

Gordon Keith Masson

September 7, 1957 - January 18, 2015

Loving husband and extraordinary father, Gordon Keith Masson died January 18 due to adverse side effects of a prescription medication. Gordon was born in Berkeley, California, September 7, 1957. His family moved to Chester, CA, where he began life living at their home on the family owned Chester Airport which was later named Rogers Field in memory of Gordon's grandfather, Harold Rogers. Gordon graduated from Chester High in 1975.

He served in the US Army from 1975 to 1978 in Baumholder, Germany, in the armor division and in Garmisch/Berchtesgaden as a member of the US Army ski team. After an overseas honorable discharge he traveled extensively throughout Europe by bike, thumb and VW van. Always seeking adventure, he climbed the active volcano Mt Etna in Sicily, ran with the bulls in Pamplona, Spain, and hiked the Samaria Gorge in Crete.

In 1979 he met the love of his life, Sheila, at COS and they were married that year in Yreka and then moved to Chico to attend CSUC where he majored in Geology. In 1982 he celebrated the blessed birth of his first son Dustin Masson, and then in 1983 his heart's desire was fulfilled with the birth of his second son, Kaegan Masson.

In 1984 he became a traffic officer with the California Highway Patrol until his retirement in 2009. From 1983 to 1991 he was assigned to CHP offices in the SF Bay Area until he was able to transfer to the area he loved, Siskiyou County. During his career with the CHP he enjoyed representing his area offices in annual ski races, softball teams, and firearms competition. He

received an award for his dedicated service and outstanding contributions in the field of narcotics enforcement for his service with SCINTF (Siskiyou County Inter-Agency Narcotics Task Force) for 1999-2003, and superior performance in the enforcement of DUI laws from MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Drivers) in 1995.

He was an avid fly fisherman, enjoyed cycling, traveling, hiking, boating, camping, and gardening. He enjoyed just about any recreational sport, activity, and job that included the outdoors or spending time with family. While attending college he had worked seasonally for various logging companies. He coached and refereed youth soccer, high school ski team, and loved to entertain large groups at home with games of volleyball, horse shoes, or foosball. He also supported his wife's love of horses and all her endeavors. He was a devoted, caring, and loving husband and father. He loved his friends and family deeply, and above all the Lord Jesus for whom he was thankful for all good things in his life and for the opportunities to help others.

Gordon paved the way and opened doors for his two loving sons, and taught them more about life than they could ever ask. They hold him up so high, and are so thankful for the constant love they received from him. His three grandsons were the apples of his eye and brought him more joy than he ever imagined possible.

Since retirement his favorite days of the week were what he called "Twin Tuesdays" or "Wild Wednesdays" when the grandsons came home from school and stayed until bedtime and he spent the entire time reading, crafting science projects, exploring world maps and globes and creating the dinner menu the boys picked each week. His favorite times were with his sons, grandchildren, wife, extended family, and many of the young adults he considered part of his family. He received great joy from seeing the numerous people he knew as children grow to be fine young men and women. He felt this was a great privilege granted by living in a close knit community where everyone could make a difference.

He touched so many people's lives, with the brightest smile that never

wavered, and laughter that could pull you out of your darkest days. He had a keen sense of humor and loved practical jokes.

Words cannot explain how much he will be missed by all, and we will carry the memory of him in our hearts forever and share the wonderful gifts in this life that he has taught us to embrace from this day forward until we meet again for eternity.

Gordon is survived by his wife, Sheila, oldest son Dustin, and wife Kaci, grandsons, Brenden, Aiden and Liam, and youngest son Kaegan. He is also survived by his mother, Beverly Masson, sister Rebecca Masson-Weatherson and husband Tom, sister Laura Wass, brother Don Anderson, sister-/brother-in-law Lisa & Claude Lavoie, brother-/sister-in-law Kin & Dawn Bates, brother-in-law Troy Bates and numerous nieces and nephews that were dear to his heart. Gordon was preceded in death by his loving father, John Harbison Masson.

