



## Kurt Joseph Ray

October 31, 1958 - January 22, 2024

Kurt Joseph Ray, a gentle giant with a heart of gold, passed into the next phase of his soul's journey on January 22, 2024.

Born on October 31, 1958, Kurt lived a life filled with laughter, love, and a penchant for mischief. Though his towering stature might have initially seemed imposing, those who knew him understood his true essence lay in his warmth and jovial spirit. With a laugh that resonated through every corner of a room, Kurt had a knack for brightening even the dullest of days.

From an early age, Kurt's affinity for the open road was unmistakable. Over the span of more than two decades, he dedicated himself to a career behind the wheel, first traversing the highways with Albertsons for over a decade before embarking on a seventeen-year journey with Cast Transportation. Known by his peers as "Bullwinkle" over the CB waves, Kurt earned respect and admiration within the trucking community. He prided himself on his many safe driving awards, beaming with joy at every award ceremony. His legacy as a steward of the road will endure and be remembered fondly by all those he met along his journey.

Kurt's infectious silliness and zest for life were the beating heart of every gathering he attended. Whether on the softball field with loved ones, casting a line at the lake, or exploring the great outdoors on hunting expeditions, Kurt's

exuberance for a good time knew no bounds. His playful spirit knew no limits, from gleefully popping wheelies on his daughter's first big girl bike, to the inevitable spill that followed, leaving him with worn back pockets from riding down the road. He had a way of making every occasion an unforgettable adventure.

In his role as a father, Kurt epitomized unwavering pride and support. He possessed a rare blend of tenderness and encouragement, soothing babies into peaceful slumber with his gentle embrace and evolving into the most enthusiastic cheerleader as his daughter grew. Whether coaching softball, pacing the sidelines at swim meets, or attending every orchestra concert, Kurt's presence in the stands was a testament to his boundless pride and devotion to his daughter.

Kurt's devotion to family extended beyond his role as a father; he was also an exceptional uncle. His niece and nephew, Liz and Wes, eagerly anticipated their visits with Uncle Kurt and Aunt Rhonda, brimming with excitement for the adventures they would share. Whether patiently teaching Liz to drive a stick shift or indulging in simple pleasures like enjoying a bowl of pasta straight from the fridge, Kurt had a knack for transforming ordinary moments into cherished memories. His boundless love and joyful spirit left an indelible mark on all who were fortunate enough to call him family.

As Kurt embarked on his passage into the beyond, he was enveloped by peace and serenity as his father, Joseph Alfonso Ray, stood at the threshold of eternity to welcome him with open arms. He was also preceded in death by his grandparents, Francis and Alfonso Ray, his mother, Ann Katherine Ray, his eternal fishing buddy, David Vernon, and his Uncle, Johnny Ray Sr. Most importantly, his soul has reunited with his beautiful baby boy, Nicholas Anthony Ray. Together, they now journey into the infinite expanse, their spirits intertwined in a timeless dance of reunion and eternal connection.

He now ascends to the ranks of guardian angels, ever vigilant in his watch over those dear to him, including his daughter, Samantha Jo Ray (Nathaniel Wade Titterington), his grandsons, Landon Lucas Ray and Zane Alexander Ongarato, his soulmate in this life, Rhonda Lynn Ray, his mother-in-law, Billie Gwendolyn Varnon, his brother-in-law and sister-in-law David Glenn and Kathy Elizabeth Varnon, and his niece and nephew, Elizabeth Ann Hennessey (Christopher James Hennessey), and David Wesley Varnon. Kurt's memory will live on in the hearts of all who knew and loved him.

Farewell, dear Kurt, as you embark upon the open roads of the universe, may the infinite expanse welcome you with loving arms. Your spirit, now unbound, journeys among the stars, forever a guiding light in our lives. Toodaloo Buckaroo!