



## Jeffrey Hansen

November 26, 1971 - January 14, 2023

Jeffrey Thomas Hansen, 51, passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, January 14, 2023, in Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

Jeff was born on November 26, 1971 in Visalia, California to Cheryl Rae Morris and Donald Thomas Hansen. Growing up he was the absolute favorite son and brother sandwiched between two protective older sisters and two doting younger sisters.

He married the love of his life and best friend, Laurelyn Caldwell on February 1, 1997, in the Salt Lake City, Utah Temple. For nearly 25 years he found in Laurelyn pure goodness, faith, and a beloved eternal companion who compliments his personality, wit, and zest for life.

Together, Jeff and Laurelyn, have three beautiful daughters whom they love and care for with all their hearts. Jeff was a traditional family man. In the short years he had with them on this earth, he devoted himself to their nurturing and character development. He loved to host family game nights, applaud during their performances, introduce them to 80s music and culture, and teach them the truths of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Jeff cherished being able to share with his girls his love of Star Wars and had an impressive memorabilia collection. His family volunteered for anything from Star Wars Conventions to the Winter Olympics. However, nothing compared to their family volunteer summers

spent at the Nauvoo & British Pageants. For these performances Jeff could grow a beard thicker than Chewbacca, and his girls loved to watch him shave it into out-of-this-world fashions. You could often hear him saying, "Fear the beard!" Jeff also loved Elvis and could be found, even once on ESPN, dressed in an elaborate caped costume sewn by his most devoted groupie, Laurelyn.

From a young age, Jeff loved people and people loved his dimples. He flashed his killer smile often and worked to forge friendships that have lasted decades. With childhood friends he played soccer, ankle-biter football, church basketball, and high school football. His gentle nature kept him from being fierce on the field, but close to his cohorts. Jeff was the kind of friend who lifts you to a better place. He was an honest, solid, earnest yet playful teen who surrounded himself with fun, clean, crazy dudes who helped each other enjoy life but also come closer to God. Together these friends mentored each other and grew into powerful men, husbands, dads and community leaders. Jeff always had an easy and natural connection with youth and his children were comfortable to welcome their friends into their home.

As a youth, Jeff earned the prestigious Eagle Scout award from the Boy Scouts of America. This pursuit instilled in him the value of hard work as well as setting and accomplishing goals. He attended the BSA National Jamboree with his dedicated Scouting dad, brothers-in-law, and nephews. Jeff is always prepared.

Jeff served a two-year mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Oaxaca, Mexico. He loved his missionary days and returned frequently bringing his new bride, his parents, and his daughters back to his field of labor. He loved the Spanish language, refined his skills with university training, and chose professions where he could speak, write, and translate. But more than tacos, tamales, and mole, Jeff loved his mission because it is

here he deepened his desire to study the words of his Savior Jesus Christ. Jeff gently and frequently shared his light with colleagues, neighbors, strangers, youth, and friends. Despite being a night-owl, Jeff woke at 5 AM to teach an early morning scripture class to local high school students. Throughout his life Jeff served in his local church as a minister and teacher to children and youth, a Scoutmaster, a Sunday School instructor, a Bishopric Member, and an ecclesiastical leader. Jeff not only personally studied and shared the words of the scriptures, but he also lived, and wholeheartedly believed their teachings and truths. He is a true disciple of Jesus Christ and a Covenant Keeper.

Jeff gave service in a very personal and quiet way. He loved late night conversations with his family and took every opportunity to teach, tutor and train his girls. He could equally be found nestled in the background of a family photo or front and center pulling a silly face. He was introverted and gregarious, quiet, and loud, an individual and part of the group. He loved reaching out to those on his mind, as well as performing simple acts of kindness. He is close with extended family and in-laws wherein he gained brothers and best friends.

As the son of a forester, Jeff loved the outdoors. He, with his dad riding shotgun, took Stamp Stomp trips to National Parks all over the US. Together they talked and laughed and loved each other. Just this last Thanksgiving Jeff lovingly called his aging parents mommy and daddy. His mother was an educator and instilled in him the importance of education. Jeff graduated from Meadowbrook High School in Richmond, VA. He thrived during his time at Brigham Young University where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish Translation with a Business Management minor. As an adult learner, Jeff returned to the classroom at Southeast Missouri State University where he earned an MBA and then became a beloved part-time professor. His ability to

teach, mentor and inspire other learners is one of Jeff's many gifts.

