



## Mr. W. Michael Hornburg

July 13, 1950 - March 24, 2018

Mr. Michael Hornburg of Calgary, Alberta passed away peacefully, surrounded by his family and friends at the Rockyview Hospital on March 24, 2018 at the age of 67 years. Michael will be dearly missed by his daughter Rachel (Tyler) Herbert, grandchildren William and Avery, and his loving partner Susan O'Shea.

Michael is survived by his American family, father Murchel (Beverly) Hornburg of St. Louis, MO; siblings Jane Rund, Jim Hornburg, David (Dona) Hornburg, Rose (Andy) Bingham, Joseph (Kayla) Hornburg and many nieces and nephews.

He is also survived by an extended family of inlaws and outlaws including: Dave (Cindi) Loree, Mavis (Gordon) Moon, Lance (Toby) Loree and all the nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Michael was predeceased by his mother Margaret Hornburg of St. Louis, MO, his ex-wife Linda Loree, and his beloved son Cpl. Nathan Hornburg, KIA Afghanistan, 2007.

Born in Sikeston, MO the eldest of six children, Michael attended St. Louis University High School (SLHU) and studied journalism and library sciences at the University of Missouri. In 1973, while travelling in Europe he met his future wife, Linda Loree. They settled in Calgary, AB where he began his long career as a courier with Monarch Messenger. Calgary became his hometown where he raised two children, developed an extensive network of friends, and pursued a variety of interests.

He was a founding member of the Calgary Waldorf School, a competitive squash player, cross-country runner, little league baseball umpire, and minor hockey coach. He was briefly a massage therapist and a commercial fisherman in Alaska. Exceptionally intelligent and a prolific writer, he was well-spoken and well-read, his home library competed for space with his massive collection of houseplants.

The walls of his home of 37 years reflected his zest for life and family. The art collection

expanded to include floor-to-ceiling family photos, and his own paintings— vibrant, colorful, and expressive.

Never one to do things by halves, everything Michael undertook, he did to the nth degree: He didn't just go for a bike ride, he cycled to Missouri in 17 days. A walk could take him from Fort Calgary to the Midway Ranch at Nanton, AB. The St. Louis Cardinals weren't simply his favorite baseball team, they were his religion!

This passion for the things he loved extended to his children and grandchildren. He was happiest at the ranch “grand-parenting” the “cutest kids in the world.”

In 2007, Michael suffered an unimaginable loss when his son, Nathan, was killed in Afghanistan. This deepest of tragedies was transformative. Formerly a private person, Michael became a spokesperson for the civilian experience. He wrote and spoke eloquently and candidly at every opportunity. He became a peer support counselor for families of the fallen through the HOPE organization. He also instigated and organized an annual memorial run, “Loops for the Troops.” Over 8 years this initiative raised approximately \$600,000. The funds went to various charitable organizations in support of serving military, veterans, first responders, and their families. Michael lost a son to war, but gained a genuine and esteemed military family.

Fittingly, his full life ended with a long walk with an epic conclusion. In September 2016 he hiked the Camino De Santiago in Spain. This pilgrimage commemorated the ninth anniversary of his son's death. It was the trip of a lifetime, full of new friends, spiritual reawakening, and a feeling of connection with Nathan. Upon completing the 800km walk, while still in Spain, he suffered a series of seizures that revealed a brain tumor. Ironically, for one so full of words and expression, the tumor took away his ability to speak and write, however it didn't diminish his capacity to communicate.

Michael's last year was spent in his home surrounded by a steady stream of loving friends and family. He was overwhelmed and uplifted by the outpouring of support and generosity. Through his actions, in his heart, and on his tattooed arms, he truly espoused the regimental mottos of Arte et Marte, Perseverance, and Onward.

If desired memorial donations may be made to the Calgary Military Family Resource Centre at [www.calgarymfrfc.ca](http://www.calgarymfrfc.ca) . A Celebration of Michael's Life was held at St. Stephen's Anglican Church in Calgary (1121 14 Ave SW) on Friday, April 6, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. To send condolences and view Michael's Tribute Page please visit [www.lylereeves.com](http://www.lylereeves.com) . Caring for the family is Lyle Reeves Funerals of High River (Craig Snodgrass) 403.652.4242.



