



## Brian Timothy Newton

September 7, 1975 - January 22, 2017

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Brian Timothy Newton, 41, of St. Augustine September 7, 1975 - January 22, 2017 Our beloved Brian—adored only son, loyal brother to his fellas, never-a-dull-moment husband (yes, that was a gorilla mask he wore while skipping and holding hands and balloons for the engagement photos!), proud and fiercely protective father, grateful son-in-law, favorite nephew, cool cousin, crazy uncle to his friends' kids, unflappable friend, humble artist, dynamic teacher, dedicated coach, witty workshop presenter, avid Redskins fan, solo backpacker, world traveler, karaoke lover, “family” member, and caring, kind soul—has passed into a place of perfect light, love, and peace. Brian forever brightened the lives of all those he touched through his lifelong gifts of teaching, inescapable personal magnetism, a compassionate heart figuratively two sizes too big, and his sense of humor that knew no boundaries. Brian was a graduate of Orange Park High School, and then of Flagler College with a degree in Deaf Education. As a teacher, Brian had enjoyed creating specially-designed, unique inside jokes to connect with each student and each colleague, as well as had thrived on transforming his whiteboards daily with his amazing dry erase marker drawings/perspectives of the Earth, universe, hurricanes, volcanoes, and other science concepts. Brian fell in love with one of these amazing colleagues, Karen, who not only became the love of his life, but also his best friend, secretary, champion, advocate, and

recipient of the lion's share of his jokes. Although he served as a role model and father figure to hundreds of children and young adults throughout his career, Brian's greatest joy and life's work was becoming a father to Harper—his favorite stinker! Brian was happiest when surrounded by friends, family, and "family" where he was the center of attention and primary distributor of hysterically funny insults gift wrapped with love; to be teased by Brian was to be loved by him, and we all were always eager and begging for more. He always was literally larger than life—6'5" with size 15 shoes, which were bigger than his beloved little dachshunds. Brian lived, loved, and breathed good music, enjoyed countless concerts with friends, and his karaoke interpretations of Neil Diamond and Elvis were legendary. The ultimate Redskins football fan and statistician, Brian watched every game with his friends and family, and was thrilled to go experience a few games over the years. An avid backpacker, Brian loved the solo experience and national parks, such as Yosemite and Zion, which inspired his awe of nature (and bears!). As a world traveler, he loved experiencing the raw solitude of Iceland and visiting family in England. Brian created a village—the Lightning Squad / Brian's Bolts—of love and support through friends and family, and he will be trending in our hearts forever. In the inspirational words of Eddie Vedder, Brian declared, "I'll ride the wave where it takes me." What a wave, what a ride, and what gratitude we have just for being a part of it. Brian's wave has had an expansive ripple effect: it created other waves that will continue to carry his love, spirit, and humor, leaving their indelible mark and all of us who crossed his path forever changed. Brian's loving family includes his parents, the late James Newton and Sally Kuder, married to Roger Kuder; wife, Karen Newton; daughter, Harper Newton; parents-in-law, Ted and Betsy Polakiewicz; brother-in-law, Stephen Polakiewicz and Meaghan Reed; and beloved aunts, uncles, and cousins. A Celebration of Life will be held Saturday, January 28, 2017, at 4:00 p.m. at the Deermeadows Baptist Church. A dessert reception will follow at the church. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Harper Newton College Fund at any VyStar Credit Union branch: please reference Harper

Newton's account ending in 7181.

# Tribute Wall

CC

“ God be with you and yours during this season of your life. Prayers for all! Cheryl Crumpler FSDB

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**Cheryl Crumpler** - January 25, 2017 at 12:00 AM

NG

“ I will always remember our conversations about our dachshunds. You will be missed so much Brian! God Bless your wife, daughter, parents and entire family. Rest in Peace my friend...

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**Nina Gregory** - January 24, 2017 at 12:00 AM

LF

“ Please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers. Losing someone is always difficult however losing someone so young and full of life is tragic as I just lost my 33 yr old brother this month. I hope that you find comfort in all the happy memories. Let them warm your heart during this difficult time. FDLRS Family

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**Lisa Flannery** - January 24, 2017 at 12:00 AM

MA

“ Dearest Karen, Harper and Brian's Family, Friends and Colleagues - Please know that you all have been and will continue to be in our thoughts and prayers. Thank you for sharing such an amazing individual with the world. Brian brought is infectious personality and commitment to serving others with him where he went. FDLRS was proud to call him one of our finest sons as he worked throughout the state making a difference in the lives of students, educators and families. It was a blessing for us to be able to give him a hug at our Winter Institute in December. Little did we know that would be his last one, but we have no doubt that he's helping God coordinate things up in heaven and surely bringing smiles to all. Free from pain and suffering, he lived a full and vibrant life and truly left his mark in this world and in our hearts. May eternal rest be granted unto him, O Lord and may perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. We pray for your comfort during this difficult time and hold on to the memories you have and the joy that you experienced while Brian was gifted to you from above. He will never leave you. God Bless. With love and prayers, The FDLRS Network

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**Mary Ann Ahearn** - January 24, 2017 at 12:00 AM

ZI

“ I was honored to be one of Brian 's colleagues. He and Karen were on my mind for month. I will miss him sorely,, but I take comfort knowing that he lived an eventfull and full life.

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**Zila** - January 23, 2017 at 12:00 AM

SA

“ My heart and love to Brian Newtons family and village of friends! You were and always be my 4th son!! Not goodbye but see you soon!

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**Sandy** - January 23, 2017 at 12:00 AM