A memorial service for Gordon will be held Saturday, January 31, 2015, at 2 pm at the Church of the Nazarene, 415 Evergreen Lane, Yreka, CA.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to Stable Hands for the benefit of Horses for Heroes, P O Box 1852, Yreka, CA 96097.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JAN 31. 2:00 PM (PT)

Yreka Church of the Nazarene
415 Evergreen Ln.
Yreka, CA 96097
<http://www.ynaz.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Girdner Funeral Chapel created a Webcast in memory of Gordon Keith Masson*



Girdner Funeral Chapel - January 27, 2015 at 04:14 PM

CG

“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



Chris Girdner - February 04, 2015 at 04:09 PM

SS

“ *Gordon will be missed so much. But now he is in heaven with Bill and I am sure he and Bill are discussing all their fish stories and arguing about who did what. Fun times. Love to all of you and you are in my prayers each day.*
Sylvia Schmitt

Sylvia Schmitt - January 30, 2015 at 11:46 AM

CW

“ Dear Sheila, Dustin, Kaegan and family. I met Gordon at the DA's office and worked with him at the TF. His grin and laugh was infectious. His love of his family was strong and clear. His friendship was valued. He will be missed. Peace.

CHRISTINE J WINTE - January 28, 2015 at 11:25 PM

 Matt Rokes

“ I became friends with Gordon when he got assigned to Happy Camp. We worked closely together as most small town cops do. He always managed to cheer up everyone in the sub station. He was a fantastic Officer and did things to help his brother Officers like mapping the entire river route with every known location and mile marker. CHP Officers were rotating through that area often so his map made it easy for the new guys to learn the area. He was a dedicated man to his profession and to his family. The fact that his sons are following in his footsteps is a testament to that. He credited me with saving his life on a couple of high risk situations and made sure I got a letter of commendation for it. But I was there only because he had initiated the action in the first place and I was just trying to keep up with him! He was a loyal friend and He will be missed.

Matt Rokes - January 28, 2015 at 08:38 PM

ML

“ Dear Sheila, Dustin, Kaegan and family,

It has been so difficult to accept the heartbreaking news of Gordons' passing. Please know that you are in our hearts and prayers.

Thoughts of Gordon create a vivid image of his big, beautiful smile and that supercharged twinkle, always in his eyes. He had such a loveable boyish charm and joy just seemed to radiate through him. Like Bob, I have regrets, because I never thought it important to tell Gordon how much I admired and respected him. I wish I had told him what a beautiful thing it was to see the love he had for his family. He was such a kind and caring soul. He will always be loved and forever missed.

*With deepest sympathy,
Marcia Looney*

Marcia Looney - January 28, 2015 at 07:58 PM

HB

Dear Sheila, Dustin and Keagan,

It broke my heart to hear of your family's loss, and although it's been many years since our paths have crossed, please know that people you've touched throughout your lives are thinking of you. I have fond memories of childhood days spent with your family (one example, I remember Dustin could scale up the front of a refrigerator with his bare feet faster than you could blink!) and know you have many happy memories of time well spent together to hold close to your heart.

*My deepest condolences,
Hailey (Marcia's oldest)*

Hailey Payne Banks - February 02, 2015 at 09:39 PM



I have tears in my eyes as I write this. I just now found a link on Facebook from the Yreka News that reported Gordon's passing. I am truly so sorry to read this.

I worked with Gordon in the Hayward CHP office. I have the utmost respect for him. He was a great co-worker, fine Officer, and trusted beat partner. Memories are coming to me about Gordon. I hope it won't be hurtful if I share some here.

I remember sitting in the briefing room at the beginning of shift in Hayward right after Gordon transferred in. I think he may have come from the Redwood City office. Anyway, the Sergeant was passing out paperwork, and one of Gordon's accident reports was returned for correction, and it had a 'goldenrod' on it. This was a golden colored form that was attached to note corrections that needed to be made. I forget now what the form number was; we just called it a goldenrod. Gordon took the report, with the Goldenrod attached to the front, and in a quiet voice said, 'What the hell is this?!?' I calmly said, 'It's a goldenrod. It will go in your file, and be used on your next 118.' (The 118 was the form number of the annual performance appraisal.) Gordon was obviously upset and said 'You've got to be shitting me!' I chuckled. I thought he was kidding. He wasn't kidding. He told me he had never even seen that form before, they just made comments and his reports were corrected and that was that. I then said the only thing I could, 'Welcome to Hayward'. That was the beginning of one of the best working relationships I remember from that time. I have so many memories of him, and I doubt he had any of me.

