



Michael Sullivan Brown

January 10, 2023

Michael Sullivan Brown chose to let go of the heavy weight of his heart and mind on Tuesday, January 3rd. He left his family here, going somewhere we cannot follow. These words should not be written for a boy of 15. He was born August 7, 2007, in Idaho, arriving shortly after a poker game between his parents which they never finished. He was perfect and so quiet. In the late nights when he and his mother Elizabeth were alone, they would sit and watch Iron Chef America in the dark hospital room (we secretly attribute his love of cooking to this early exposure). She was the first one to cradle his sweet face and the last one to hold him. Michael grew up in a home where things weren't always perfect, but he always had his siblings to lean on. He was a little brother to Brody and Gracelynn and a big brother to Caroline. Their relationships were full of all the secrets only shared by siblings and it was the four of them against the world. Everyone said that Michael was a mini-me of his father Gailen, and it's the truth. They both had the same stubbornness (when Michael decided to do something, there was no changing his mind), the same sense of immortality and adventure. Even when he tried to make it hard, Michael was loved deeply and unconditionally by his family. From a young age, it was clear that Michael was exceptional. Every parent says that about their child, but Michael was special, and that brilliance was his superpower and his kryptonite. Genius is a double-sided sword, so while Michael was one of the funniest people you'd meet, whip smart and quick with the perfect joke for everyone, he held his sadness deep inside in a place we could not reach,

no matter how hard we tried. His smile was infectious, his anger knife sharp, his empathy unlimited. Michael loved music and was rarely seen without his earbuds in, listening to everything from Irish sea shanties to Rare Americans (his first concert), Childish Gambino, 1940s swing classics or Avatar. In the evenings we could often hear him singing with abandon in his room.

As a little boy, he had a unique sense of style, and as a teen he was known for constantly wearing a hoodie sweatshirt, regardless of the temperature. He drank way too much Dr. Pepper and would argue with you about which restaurant's french fries were the best deal based on taste and size (Wendy's in case you were wondering). He and his father were currently on the hunt for the perfect street tacos. He was too young to be survived by a wife or child, too young to have a career. He was too young.

In life, Michael was a member of the Great Mills High School JROTC, he was part of the chess team and engineering team. He enjoyed trying new things and participated in Model UN, Mock Trial, and probably other things that he kept to himself. He felt school was useless, yet he always made an impact on his teachers, becoming a favorite student, much to his own disbelief. People told us he was always surrounded by friends. So many people have shared memories of a Michael we only knew in part. A wise soul, a compassionate friend, an encourager, a peacemaker. Michael continued to create a family of his own with his closest friends; Kenzie, Charles, Kaz, Tony and the rest of the Kingdom. Michael was an adored nephew to Anne and Brandi and their husbands Brandt and Ryan, he was a beloved cousin of Nicholas, Niah, Sawyer, Sophie, Luke and Ivy. He was a joy and a mystery to his grandparents: John and Carol, Wendell and Traci and MariAnn. We believe firmly that he is without despair, without sorrow and experiencing true joy with his Nana and Gigi and held tightly by Jesus.

Our family has been broken by a decision made in an instant, a decision that

was the endpoint of a painful journey for our son. We won't ever have the answers we seek, the unending question of why, but we do know that Michael was plagued by mental illness that dragged him down and blinded him to his worth and the possibility of a life beyond memories of the past. He reached out and received help, but the chains were too heavy to break quickly, and so he let go instead of fighting against them longer. Our family's hope is that our tragedy will save someone else's life. If you are pressed down and broken by your thoughts and feelings, please call 988, talk to someone, ask for help. Share the burden of your pain with others rather than taking it all on yourself. You are worth so much more than you know.

Tribute Wall

AN

“ *Deepest condolences*

Anonymous - January 25, 2023 at 11:36 AM

CD

“ *Grandma loves you! When people ask me how many grandchildren we have I will still say 8....One in heaven and the other 7 a little bit closer! I know this didn't come as a surprise to God...and He snatched you by the hand and walked with you into eternity. I see you smile when I run my fingers through the water at the pool...a time when you're with me. That song 'Beautiful Boy' really says it all....I miss you Mr. Magoo!*

Carol Daniel - January 22, 2023 at 06:09 PM

MR

“ *I don't know the family but wish them comfort as they grieve. What a beautiful obituary to honor him with. It's hard to understand why some that are loved so much and make a difference to others can't see it themselves.May progress be made in understanding and help.My heart brakes for you!*

Marilyn Rose - January 15, 2023 at 06:57 PM

SH

“ *I am so sorry for the loss of your son and brother. I pray that Micheal's family and friends find solace during this sad time.*

Sheila Hayes - January 14, 2023 at 06:47 PM

MD

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you all.*

Mary Ann DiMaio - January 12, 2023 at 07:12 PM

TF

“ Beautiful words for a beautiful soul. May his journey bring him the peace he desired and inspire others to find it without letting go...

The Downs Family - January 10, 2023 at 08:41 PM

SF

“ Sounds like he was an incredible young man. Beautifully written obituary. Mental illness touches so many and far too young. Take good care of yourselves.

Sherrie Forslof - January 10, 2023 at 08:12 PM

JT

“ I don't have the words for this pain. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers daily. I pray Michael is at peace, and is comforted by angels. Lots of love from me

Jennifer Tobler - January 10, 2023 at 05:39 PM

KH

“ Elizabeth and Gailen, Please accept my deepest condolences for the loss of Michael. Thank you for entrusting me to care for Michael's final arrangements. May your memories of him bring you and your family comfort during this difficult time.

Karle Henderson - January 10, 2023 at 05:26 PM

MM

“ We send our sincere condolences to Michael's family and loved ones. There are no words to help ease the pain, but know you have been in our thoughts and prayers this past week and will continue to be in the days to come as you grieve. May his sweet soul Rest In Peace.

Margaret Murphy - January 10, 2023 at 03:51 PM

LI

“ *These words are so beautiful, so real. What a tribute to Michael. I love you so much.*

Lindsey - January 10, 2023 at 03:49 PM

LD

“ *Beautiful tribute. So very sorry it had to be written. Thinking and praying for everyone daily.*

Lisa DiNicola - January 10, 2023 at 01:55 PM

JS

“ *I am so deeply sorry for his family, and the rest of the world, for the loss of this young man. May peace finally reach the hearts of everybody who loves him. And may he find healing and joy where he waits.*

Jody Serey - January 10, 2023 at 12:36 PM

AK

“ *My deepest condolences to the family and friends of Michael. My thoughts and prayers are with you all during this time.*

Ashley Keesee - January 10, 2023 at 12:35 PM

AJ

“ *My heart goes out to his immediate family. There are just no words. Rest in Peace, dear boy. You are very loved.*

Aunt Judy - January 10, 2023 at 11:50 AM

GW

“ *I'm so sorry for your lost.*

Gary Wilson - January 10, 2023 at 11:46 AM