# Events

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**APR**   **Memorial Service**                      02:00PM

**6**

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St. Stephen's Anglican Church  
1121 - 14 Ave. SW, Calgary, AB, CA, T2R 0P3

# Comments

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“ A webcast video has been added.



Lyle Reeves Funerals - April 26, 2018 at 12:19 PM

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“ Racheal my thoughts are with you and your family today. Your family and mine go back many years and I regret that I was not able to be there today. I will always treasure all the memories of Michael and all those happy times with both of your parents.

I'm sending you lots of love and light today and always.

Love Pamela Viola

pamela viola - April 06, 2018 at 02:38 PM

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“ Michael was a very welcoming and committed community member when I did a gardening talk for the Glamorgan Community group. I am amazed by the beautiful connections he so easily shared and encouraged even upon our one meeting. I can thank him for the connection to his wonderful family and their ranch, they feed our family and we appreciate all their family does for ours and the environment of southern Alberta. I am honored to have met Michael, I wish all the best for his surviving family and friends.

joanna - April 04, 2018 at 11:33 PM

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“ Rachel,

I will miss talking to Mike about books, family, and life. Even though we were separated by 16 years in age and 2,000 miles in distance for much of my life, I felt as close to Mike as any of my other brothers. it is sad that he is gone, but comforting that he is no longer in pain. All of your Missouri family are amazed by the strength and grace you have shown through your father's illness.

David Hornburg

David Hornburg - April 04, 2018 at 10:03 PM

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“ My condolences to the family. Michael and I shared many speaking engagements during the Remembrance period in November. He was always smiling and gracious to all.

Joey Bleviss

Joey Bleviss - April 04, 2018 at 10:07 AM

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“ Dear Susan, Rachel and family,

Gerri and I were very saddened to hear of Michael's passing. We have fond memories of our many walks in Glamorgan and conversations over a cup of tea and cookies. We appreciated his deep interest in books and enjoyed sharing opinions and critiques over a wide range of literature. My students at Brebeuf Junior High School benefited from his talks at our student conferences and appreciated his expertise shared during a week long writing workshop we organized together. He was a great Glamorgan neighbour and we will miss his passion for life and quick sense of humour.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this time.

Kerry & Gerri Higgins

Kerry & Gerri Higgins - April 03, 2018 at 02:43 PM

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“ Dear Rachel:

We have lost a wonderful person. We had very many laughs sitting around the kitchen table with Courtney and friends. I am so sorry for your loss. We wish you all the best in the future.

Coralee and Cameron

Coralee Sarofen - April 03, 2018 at 12:22 PM

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“ Gloria M. Bathen lit a candle in memory of Mr. W. Michael Hornburg



Gloria M. Bathen - April 02, 2018 at 12:19 PM

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“ Dear Rachel and family. We are saddened to hear of the death of Michael. Remembering the many walks we had with Michael and Linda. Special memories of the bike ride to St. Louis as we provided support with our motorhome. The loss of Nathan hit hard and your Dad became a tireless advocate for military families. His legacy is a tribute to his humanity and caring.

Don and Pam Munroe  
Courtenay BC

Pam - April 01, 2018 at 11:05 PM

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“ Dearest Rachael and Family,

Once again so saddened by another great loss for you. I hope that the happy memories and good times will carry your sorrow for you in the times to come.

Much Love,  
Rita Rheume

Rita Rheume - April 01, 2018 at 02:54 PM

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“ Dear Rachel and All the families who loved Michael. We first met at the Waldorf School where my daughter Hollie was in Nathan's class. I did many things with both your mom and dad involving school outings and a few great parties they threw at your house over the years. Both your parents were great people who made a point to make you feel included and special. This picture you chose of your father is exactly how I remember him with those loving eyes and a warm smile. Hollie and I and her little daughter Calla were at the first Loops for the Troops and your dad was full of passion and gratitude for all the the people who showed up to honor Nathan's memory. Michael was indeed a great light to so many. We are so sorry for your loss.