I remember his laugh, and the sparkle in his eyes. I remember the day, on Highway 680 near Mission when I arrived to help him at the scene of a rollover crash. Gordon was very animated, which was unusual. When I looked over at the crashed full size SUV, I commented that the guy must have been going fast. Gordon answered quickly, incredulously, 'I know exactly how fast he was going! I was pacing him for speed and was about to go make a stop when the guy crashed! I can't believe it!'. Then we talked about if he should be the investigating Officer for a crash he witnessed. He was a good Officer.

Sometimes when the other male Officers would be harsh or unfair to the females, myself included, Gordon offered me encouragement when it was much needed. I really appreciated that.

I had to disability retire from CHP after just 13 years. I thought I would retire in my 50s, not my 30s. I lost track of many coworkers, including Gordon. I am sorry for that. Now I am even sorrier. I remember Gordon as a fine man, a fine Officer, and a man that was in love with his family. He showed me photos of his children that he carried with him.

I am sure Gordon touched many lives, as is evident by the tribute of boots on the fence in the news article. I like that. The next time I make it over that way, I will be sure to hang a boot in his honor. I hope it may bring some small measure of comfort to his family, as is my intention with this letter.

*Very sincerely,
Heidi Wright ID 11547 (retired)*

Heidi Wright - February 04, 2015 at 04:25 PM

PJ

“*Dear Sheila,Dustin,Keagan,Bev and family. Our deepest condolences, prays and thoughts are with you during your time of grief. Gordon touched a lot of people throughout his live, from growing up on Maywood dr to a retired Grandpa. All of us have nothing but good thoughts and memories of you. When i start feeling sad I think of these memories, here are a few. You and your dog Betty. Still wonder who was faster you or the dog, because you were one fast kid. Betty definitely beat you hands down in climbing a fence in one bound. You escaping frm Miss Jenson's thinking room in Kindergarden and going home. Only, to be brought back and you walking out of the Principals office and heading home again. The survival trip we went on and you trying to convince us tp eat a 2' water snake for dinner. Just a spec of the vast pool of memories i have of you. all of them make me realize the earth is a little poor without your presence. But, heaven is that much richer with you there. We will always remember the great person you were Gordon. Till we meet again, my friend. Pete Fregoso Jr*

pete fregoso jr - January 28, 2015 at 01:28 PM

LH

“ *Sheila, Dustin, Kaegan and family,*

We are so incredibly sorry for the loss of your beloved husband, father and grandfather. He was an amazing man and touched the lives of so many. We hope you can find some peace and comfort from all the wonderful memories you have of him. You are all in our thoughts and prayers,

Much love,

Les and Laurie Helsley

Bradley and Cerise Helsley Ralph and family

Brent Barnett and Jasmine Helsley and family

Skyler Helsley

Laura Helsley - January 28, 2015 at 11:20 AM

KA

“ *Dear Kaegan and family,*

Our deepest condolences for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you in this difficult time.

I'm so sad.

Frank and Katrin

Katrin - January 28, 2015 at 03:12 AM

CC

“ I grew up a couple blocks from Gordon in Chester. Gordon always wore a smile and would help and protect anyone and everyone who he came in contact with. Gordon stopped by my mother's house recently when I was there for a visit. It had been many years since I had seen Gordon, and he hadn't changed , he was still the great "kid" I remembered. I admired him for taking the time to include my mother in his trips to town. My mother and Gordon's mother are close, and mom teased that she wished Gordon would adopt her and take her north when he took his mother there for the winters. His kindness and caring will be missed by all. Cheryl (Wheat) Carroll

Cheryl (Wheat) Carroll - January 28, 2015 at 12:50 AM

MD

“ I'm so sorry for the loss of a loving husband! A dad a wonderful grandpa. He will be missed by all but never forgotten his memory will live thru all your love forever!!!! My love to all !!! Aunt Dee and Uncle Mike

Mike and Diane Doyle - January 27, 2015 at 09:36 PM

BJ

“ I worked with Gordon in Happy Camp for around two years. I worked for the Sheriff's Office and Gordon was working for CHP. Gordon was a top notch Highway Patrolman and a good friend. He was always there for me when I needed help and I tried to be there for him to return the favor. He was a true friend and I will miss him.