Jeff's passions include his family, the Lord, international travel to over 25 countries, studying the Gospel, doing family history, all things Latin, BYU football, eclectic genres of music, Cheerwine vs Coke a Cola, serving in the temple, penny pinching, Little Debbie Snack Cakes, organizing stuff, curating collections, and attempting to win all friendly competitions against his wife. Jeff considered himself a terrible handyman, a lousy liar, a fashion disaster, and a bad cook; in reality he made a mean scrambled egg. Jeff, however, loves to laugh, tell humorous stories and jokes, and engage in light-hearted banter. And those dimples. Smiling during dark days and holding on for better tomorrows. His smile was infectious, and his magnetic personality and fun-loving nature never fails to light up a room. He will continue to light every room he enters.

Jeff is survived by his darling and devoted wife, Laurelyn; daughters Emmalyn (24), Hannah (21), and Abigail (18). He is also survived by his parents, Don and Cheryl Hansen, sisters Susan Bascom (Mike), Becky Erickson (Robert), Shelly Jenkins (Mark) and Stacy Stuart (Alex); in-laws, Roy and Marilyn Caldwell, siblings Cherilee Sorensen (Ryan), Marianne Jenson (Eric), John Caldwell (Jennifer), James Caldwell (Shelby), Juleah Davidson (Orion), Melynee Clegg (Robert) ; and many adoring nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 20, at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1732 N. Kingshighway in Cape Girardeau.

Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 21, at the same location, with Bishop John Fulton officiating. Those unable to attend in person may join via the following Zoom link:

<<https://ipc.zoom.com/j/96337234570?pwd=TIVRL3BXeThGYmZUZXIBWEJK>

R3hvdz09>

Missouri arrangements are under the direction of Ford and Sons Mount Auburn Funeral Home.

Interment will be at Orem City Cemetery in Orem, Utah on January 28th at 11:00 am. Arrangements under the direction of Sundberg-Olpen & Wheeler Funeral Home. Additional details will be posted on their website.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be given to the Hansen family: [https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-laurelyn-jeff-hansen-and-family?utm\\_campaign=p\\_cp+share-sheet&utm\\_content=undefined&utm\\_medium=sms&utm\\_source=customer&utm\\_term=undefined](https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-laurelyn-jeff-hansen-and-family?utm_campaign=p_cp+share-sheet&utm_content=undefined&utm_medium=sms&utm_source=customer&utm_term=undefined)

The family wishes to sincerely thank all those who have shown thoughtful loving support, generosity, and numerous acts of kindness.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN **20**. 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM (CT)

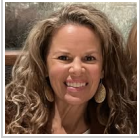
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints  
1732 N. Kingshighway  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

## Funeral Service

JAN **21**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints  
1732 N. Kingshighway  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

# Tribute Wall



“ *When we were teenagers, I attended a youth conference with my cousin Chris Keeter. Jeff was one of his close friends and we all had a great time at the conference. I remember how kind he was and what a fun experience I had being there with such nice young men. Fast forward years later and I discovered some of my favorite ward members in my GA ward were Jeff's sisters and parents! Such a wonderful family! Sending love and prayers for you all in this difficult time. I know Jeff will continue to watch over his beloved family.*

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**Lori Garrett** - March 05, 2023 at 10:40 PM

PL

“ *My condolences to his family; I worked with him several years ago. My prayers to the family... Fantastic friend...*

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**Pedro Larreal** - January 24, 2023 at 02:44 PM

KO

“ *My memory of cousin Jeff will forever be his witty sense of humor coupled with his warm smile. My heart breaks for his sweet wife Laurelyn, their daughters and the entire Hansen family. We pray for you and know that cousin Jeff was warmly embraced by loving family members who have also left us too soon. May we all try and smile more each day in memory of Jeff! Keeley and Dustin Olson*

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**Keeley Olson** - January 21, 2023 at 12:41 PM

