



# Ryan Charles Gray

JUN 11, 1977 - SEP 22, 2019



Scan to Visit

# Table of Contents

<b>Obituary</b> .....	Page 3
<b>Events</b> .....	Page 5
<b>Tribute Wall</b> .....	Page 6
<b>Media</b> .....	Page 8



## **Ryan Charles Gray**

JUN 11, 1977 - SEP 22, 2019

**R**yan Charles Gray (42) passed away peacefully in his sleep 22 September 2019 in Portland, Oregon. He is survived by his devoted husband Kevin John Burns and his dog Shitake.

Ryan the fourth of six children was born 11 June 1977 in Salt Lake City, Utah to loving parents John Morgan Gray & Diana (Nelson) Gray.

He was raised in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and was a Seminary Graduate. Ryan was an Eagle Scout and loved the outdoors and serving others with his generous heart. While serving in the New York Rochester Mission, he volunteered to learn sign language to work with a deaf companion to better serve others. Ryan was proud to be named after his grandfather, Charles Abner Gray whom he claimed as his guardian angel throughout his life. Ryan married Kevin, the son of Keith J. & Dyane (Miner) Burns, his loving companion of 18 years on 23 December 2013 in Farmington, Utah. Standing at 6' 6 1/2" he was loved as a gentle giant with a very friendly nature, jovial and fun personality. He started school which he loved at Truman Elementary in West Valley City, Utah where making new friends came easily. When his family moved in 1983 he attended Sunrise Elementary in Phoenix, Arizona where he played soccer, baseball, piano, and started saxophone. While at Desert Sky Jr. High, Ryan was an honor student and active in cross-country, track and field, basketball, and wrestling. He was a Junior Olympian in high jump and enjoyed playing saxophone in the marching band. While at Barry Goldwater High School Ryan played sax in the jazz band, lettered in cross-country, and played basketball. In 1992 a school boundary change led him to Deer Valley High School where he graduated in 1995 with honors lettering in crosscountry, swimming, and track & field. He attended college with academic scholarships at BYU and ASU West. He was a decathlon athlete with top rankings in the western states while on track scholarship at Glendale Community College. In 2007 he graduated in nursing at SUU and worked over ten years as a Registered Nurse (RN) in healthcare at St. Mark's Hospital and for the Salt Lake County Health Department. For the Salt Lake County, Ryan supported the refugee and LGBT



## Obituary

**Ryan Charles Gray**

JUN 11, 1977 - SEP 22, 2019

communities on health issues and served as a first responder for health outbreaks. As a member of the Utah LGBT Flag Football League, Ryan cemented many lifelong friendships, playing center and blocker for the SLC Avalanche Team. He served as a local commissioner, coach, and recruiter supporting the Mountain West and National Gay Flag Football League (NGFFL). In these roles, he increased self-respect and confidence of LGBT persons helping the larger community, regardless of different identities, abilities, or status to promote physical exercise and health with his peers. Ryan lived the last 21 months and enjoyed working as a “Manny” for his sister Melissa in Portland. The family appreciates Kevin and Melissa for their care and service to Ryan.

His surviving siblings and in-laws will all miss him dearly: Jennifer Brittany Theobald (Jon), David John Gray (Brittany), Melissa Gibby (Garth), Michael Nelson Gray (Rachel), Andrew Morgan Gray (Taryn), Karine Burns Pitcher, Kary Burns (Tanya), Brett Burns (Susan), Shon Burns (Brenda), Brandon Burns (Megan), Kris Burns (deceased) and a combined 41 nieces and nephews, 6 greats, and lots of treasured cousins.

All who knew Ryan loved to be with him and enjoyed his humor, zest for life, and caring about others. He would give you “the shirt off his back.” We will miss his bright hearty laugh, warm hugs, strength to serve anyone in need, and dedicated friendship. Go in peace Ryan until we meet again.