RIP my friend

Lt. Bucky Jefferson

bucky jefferson - January 27, 2015 at 05:24 PM

BJ

“ Dear Sheila, Bev and family,
Our deepest condolences for the loss of Gordon. Our thoughts and prayers are with you in this difficult time.

Patty and I have been processing the loss of Gordon for the past few days and the sadness only seems to worsen. We can only imagine the sense of loss and grief that you must endure.

I've been struggling with my own grief and decided to write Gordon to tell him how I feel about him, and to say some things I wish I would have said to him when he was here.

Dear Gordon,

I will always cherish our friendship, and memories of you as a good friend, a good man, proud loving son, husband, father and grandfather; all the good things that result from a life well lived. You are a humble man of deep integrity and class, and throughout your life you have maintained the most amazing boyish qualities of good humor and fun. You have the most mischievous, good natured sense of humor I have ever encountered and you are always the first to find the humor in any situation.

I am honored to be your friend. I miss you. Until we meet again may God hold you in the palm of his hand,

Bob Hathaway



Bob Hathaway Jr - January 26, 2015 at 05:29 PM

LC

“ I attended school with Gordon for many years while growing up in Chester. He was such a fun guy & always had a smile on his face because he had schemed up a prank that he was ready to pull on someone. He always had me laughing & we usually got in trouble because of it. Such great memories.....He will be missed.....Bless his family & may we all be together again down the road. Love ya Gordon & thanks for being a great friend!
Laurie Dill Campbell

Laurie Dill Campbell - January 26, 2015 at 09:12 AM



“ I will miss seeing Gordon camping at Butt Lake on the fourth of July. Gordon joined us almost every year. He always loved fishing when the Hex was on. I will remember him in his float tube fishing till sundown. I wish I could find something that will ease the pain of his loss for his family. Just know that I pray for Gordon's mom, Becky, Tom, Laura, Don, Becky, Rich, Sheila, Dustin, Casey, Keagan, Travis, Cole, Sheila's family, and his beautiful grandchildren. I loved seeing how much he loved Sheila. I loved hearing the updates on Dustin, Keagan, and his Grandchildren. I remember how special they are to him. My kids remember visiting Gordon, Sheila, and the boys when we were all younger. They still remember Ricki, their dog then, and got a special kick out of the dog. Just know that Gordon was a man who touched many lives. Many will miss you, Gordon.

Jane Henneman Low - January 25, 2015 at 09:31 PM



“ I worked with Gordon from 91-97 and he was one of the most dedicated and committed officers I've ever known. My prayers are with you all for the Lord's comfort and peace during this time. I am grateful to know Gordon had The Lord in his heart and is now free of pain and with Jesus. Till we meet again my friend....much love to you.

Marion Armstrong - January 25, 2015 at 12:56 PM



“ Gordon was always such a picture of health, strength, and happiness. To you Sheila and Bev, my heart and soul reaches out to you and all of your family. May his fine gifts of goodness always be with you. Endless Love, Aunt Eleanor Masson Buehler

Eleanor Buehler - January 25, 2015 at 12:46 PM



“ Laura and family, I am so sorry about Gordon. Hard one to lose a loved one. Seems like the losing of a loved one has a way of bringing other people back into your life .Laura, Doris and I have been talking about you so much this past year. Was nice to know that your mom is still with us. When you feel up to it please give me a call, I would so much like to reconnect with you. Sharon(Flowers)Schuster

Sharon(Flowers)Schuster - January 25, 2015 at 10:52 AM

SN

“ *To the Masson Family*

I am so sorry to hear of Gordons passing. You and your family are in our paryers. Gordon was a Great Guy to go to school with, always a smile on his face.

Jay and Sue Neuman

Susan Neuman - January 25, 2015 at 10:20 AM

MG

“ *Lyn and I are so sorry to hear of Gordon's passing a send our heartfelt thoughts, condolences, and prayers out for Sheila and their entire family. I have so many fond memories of Gordon and am thankful to have had the honor to have known and called him a friend. He leaves behind a legacy of being a Good Man his sons, grandsons, and all of us can follow. Rest in Peace dear friend. We shall meet again in Glory. Mike & Lyn Grant*

