



Matthew Louis Bohnett

September 10, 1958 - February 11, 2013

Our cherished brother, Matthew Louis Bohnett born September 10, 1958 passed away from this earth peacefully on February 11, 2013 after his valiant year-long battle with cancer. He fought with his warrior spirit that showed the depth of his strength and grace and humor. But knowing him, he is busy making the rounds in Heaven where he will be known as "Mr. Heaven"!

Born and raised as a "Santa Barbarian", he later attended San Diego State University. He would make his way back to Santa Barbara to beautify homes under his successful business "Precision Painting", which was his craft and passion! His clients became his life-long friends and often coined the phrase for him "Mr. Santa Barbara".

He so loved his family but mostly loved his duties as "Uncle Matt" to the ever growing list of nieces and nephews; no one had a better loving, more fun uncle than our Matt. He thirsted for knowledge and never stopped learning throughout his life. He learned to play the guitar and accompanied many a family member (who "could" sing) at gatherings. His craft of painting homes transpired to adding color to the lives of everyone he came in touch with. He shared the camaraderie in playing Rugby--the tougher the opponents the better for him, especially the Aussies! Larger than life with a sweet, sweet soul he made our lives voluminous with his humor and love of all that life has to offer.

He loved family dinners with holiday music, fire pits in the backyard; an endless stream of conversation and stories were among his favorites. Whether it was an Irish corned beef and cabbage feast for St. Paddy's day, a simple stew with leftovers, chocolate ice cream, his tri-tip bbq, or his homemade pizza, he always brought the love and laughter. He also enjoyed sunsets at the beach, making his rounds of random family "drop-bys", and bike riding all over town with his sisters... he knew all the best watering holes around! He lit up any room he came into and always entertained us with his humor.

He is survived by his extensive Bohnett family (too many to list....72 stockings above the chimney for Christmas), including numerous nieces, nephews, and so many friends!

Matt loved Hawaii and all things Hawaiian. Let's celebrate him by wearing your favorite Hawaiian shirt, or touch of Hawaii to the ceremonies. His Rosary (and open mike) will be held Friday, February 15 at 6:30 pm at the Welch-Ryce-Haider Funeral Chapel, 15 E. Sola St. in Santa Barbara. His Funeral Mass will be held at 12 noon on Saturday, February 16 at San Roque Church, 3200 Calle Cedro, Santa Barbara, followed by an Aloha Celebration at Harry's Plaza Cafe at 2 pm. And, the next time you see a BlueJay skipping across your path - think of our dear Matteo! He will always be with us in our hearts.

Donations may be made in his honor and deep gratitude to Serenity House at Visiting Nurse and Hospice Care, 509 E. Montecito St, Santa Barbara, CA 93103, or at www.vnhcsb.org -- this is the home of many caring angels among us.

Previous Events

Rosary

FEB **15**. 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM (PT)

Welch-Ryce-Haider - Downtown
15 E. Sola St.
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 965-5145
info@wrhsb.com
<https://www.wrhsb.com>

Funeral Mass

FEB **16**. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (PT)

San Roque Catholic Church
325 Argonne Circle
Santa Barbara, CA 93105
(805) 687-5215

Tribute Wall

CM

“ *Dear Bohnett Family,
I have so many fond memories growing up in SB with your family!! I learned of Matt's passing from my sister last night. My heart goes out to each and every one of you. I know he is dancing in Heaven with his Mom, Dad, Clem & Collette and too many to list! My Mom & Dad used to share many stories of when your Dad would come over for dinner and lots of fun! The mention of another friend talking about St. Anthony Seminary hit me like a ton of bricks and made me realize how far back we all go!!! My love to all of you during this difficult time!!*

*Love,
Clare Meshot*

Clare Meshot - February 22, 2013 at 06:11 AM

RO

“ Dear Bohnett Family, I have known Matt since he was a student at St Anthony's many years ago. We became friends as young teens and as life goes we lost touch for a while. Our paths crossed again when Matt came to work as a painter for my husband and he was as always happy guy who brought positivity where ever he was. After he left our employ to go out on his own we would run into each other and I was always greeeted with a big hug and a "how are you" (and you knew he meant it). The last time we met unfortunately was in a medical office in which I work, and even with the fact that he was dealing with a terrible disease (and a grim prognosis) he again remained positive and asked "how are you doing"! I couldnt believe how he was coping and thinking of others...That was Matt! I have no doubt he is with your parents now and waiting for the rest of us to arrive home.