We can keep them close by remembering all the love we shared while here together and think of them now together with each other in Heaven. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Annette & Hollie Smith

Annette Gee - April 01, 2018 at 01:11 PM

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“ I am so sorry to read of Michael's passing. It is a huge loss to Calgary, and you, the family. He made a difference for many, inspired and led, renewed public respect for those who serve. Thank you for supporting him in this last year. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

Charles Lewon-Brain

Charles Lewton-Brain - April 01, 2018 at 10:44 AM

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“ Dear Rachel and family, your father will forever be remembered for his commitment to military families. It was a pleasure to work with him to help spread the news about the Loops for the Troops walks. He was a loving and amazing man, my family and I are terribly sorry to hear of his passing.

Lara Tarraran - March 31, 2018 at 08:42 PM

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“ Michael was one of the most inspiring people I ever met and I considered him one of my dearest friends. We met through C.A.V.U.N.P. where I was on the organizing committee for the annual Peacekeepers Day memorial event. Through his coaxing, although it didn't take much, I became involved with Loops for the Troops and helped bring Michael's vision of supporting a variety of deserving charities, initiatives and events by way of the R.A.U.S.I. Foundation. I must admit those were some of the best days of my life being part of his circle and the many of us who worked tirelessly, not just as a team, but as his family! Everyone who met Michael was instantly touched by the person he was and many of us would have never met him if it hadn't have been for the loss of Nathan. I believe that Nathan's spirit lived in Michael and guided him to do great things and many of us are humbled to have been a part of that! I personally have a variety of memories of Michael, the deep pain he endured, his vision for Loops and to help many, a spokesperson for families of the fallen, his smile and humour and most importantly his love for those who were close to him, his family, especially Will & Avery and his true friendship and caring for every day people like me. He has left this world too soon but we all know his circle here is complete and he is at peace and enjoying a cold one with his son Nathan. Cheers and peace Michael, you will truly be missed but never forgotten. To Susan, Rachel, Tyler, Will & Avery and the Hornburg and Loree families, my sincere condolences and love and

hugs to you all.

Jane Myden, Crowsnest Pass

**Jane Myden** - March 31, 2018 at 03:00 PM

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“ Dear Rachel, the Hornberg and Loree families

I meet Michael and Linda just after Nathan's passing. My son Scott is in the same regiment as Nathan was. They both were wonderful people. I talked to Linda threw Facebook and we always made a point to see each other at the Loop for the Troops run. At all of the functions that I attended I made a point to talk to Michael. He was a fantastic person. He was so easy to talk to and very knowledgeable. This world has lost a wonderful person. I thought of him a lot and just today I asked my son about him. He told me he had passed on Saturday. That brought tears to my eyes.

There is nothing really I can say to make you not feel the loss of Michael. He is at peace and with Nathan and Linda now. There is no pain and now he can run and walk all he wants. My thoughts and prayers go out to you all at this trying time.

Debbie Tait  
Calgary AB

**Debbie** - March 30, 2018 at 12:37 AM

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“ Dear Rachel, Tyler, Susan, Will, Avery, the Loree and Hornburg families,

I first met Michael when he and Linda dropped in for a visit while out cycling one day. We were new to the Waldorf community, but had already experienced the warm camaraderie of the running and Waldorf worlds because of Michael's involvement. I remember his warm spontaneity and generous smile from that first day and the constant companions they were whether we were out walking, I was over for eggs or having tea. His constant good cheer was almost always evident, but most especially when he was sharing a story or a picture about Will and Avery.

I am sorry to miss Michaels's memorial service, I do not return to Calgary until mid-April.

