

## KYLE THOMAS BAKKEN



Beloved son, brother, and grandson, Kyle Thomas Bakken, 43, died unexpectedly at Bozeman Deaconess Hospital on May 13, 2009. Baptized by Pastor Rick Warren, he accepted Christ into his life at the age of 20, and he is now home with his Lord.

Kyle was born in Miles City, Montana, on February 18, 1966, and was delivered to his joyful adopted family five days later. He spent the majority of his life in Bozeman, Montana, graduating from Bozeman High School where he earned a varsity letter in swimming. He worked several years in the restaurant industry and had his own lawn maintenance business. Most recently he was employed at Ressler Chevrolet.

Kyle loved sports and was a passionate and devoted fan of the Boston Red Sox and St. Louis Cardinals baseball teams, as well as the New York Giants football team. He was very proud of his collection of sports memorabilia and coins. He was also an artist who enjoyed drawing wildlife.

A doting uncle to his nieces and nephews, especially his "favorite little girl, Peyton," Kyle cared deeply for all his family—their Sunday dinners together and family reunions. He was quick with a smile, liked to tease, and was very observant and complimentary. Kyle had a big heart and gave so much that he wore it out. He was very patriotic and truly loved his country. His cat, Caesar, was his faithful companion, pride, and joy.

Even though Kyle came into this life facing many challenges, he seldom complained. He was very pleased to be financially self-sufficient. Kyle was always there with a helping hand for those who needed one, treated everyone with respect, did the best he could, and made the most out of what the Lord gave him.

Survivors include his father, Marty and Barb Bakken of Bozeman; mother, Karen and Dick Engleman of Elk Grove Village, Illinois; maternal grandmother, Clara Johnson of Sidney, Montana; brothers, Christopher, wife Chelsea and son, Max of Bujumbura, Burundi, Africa, Mitchell of Belgrade, Casey and children, Aden and Katy of Platte City, Missouri; Matthew and wife, Tobi of Bozeman; step-brother, Todd Allinger, wife, Cathy and children, Leah, Ali and Cole of Vancouver, BC; step-sister, Dawn Lewis, husband, Mark and daughter, Peyton of Bozeman; and numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, and nephews. Kyle was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents, Melvin and Adell Bakken, and his maternal grandfather, Kenneth Johnson.

Kyle told us for years that when he left this earth that he wanted all his possessions, including the personally signed football from John Elway and hat from Dan Marino, to go to help the children at St. Jude's. In lieu of flowers, please consider sending a donation in Kyle's memory to: St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Attn: Memorial Dept., 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105. (In Memory of Kyle Bakken, Tribute # 23818157.)

Kyle's memorial service will be held Monday, May 18, 2009, at 3:00 pm at Dokken Nelson Funeral Service. Condolences and memories may be shared with the family at [www.dokkennelson.com](http://www.dokkennelson.com).