He will be always remembered by me as a happy guy with a big hug and warm smile

Roberta Lee Franz

Roberta - February 21, 2013 at 07:10 PM

SH

“ Dear Members of the Bohnett Family,

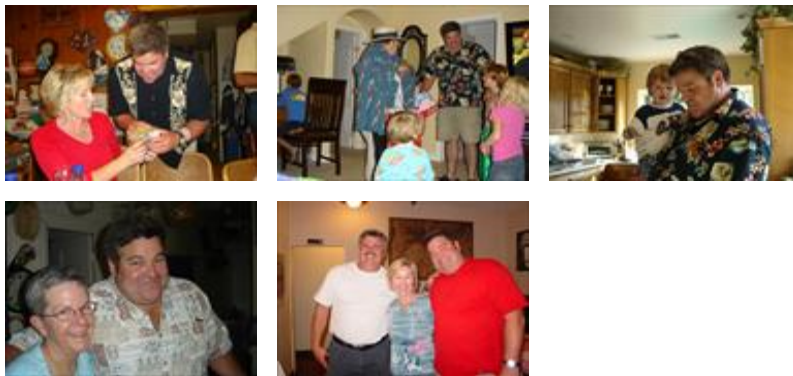
Please accept our sincere condolences. My mother told me last night over the phone that Matt had passed away. When you coach and teach a youngster when they are growing up, as I was fortunately able to do with Matt, you have insight into who that youngster really is. Kids are honest and spontaneous. They are who they appear to be. And Matt? He was a marvelous young man. He was a person of integrity, worked hard, was always up beat, and had a streak of youthful mischief in him that made us adults laugh and smile at his fundamental love of life and others. Although he was not a gifted athlete, he was tough, reliable, and always retained his wonderful sense of humor. In the classroom Matt worked hard as well, and again, was fun-loving and mischievous in ways that made teaching him a pleasure. Clearly by the words in his obituary, he retained all of these admirable qualities throughout his life.

*Steve and Marian Sener Hull
Coach San Roque Grade School
Teacher/Coach Bishop Garcia Diego High School*

Steve Hull - February 17, 2013 at 08:00 AM

PW

“ 7 files added to the album New Album Name



Peggy Wehe - February 16, 2013 at 02:33 PM

SW

“ Hi Dom, I was at Cliff Room last Tues. night and the paper was out, so sorry...man
everybody in bar was talking and bowing their heads, etc.

super nice write up, my thoughts to you!
Steve Walker

Steve Walker - February 16, 2013 at 02:21 PM

MF

“ Dear Bohnett family,

Like Matt, I'm also a painter. I met Matt many years back when my brother Brian hired Matt on a job. Matt fitted right in and even looked like our "other" brother.

He was a sweet, positive man, even with cancer. We spoke twice while he was ill and he never complained. That made me think that he was fine, but I was wrong. He had that strength of character.

Sincerely,

Michael Frick

Michael Frick - February 14, 2013 at 12:07 AM

GE

“ Dear Bohnett Family,

Because I didn't go to Bishop High School I lost contact with my SRS/'72 classmates. In spite of that whenever I ran into Matt it was as though we were old friends that had never lost touch with each other. He never failed to ask after my family, never failed to greet me with a warm smile and handshake. I am so saddened to hear this news. Please accept my heartfelt condolences. I will keep all of you in my thoughts. Regards to all"

Fondly, with sympathy and love,

Gerry Cowan

Gerry - February 13, 2013 at 08:02 PM

LW

“ Matthew I met you through Joe, and I know you touched so many!
Aloha, La'i lua ke kai.

"It is not length of life, but depth of life." Ralph Waldo Emerson

Leslie Weber

Leslie Weber - February 13, 2013 at 04:48 PM



JK

“ Dear Bohnett family - My family has always and will always have a special place for Matt in our hearts. When Matt started dating my sister Nadine in high school, he instantly became a part of our family and together we shared many happy and funny times together. Matt was like a big brother to me - especially during my high school years and he even drove me down to San Diego for my College Orientation - the added bonus of course was he got to spend some time with Nadine who was living in San Diego going to college. We had a fun road trip to say the least. Matt always had a smile on his face and was always as happy to see me as I was to see him - I was his "Kassity" connection in Santa Barbara and we would keep each other up to date on our families. You will be forever in our hearts and memories Matt...You were taken from us much too early....we love you -
Jeannine & the Kassity Family XO



Jeannine Kassity - February 13, 2013 at 02:14 PM

KB

“ Dear Bohnett Family, I send my deepest condolences. I am so sad for your loss of Matt. I remember his laughter, his gentle spirit and love for life and most of all, his family. He was so very blessed to have such a close loving family. Everyone loved Matt. He was kind, good natured and easy going. He always had a smile on his face. You are all in my thoughts and prayers. I take comfort knowing he is with Jesus, your Mom, Dad, Clem, and youngest sister! He will be missed. May God bless and comfort you. (I regret I will be unable to attend services due to previous travel plans) Kathleen Buckley

kathleen buckley - February 13, 2013 at 01:58 PM

LT

“ *My deepest sympathies to the whole family. Whenever there was a gathering in the old days half the crowd seemed to be Cowans and Bohnetts. Whenever i have thought of Matt it has been with a smile. I will always remember Matt with fondness. Truly I am sorry for the loss to your family and all of us! Lucy Tantoco (Cowan)*



lucy tantoco - February 13, 2013 at 01:28 PM