Family viewing Friday 11 October 6-8:00 PM at O'Donnell Mortuary. Visitation with family & friends at 12:00 PM Saturday followed by Memorial Services at 12:30 PM at O'Donnell Mortuary Chapel, 372 East First South, Salt Lake City, Utah. Family Interment is 2:00 PM at Salt Lake City Cemetery, 200 N Street, Salt Lake City, Utah. In lieu of flowers, donations accepted direct to the family via Venmo, @Jenni-Theobald or at [www.gofundme.com/f/the-ryan-gray-story](http://www.gofundme.com/f/the-ryan-gray-story).

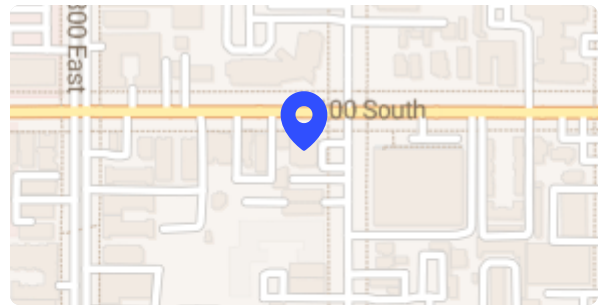


# Events

**Ryan Charles Gray**  
JUN 11, 1977 - SEP 22, 2019

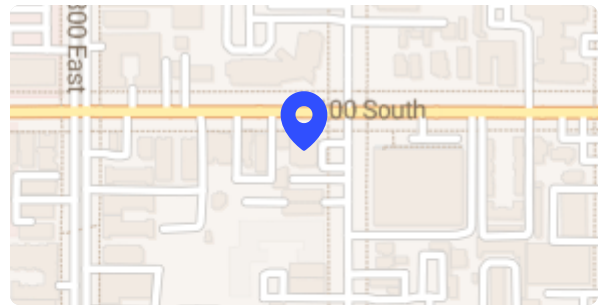
## Visitation

- 📅 **Saturday**, October 12, 2019
- 🕒 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM MT
- 📍 **Neil O'Donnell & Sons Mortuary**  
372 E 100 S, Salt Lake City UT 84111



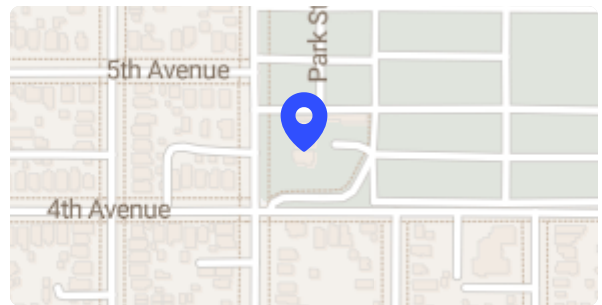
## Memorial Service

- 📅 **Saturday**, October 12, 2019
- 🕒 12:30 PM MT
- 📍 **Neil O'Donnell & Sons Mortuary**  
372 E 100 S, Salt Lake City UT 84111



## Cemetery Details

- 📍 **Salt Lake City Cemetery**  
200 N St E, Salt Lake City UT 84103





# Tribute Wall

**Ryan Charles Gray**

JUN 11, 1977 - SEP 22, 2019



**Edye Wagstaff** posted:

Oh my dear, sweet friends. Although we don't know one another, I join with you in your mourning, your love and your concern for the LGBTQ community. My heart goes out to you and yours and it is my prayer that you may find comfort in knowing that Ryan's life and experiences have changed my life. Thoughts and prayers are with you.

