



## Randall David Heater

September 11, 1949 - July 13, 2016

Randy David Heater, born Jack Randall Bruner, passed away unexpectedly on July 13, 2016. Randy was born on September 11, 1949 in Tribune, Kansas to Opal Lienemann and Jackson Bruner. At a young age, he was adopted by Elmer David Heater and took on the name, Randall David Heater.

Randy grew up in Ft. Collins, Colorado, and attended Fort Collins High School. After high school, he enlisted in the United States Army and served in the Vietnam War from 1968 to 1969. He was wounded in the war and received the Purple Heart. Randy was very proud to have served his country. In 1976 he made his way to Yreka, California to be near his biological father. Randy always loved music, especially country music. One night, while performing a gig, he met and fell in love with the love of his life, Debra Lynn Hammer. On March 4, 1979 they were married in front of family and friends, bound to be together forever.

Randy made an impression on everyone he met. He would give the shirt off of his back to anyone who needed it. He never met an enemy. Randy's favorite job was working at Dole Transportation as a bus driver. Randy was a big kid himself, and all of the kids just loved him. They named him "Big Mama" and were always excited when Randy was driving. Randy retired in 2009 and spent time playing music with his band, "Tulsa," and being "Papa" to his grandchildren. In 2014, Debbie retired and together they traveled to Arizona

and Colorado numerous times. One of his loves, besides his family, was playing softball for many years.

Randy is preceded in death by his parents, Elmer and Opal Heater, and his biological father, Jackson Bruner; his sisters, Ricki Gardner and Susan Preston. Randy is survived by his wife of 37 years, Debbie; children, Stephen Heater, Daniel Heater, Sarah (Marc) Bergman, Rachel (Jeff) Crow, and Mathew (Torie) Heater; his brother, Russell (Jacque) Heater; and three grandchildren, Hailey, Ronan, and Jeffrey.

In honor of Randy's memory, donations may be sent to the Wounded Warrior Project at 4899 Belfort Road, Suite 300, Jacksonville, FL 32256.

A Celebration of Life will be held on July 23 at 12 noon at the Montague Community Center. Food will be served potluck style; please bring your favorite memory or memories of Randy to share.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

JUL **23**. 12:00 PM (PT)

Montague Community Hall  
200 S 11th Street  
Montague, CA 96064

# Tribute Wall

RC

“ I'm not sure how 3 years have passed since I last saw your face. Today, like most Sundays, I come up to Evergreen Cemetery to visit your memorial. It's a time for me to reflect on the memories and how wonderful life was when you were here. Even after 3 years I still feel the shock waves from time to time. You will never know how much you were the glue to our family. There's such a hole in our family where you should be. Your absence is felt every day. I hope you're proud of us, Dad. We keep your memory alive and your grandchildren will always remember you. We love you so much, Dad. Hope you're flying high with the angels.

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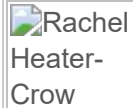
**Rachel Crow** - September 15, 2019 at 12:17 PM

RA

“ I miss you, Dad. It's been a little over two years and I miss you more now than the day you died. But, God has promised that those who believe in him will have eternal life. I know you believed so Dad, we will see you on the other side. Please just keep watch over us and keep protecting us as we live out our days on this side. Love you forever.

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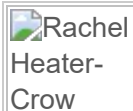
**Rachel** - October 02, 2018 at 04:55 PM



“ It's been a little over two months since I last saw you. It's not any easier but I knew it wouldn't be. I am so lost without you, Dad. I miss your jokes, your smile, the way you played with your Grandchildren. They miss you so much. I have kept the faith, even though at times I just don't understand why you were taken so soon. My love for God will not falter, for I know that my only chance to see you again is through Him. It hurts...gosh it hurts, Dad. Hailey scored her first goal in soccer a few weeks back and I choked down the tears, knowing you were not on the sideline cheering, "way to go Boogaroo!" So many times throughout the day the grief will strike with such force that it literally knocks the wind out of me. But I know it's supposed to feel like this. For I read that grief is love and Dad, you are loved more than you could have ever imagined. I miss and love you.

