkin - August 25, 2020 at 10:27 AM



“ Some of my favorites.

JoAnn - August 25, 2020 at 11:10 AM



“ A kind, caring, funny, smart and relentless individual. I am honored to have been his friend and to have known him since childhood. I will miss him and his random text messages- usually about baseball, football or fishing- but always with a hint of caring about how you are doing. My condolences to Kelly, Brian's family and all his friends.

William Lindow - August 25, 2020 at 09:58 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Kelly's memories



Carla Swartz - August 25, 2020 at 12:21 AM



“ Cousin Donna, sister Linda, cousin Ronnie, and cousin Lisa. Thank you cousins for your kind words.

kelly szalanski - August 26, 2020 at 11:05 AM



“ My dear Kelly! There are just no words to express how sad I am with the passing of Brian, my beloved Godson and Cousin! May God give you the strength to get through all this as your loss is much greater being his loving wife. I have so many fond memories of all the fun we had together and what a joy he was to our family! I can't express how much he will be missed!

Donna Rodgers - August 24, 2020 at 08:45 PM



“ Brian David Szalanski with Brian David Curry Nov 95



Sherry Kepsel - August 24, 2020 at 08:31 PM



“ All my memories of Brian are good memories. He will be deeply missed.



Sherry Kepsel - August 24, 2020 at 08:16 PM



“ One day I was outside and Brian said hey Ed come here quick there is a bear that took my bird feeder. So I said get in front of it so I can get your picture, we both laughed about getting close. He was a good neighbor to me, and will be missed.



Ed Hurlbert - August 24, 2020 at 06:53 PM



“ I love that picture. What a cool moment.

Carla Swartz - August 25, 2020 at 12:25 AM



“ 24 files added to the album Kelly's memories



Kelly Szalanski - August 24, 2020 at 06:08 PM