My sincere condolences,  
Maggie Studer Calgary/Puerto Vallarta

**maggie studer** - March 29, 2018 at 03:16 PM

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“ We spent a few nights at Micheal and Linda's home over many years. His hospitality was super although once a bit of a low thermostat in March. I adjusted his knees once because as a courier they took a pounding. Next I heard he was cycling to St. Louis. I guess his knees felt fine. We loved him and feel remiss to see him gone before we came to visit him one last time. Blessings as you journey to reconnect with Nathan and Linda, your mom and Bill and Con who always loved and accepted you.  
David C Loree and family

David C Loree - March 29, 2018 at 03:01 AM

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“ Murchel, Jane, Katie, Susan, Rachel, William and Avery: Mike was a high school friend and brother-in-law and I find this news devastating, just as it was regarding Nathan. Did not know he had been suffering for over a year. I share your sense of loss from Calgary as well as here in Missouri with Margaret some time ago. If there is anything I can do to help, please let me know. Bill Rund

Bill Rund - March 28, 2018 at 03:41 PM

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“ Rachael, and the Hornburg/Loree family. Please accept our deepest sympathies on the loss of Michael. He was his own man and respected by all. My own memories go back to the dark days of September 2007, when under tragic circumstances, I was introduced to the family. We shared some very personal experiences in Calgary, Nanton AB, Trenton ONT, and back to Calgary.  
On behalf of The King's Own Calgary Regiment (50CEF/14 CTR) Association, and myself, please know that Michael is in a better place, and is re-united with Nathan and Linda. May he rest in peace.

Onward

Dick Cruickshank

Dick Cruickshank - March 28, 2018 at 01:20 PM

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“ Mike was a special person spent a lot of time with when we were younger I loved him and all of his family I think he enjoy his visit with me' and my family you will be missed my cousin

Donnie Hornburg - March 28, 2018 at 10:04 AM

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“ Jane and Katie, I am so sorry for your loss. Please know that my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Kathy (Rund) Becker

**Kathy Becker** - March 28, 2018 at 07:50 AM

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“ Michael was always so happy and proud of his family I am a hope peer and had the pleasure knowing he will be so missed my prayers and thoughts are with his family.  
Your peer friend Danita

**Danita Curwin** - March 27, 2018 at 09:38 PM

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“ Ian Hutcheson is following this tribute.

**Ian Hutcheson** - March 27, 2018 at 09:37 PM

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“ I first met Michael when I became involved with “Loops for the Troops” and have considered him a friend ever since. Michael’s zest for life and his support of the military was contagious. He was never without that beautiful smile and a kind word. His family and especially Avery & William were so important to him. Since his return from Spain Michael has fought the good fight and though his speech wasn’t the same he could always get his point across. When we visited him in his home he was a perfect host and enjoyed showing us around, his art works showed another side of his life. A multi talented man.

I believe that Nathan was always with your Michael in spirit & I’m sure that the two have been reunited now.

I wish we could be at his funeral services but Rick & I will be out of town. We will be with you in spirit.

Take care,  
Linda & Rick Wright

**Linda Wright** - March 27, 2018 at 09:23 PM

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“ Dear Rachel  
I am saddened to hear about your tragic loss. I am a volunteer with the military HOPE program since autumn 2016. Although I have never met Michael, I have heard so many wonderful things from my peers at the HOPE program. May he Rest in

Peace. - We share a bond; our son Mark was killed in an avalanche in February 2015 during a routine military SAR training exercise in the Rockies.

At times like this it is hard to know what to say or do; but may it comfort you a little to know that I am thinking of you with heartfelt sympathy, warmth and caring.

With Deepest Condolences to you and your family,  
Liz Quinn  
Moncton, New Brunswick



Liz Quinn - March 26, 2018 at 06:04 PM

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“ My condolences to the family of Michael. We new Michael through our connection with H.O.P.E .We to lost our son in Afghanistan as well. We also went to Afghanistan and Michael was also in Afghanistan same as us. He was a lovely man always a smile. I recall Michaels son Nathan had the same smile on the photoes we see.  
R.I.P. Michael  
Much care to Rachel  
Sue Shipway

Susan Shipway - March 26, 2018 at 02:09 PM

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“ Our condolences to Michael's family especially his grand children he loved so much. We shared a bond with Michael in a couple of ways; first as parents of a fallen soldier and second as a volunteer in the HOPE program. He was a great part of our program and we learned a lot from his resources, laughed and cried with him. He won't be forgotten but he is now at peace.  
With deepest sympathy,  
Paulette & Robin Tedford

Paulette Tedford - March 26, 2018 at 10:06 AM