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**Rachel Heater-Crow** - September 29, 2016 at 11:45 AM



“ It's been a little over two months since I last saw you. It's not any easier but I knew it wouldn't be. I am so lost without you, Dad. I miss your jokes, your smile, the way you played with your Grandchildren. They miss you so much. I have kept the faith, even though at times I just don't understand why you were taken so soon. My love for God will not falter, for I know that my only chance to see you again is through Him. It hurts...gosh it hurts, Dad. Hailey scored her first goal in soccer a few weeks back and I choked down the tears, knowing you were not on the sideline cheering, "way to go Boogaroo!" So many times throughout the day the grief will strike with such force that it literally knocks the wind out of me. But I know it's supposed to feel like this. For I read that grief is love and Dad, you are loved more than you could have ever imagined. I miss and love you.

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**Rachel Heater-Crow** - September 29, 2016 at 11:38 AM

LL

“ Farewell cousin. I am sure you left many fond memories for your family and friends to cherish. I haven't seen cousin Randy or is brother Rusty in many years. I hope the pictures and letters that my sister Sheryl and I picked up in Nebraska, that Opal used to compile the Family tree of the Lienemann and Heater ancestry, provides your family with many more fond memories.



Your Cousin  
Loren Lienemann

Nipomo Ca.

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Loren Lienemann - August 01, 2016 at 11:31 AM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Randall David Heater.



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July 21, 2016 at 10:24 PM

BA

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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Barbara - July 19, 2016 at 08:49 PM

BA

*I believe this was the weekend that I began a friendship with Randy and Debbie Heater. With my daughter Torie Mollison (Heater) dating their son Mathew Heater we made the trip to Wyoming for Mathew's graduation. Following the graduation ceremony, we all traveled together to Randy's home town. He had some family business and visiting to do. We enjoyed our few days together getting to know each other. I was able to bring home one of his Mother's Opal's quilts and I use that on my bed still to this day. As the story goes, my family has had many occasions to spend time with Randy and his wonderful family. With Mathew and Torie now married, I have the privilege to call Randy and his beautiful strong family my family. Thank you Randy. We love Mathew so very much and we are proud to be a part of your family. We love you all. Until we see each other again, God Bless. P.S. In honor of the camping trip that we would have loved to go on with you, we are traveling to your Life Tribute Service with trailer in tow and will be camping during this time. Happy trails to you.*

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**Barbara** - July 19, 2016 at 09:00 PM

 Rachel Heater-

*I am just somehow reading this for the first time. I am so glad you all are a part of our family. Such good memories and I am so glad that you still use Grandma's quilt. We have quite a few of their quilts as well. Sure miss them and Dad. Love you all.*

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**Rachel Heater-Crow** - September 29, 2016 at 11:27 AM

“ Oh Dad, I don't even know where to start. There are so many amazing things to say about you. I could write for eternity and still not capture every amazing quality about you. What can I say, Dad, you gave me life. A life that I cherish every day. You gave and still give me strength to persevere even through the toughest of times. Remembering your smile reminds that there is still good in the world and that as hard as life can get at times, tomorrow is a new day. You brought so much happiness and light to this world. You touched so many lives and left an impression on everyone that you met. You are unforgettable. You are one of a kind, Dad. Every night that I pray, I thank The Lord Jesus for my blessings. Dad, you are a large part of my many blessings. My childhood was amazing because I was one of the lucky ones who always had my Dad by my side. You attended my soccer games and school functions. You were there to kiss my owies and make them all better. You were there when I needed discipline for being a turd, making me hug and kiss Sarah, even though I wanted to roll her face in mud. You always had an ear to listen and soft spoken words that always comforted us. You always knew the right things to say. Even though you didn't wear your heart on your sleeve, your heart was larger than life. You would give the shirt off of your back for just about anyone. You were a friend to so many. You would walk in a room and the room would light up because of your presence. Your bright and shining soul shown through everything you did. I think the only time you didn't have a smile on your face was when you were sleeping. I loved hearing your stories of your childhood and adventures. I find comfort in many things. In your short 66 years on earth, you lived. You didn't just exist watching life go by...you lived! You made the best out of the life you were given. You cherished every moment with your family. You told us every time we left the house or got off of the phone with you that you loved us. You loved people and people loved you. You had this charisma that just sparkled and people were drawn to you. You were the best Papa to your grandchildren. They adored you so much. So much so that Hailey said at one point she wanted to move in with Grandma and Papa. And truthfully, as long as you were there, I'm not sure she would have missed home. I