Mike & Lyn Grant - January 25, 2015 at 06:48 AM

CH

“ *Words cannot express the sadness in my heart in hearing the loss of your beloved husband, father, grandfather, son and friend. I will miss Gordon's smile and laughter that he shared so easily with so many. He was a special human being and now an angel, still watching over his loved ones. My prayers to all. Love Cheryl Hathaway*

cheryl hathaway - January 25, 2015 at 01:44 AM

MG

“ Gordon was like another brother to me. I remember one time Mike was babysitting me. He and Gordon folded me up in the Hide-A-Bed sofa and were sitting on it watching TV then Mom came home and boy was she mad!! Many years later when Gordon was going into the CHP the investigator that was doing his background check came to our house asking about what I knew about his character. In the back of my mind I thought of the couch incident. I gave him a glowing recommendation but gave the investigator a good laugh with the sofa story! I'm so saddened to hear of his passing. My heart goes out to Sheila, his boys, Bev, Becky and all those who loved him! It is said that the measure of a man is the memories and the lives he touched! Gordon truly was a GREAT MAN!💕

Manette Grant - January 24, 2015 at 11:35 PM

MP


“ Gordon was a friend as far back as I can remember. I have often wondered how life had treated him over the years. We moved from Chester in 74 and had lost track. I am glad to know his life was blessed with family friends and a relationship with Jesus. A life well lived and a legacy to pass to many generations to come. Gordon will be missed by many! Love and prayers for the entire family.

Marty Potter - January 24, 2015 at 09:38 PM

AH

“ Gordon has been my friend for 50 years. We went to school together from kindergarten till graduation. He was my first 'play date' in kindergarten. I have always thought of him as a close friend no matter how many years or miles kept us apart. I'm sure he was loved by all that knew him and will be greatly missed. Rest in peace my friend. Blessings and sympathy to Bev, Becky and all of his family and friends. Always in my heart Gordon.

Arnetta Hansen - January 24, 2015 at 09:10 PM


Donovan
Henry

“ *back in about 1975 I was standing in line waiting to use the phone In Germany. I was about 3 people back, and I heard a voice ahead of me it sounded familiar. Sure enough it was Gordon. We had grown up together in Chester As kids together. Gordon was very nice person. He will be missed forever. My love and prayers to his family and friends.*



Donovan Henry - January 24, 2015 at 08:31 PM

JD

“ *Sheila, my heart and prayers are with you and the family during this difficult time. Gordon was a wonderful friend and Thank you for sharing him with us. He had a wonderful sense of humor and I loved teasing him during the inspections of the task force evidence vault. He was always so serious during them, I would try to lighten it up by making him think he was missing evidence. I could never get Dave Amaral to bite, but I got Gordon a couple of times. I will always treasure those memories and will never forget him. Please take care and I will continue to keep you and your family in my prayers! Sending you my love, Julie Dunwoody.*

Julie Dunwoody - January 24, 2015 at 07:37 PM

DL

In Spanish class for 3 yrs at Chester high, Gordon was 'Manolo' and sat next to me. We go back to kindergarten in Chester. In 6th grade we square danced together as partners. Always kind and sweet and handsome. Dear Brother, bless your journey.

Diana De Luca - January 24, 2015 at 09:40 PM

LK

We are so sorry to hear about Gordon's passing. Our sympathy and prayers go out to the family. Blake and Lisa Kitchen

lisa Kitchen - January 25, 2015 at 10:16 AM

KJ

I can't recall one time from the time we were in Kindergarten to the last time I saw him when he wasn't smiling - or maybe pulling a prank :) He was one of the best of us. Prayers go out to his family and all who loved him. He will be missed. Kay (Sober) Jefferson

Kay Jefferson - January 26, 2015 at 10:43 AM

SJ

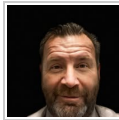
To the Masson Family, our thoughts and prayers go out to you. Gordon will always be remembered as a hard working, loyal, and dedicated officer. As a friend he was exactly the same and ten times more.

May he rest in peace.

God bless,

Seth and Wendy Jennings

seth jennings - January 27, 2015 at 08:11 PM



I went to school with Gordon also. He was on my little league team and was a quiet leader. We won the pennant that year because of his pitching and hitting. He did have that gleam in his eyes and was always cheerful; so sorry to hear of the loss. We will meet on the other side.

Dean Joaquin - November 10, 2015 at 02:46 PM