MT

“ I am so deeply saddened with the untimely death of one of my favorite nephews . He always displayed such a warm and loving countenance with his big dimpled smile and friendly sanguine personality. He was truly a man of faith and displayed this in all he did in life . I send my love and condolences to Laurelyn his beautiful daughters , his parents, siblings and extended family . May he rest high upon that celestial mountain waiting to greet his eternal wife, children and all of us with open arms . Till we meet again dear Jeffy Aunt Marlene

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**Marlene Morris Thompson** - January 20, 2023 at 03:46 PM

CJ

We were so saddened with this news, it was great to see you and your mom. She told me about your dad and again was so saddened. I could feel the out pouring of love for you and your family today at the cemetery. Thank you for your friendship and kindness. The Lord's greatest blessings for you. Carl and Sharon Jensen

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**Carl Jensen** - January 28, 2023 at 10:31 PM

CR

“ so sorry.! my condolences to his family. I had the fortune to work with Jeff for several years and I will keep in my mind and my heart the memory of him, a great professional and a kind and honest man. Rest in peace.

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**Consuelo Rangel** - January 19, 2023 at 11:09 PM

MP

“ I had the best experience meeting Jeff while we worked together in the same company in NC. Being a mexican working for a foreign company, since day #1 he made me feel comfortable and by him speaking a perfect spanish, what i can I say, i just feel like home. Great human being, great life values and one of the biggest hearts I ´ve ever met in my life. I had the opportunity to call him a "Friend" while we worked together. Thank you for your friendship Jeff. My deepest condolences to all of his family and love ones. Sending Prayers to you from MX City. - Te extrañare amigo. Con cariño de Mauricio Paredes. -

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**Mauricio Paredes** - January 19, 2023 at 09:58 PM

SM

“ Jeff was one of the first members from the Alex ward we met when we moved to NC. I will never forget his kindness to us and his big smile. My early memories of our cherished time there will always have your wonderful family in it. Thinking and praying for you Laurelyn, and the girls. Love from, Shante & Rob Morrison

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**Shante Morrison** - January 19, 2023 at 07:37 PM

LB

“ I was saddened to see this obituary as I recall how sweet and kind Laurelyn and the Hansen girls are. I certainly wish you would have had more time with him here, but I know you find comfort is knowing you will be together again one day. Prayers for peace for you all.

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**Lisa Baker** - January 19, 2023 at 07:33 PM

LS

“ My heart is broken, my love to you all , Lauralyn and family. I so enjoyed all the wonderful times visiting with you all during home teaching visits, church, and playing basketball with Jeff. I am saddened by this news and loss and will pray for your comfort and care.

Les Sliger - January 19, 2023 at 03:37 PM

CB

“ I love you, Hansen Family! My heart aches for your huge loss. This obituary describes Jeff and your family so perfectly. His love for you was so obvious and strong. I hope all your many happy memories can bring you peace and joy.

Carrie Burton - January 19, 2023 at 11:05 AM

JG

“ We are so sorry to hear this. God bless the Hansen family. They are such great people and never knowing Jeff I know how great he was. Our hearts are heavy hearing about this and we are sending all our love and prayers to you all. Big hugs and lots of love from us.

jenn Gallate - January 18, 2023 at 09:50 PM

JW

“ My deepest sympathy to the Hansen and Caldwell families. Jeff was a delightful member of the College of Business at Southeast Mo State University as a MBA student and part-time instructor. Our community has lost a true gentleman who focused on serving and sharing his talents with others. Prayers for his family, Judy Wiles

Judy Wiles - January 18, 2023 at 07:28 PM

FV

“ I want to send my condolences, my prayers, and my love to everyone in the family. What an unexpected tragedy. Jeff was my cousin, and he would always take the time to respond to my annual video to friends and family. I will remember his positive responses and the love he would send. Jeff was a good man, a good husband, and a good father. He will be missed.

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**Farah Valdez** - January 18, 2023 at 06:58 PM

RM

“ I've never met Bro. Hansen, but I know he was a good man and good father because I know Hannah. Your family is in our prayers. - Roger (and Heidi) Merrill, BYU-Idaho, and The Playmill Theatre.

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**Roger Merrill** - January 18, 2023 at 02:39 PM