*promise Dad, your grandchildren will grow up remembering you. I promise to always keep your memory alive. Your passing has left a huge hole in this world. I am trying to be strong but when your heart has been shattered into a million pieces, putting each little piece back together, knowing there will always be a missing piece and it will never be the same, is so incredibly difficult. Me, Mom and Sarah have joked that you are scolding us for crying so much..."you darn women always crying..." but you need to know Dad that you were our foundation. You were the concrete that our house was built on. You were a legend. We are grieving now because the loss of your earthly presence is felt so deep. The nights are hard because I just spent another day without my Daddy. The mornings are hard because I wake up knowing that nothing has changed and I have to endure another day without you. They say time heals. No, time does not heal. Time allows you to learn to live with the loss. A part of us died with you that morning. I know it will get easier but life will never be the same. I know your spirit is in Heaven and The Lord welcomed you with open arms. I know you are enjoying every moment being with Grandma and Grandpa Heater and your sisters and all of the friends and family that passed before you. I know you are playing music, playing softball and making Heaven laugh with your jokes and sense of humor. As hard as it is to say this, you need to know for your peace that we are going to be ok. We are a strong family. We may have lost our foundation but we will rebuild. We will always keep your memory alive. So go Dad...go enjoy Heaven. I've heard it's a nice place. Until the day we meet again, I will live on as your "dingbat". Please protect our family and watch over us and shield us from harm. Please let us know from time to time, for reassurance, that you are still with us. I love you with all of my broken heart, Dad. Love, your dingbat*

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**Rachel Heater aka Dingbat** - July 19, 2016 at 04:28 PM

 Katie Scalera

“ *Best bus driver ever!! You will be missed by so many Randi* ❤️❤️❤️  
❤️❤️

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**Katie Scalera** - July 18, 2016 at 11:32 PM

 Jamie Gibbs

“ *Randy is the kind of man that you meet in your life that you will always remember . He is just an all around great guy. I am so glad that I had the honor to get to know him and spent countless hours with the Heater family. Most of all he was a wonderful husband and father. His memories and love will live on through his family forever* 💙 *I know he is so proud of all of you and is playing a song just for you right now . I am most grateful for him having and raising his beautiful daughter Rachel , she is the best person and friend a girl could have and he definitely passed his best traits on to her . If I could I would tell him thank you for all the fun times, dinners and letting us have annoying girly sleepovers at the house . Most of all I'd thank him for being, in a way, a fatherly type to me because mine was absent at the time . He will always hold a place in my heart . I love you guys and I'm keeping you all in my thoughts and prayers constantly . Love always , Cricket* ❤️



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**Jamie Gibbs** - July 18, 2016 at 05:40 PM

RF

“ *My family would like to send sincere condolences to the Heater family for the loss of you dear loved one. May you find comfort and hope from the bible promise at Isaiah 25:8. Pray constantly, avoid isolation, and lean on God as you cope during this most difficult time.*

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**RF** - July 18, 2016 at 05:02 PM

 Julie  
Phillips

“ *He was a great man who loved his family and music! Never did I see him without a smile on his face! He always treated people with kindness and respect something that is rare to find these days. He will be greatly missed but never forgotten by all that knew him!*

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**Julie Phillips** - July 18, 2016 at 02:43 PM

VR

*I never saw him without his smile. He was always happy. On his last visit I saw him with his grandson Jeffrey and his face lit up when Jeffrey was playing with him. A great man that left great memories. I only knew him for a little bit of time but he welcomed me into his family. He will be missed.*

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**Valerie Reindl** - July 18, 2016 at 03:02 PM

LB

*Randy you will be very missed! I'm sure my Dad greeted you in Heaven among many others. Now you guys can make great music together again in Heaven. My love to all the family. Linda Carlson Boutin*

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**Linda Carlson Boutin** - July 18, 2016 at 04:47 PM