October 11 at 5:13 AM



**Melissa Rollins** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.



The picture below looks like a scrap of paper with scribble. But that piece of paper actually shows some important lab info I needed for clinicals one day in a fail safe way for me to remember. Ryan was 1 year ahead of me in nursing school and coached and watched out for me. I came across this paper yesterday when I opened a box I haven't seen or touched that box since 2008. Funny I would find it now. Maybe it's my buddy sayin hi...he's ok. I was in tears for 2 days when I found out but the 3rd day and after much prayer, I suddenly had a warm feeling come over me and I haven't felt that panicked loss since. Loss of time - for the rest of our lives but not the life hereafter. I love Kevin and Ry SO much and this paper is an example of the "little things" that means big things and that I will cherish. Be at peace now my gladiator friend - he always did protect me!

October 6 at 11:40 PM



**Jared Heiner** October 9 at 4:01 PM

Hard to believe you're gone. We miss you so much because you loved so much. Love you, Ryan. Jared



**Nadine Nelson Allen** October 7 at 6:06 PM

Precious fun nephew Ryan I will miss you very much! Rest in peace. Love from Aunt Nadine



**Susie Jarvis** October 7 at 11:30 AM

Love you and miss you, my friend. Aunt Susie



**Elisa Kelloggshaffer** October 7 at 7:43 AM

How special a man he was. They say you can measure a man by the love he gave and received...he gave a lot and received even more love in death. Meaning he set the bar high for anyone following him. God be with ypu.



## Tribute Wall

**Ryan Charles Gray**  
JUN 11, 1977 - SEP 22, 2019

---



**Lynda & Marty** posted:

Ryan, we loved you, wish you peace, and will miss you.

October 6 at 3:07 PM



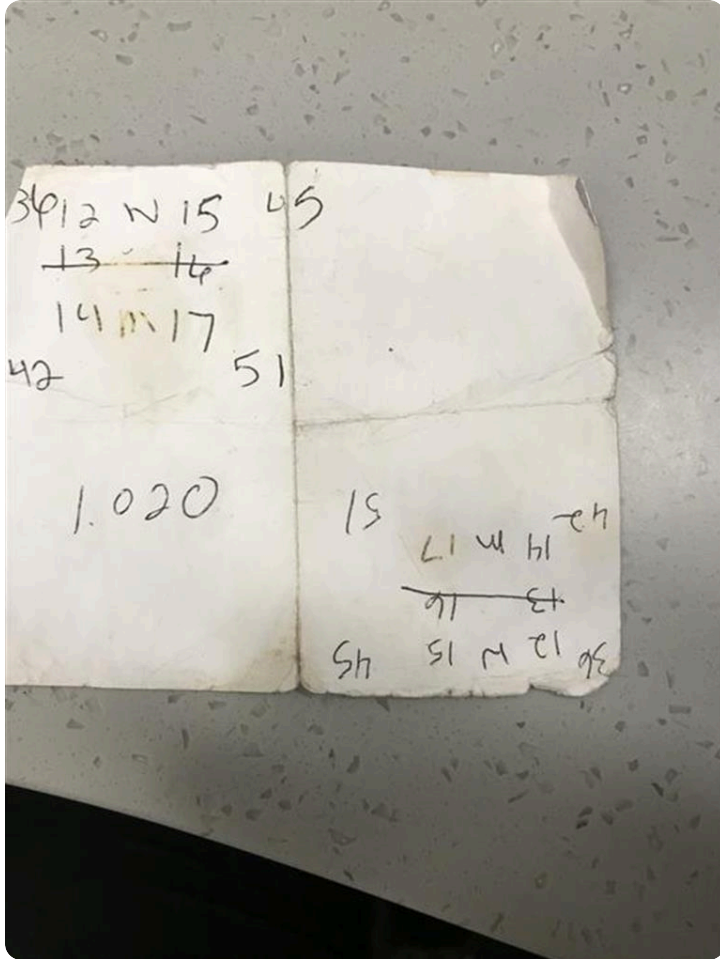
# Media

**Ryan Charles Gray**  
JUN 11, 1977 - SEP 22, 2019



Melissa Rollins shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

October 6 at 11:40 PM





# **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Ryan by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



**Scan to Visit**