



Brad Birkholz

October 16, 1971 - November 12, 2006

Bradley S. Birkholz, 35, Gold Canyon, AZ, died Sunday, November 12, 2006, as a result of a motorcycle accident. Funeral Services will be held at 11:00 am Friday, November 17, 2006 at Faith Lutheran Church, Bismarck with Rev. Wes Aardahl officiating. Visitation will be held from 2:00 pm to 9:00 pm Thursday at Eastgate Funeral Service, Bismarck. Burial will be held at the North Dakota Veteran's Cemetery, Mandan. Brad was born on October 16, 1971 in Bismarck, ND, to Diane Beglau and John Birkholz. He attended grade school at Rita Murphy Elementary School and graduated from Bismarck High School. After high school he went on to Bismarck State College for two years before joining the Air Force. He spent eight years in the Air Force flying on the AWACS plane while stationed in Oklahoma City and Japan. After leaving the Air Force he moved to Phoenix, AZ, to be close to his brother. He graduated from Gilbert College in Arizona. At the time of his death, Brad was working at EF Data Corp. and attending flight training. He was three months away from getting his commercial pilot's license. Being a pilot was his life long dream. When Brad was a child his room always had planes hanging from the ceiling. Brad had a personality that lit the room when he walked in. A person instantly liked him from the first meeting. Always smiling, he made many friends who remained close. Brad enjoyed all sorts of music, he enjoyed collecting memorabilia, and motorcycle riding with his friends. He is missed by those he leaves behind. His mother and father; one brother, Steve and sister-in-law, Laura of Gilbert, AZ; his grandmother, Rebecca Beglau; his aunts and uncles,

Judy and Jim Walker, Linda and Dennis Delzer, LuElla and Marvin Birkholz, Kathy and Gordon Birkholz, and Elda Bigelow all of Bismarck, ND, Janet Froehlick of Sacramento, CA, Florence and Bill Bullinger, Carol and Joe Ciavarella of Mandan, ND, Marilyn and Richard Birkholz of Fargo, ND, Shirley and John Fite of Obion, TN, Wayne Birkholz of Rockford, IL, Gary Birkholz of Littleton, CO, Jim Birkholz of Scottsdale, AZ; and many cousins and friends. He was preceded in death by his grandmother, Rose Birkholz; his grandfathers, Herbert Beglau and Art Birkholz; his uncle, Roger Birkholz; and his aunt, Nora Rohrich.

Tribute Wall

AN

“ I miss and love you Brad so much. You always new how to make me smile.

Andrea - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JR

“ Dear Diane and JohnOur deepest sympathy, tears and prayers go outto you both.God Bless

John Reynolds - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JD

“ To my God-parents: John & Diane; Steve, and all other family of Brad's:We are truly sorry for your great loss. Brad was a wonderful person with a huge heart. I cannot imagine how tough a time this must be for you, but please know that we are and will continue to pray for you and yours during this difficult time. May Brad rest in Peace.Jeb

Jeb J. Delzer - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BK

“ You know that our thoughts and prayers are with you in this time of sorrow. We can only try to imagine what you are going through. Remember we are here for anything you need.

Bill and Judie Keller - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ We enjoyed knowing Brad and we will miss him.

Mike and Mary - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

GL

“ *The past few days the memories don't seem to stop. Funny stories, road trips and late nights. I am thankful for the time that I had to spend with Brad. He will be missed.*

George LaFave - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CR

“ *My symphies to your family on your loss.*

Carrie Rosko - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TB

“ *I was so very sorry to hear about the loss of Brad. Brad will be sorely missed by all of his fellow employees and acquaintances at Comtech. Brad was an enthusiastic, hard working individual, that contributed greatly every day. Also, he had an extremely pleasant personality and an engaging wit that greatly added to the morale of the company. Again, my deepest sympathies to all of his family and friends. Ted B*

Ted Binkowski - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SW

“ *I have been thinking alot about the time I spent with Brad. We spent many weekends and after school days watching standup comedy, talking about girls, politics, and airplanes. Brad was one of my best friends. He was an intelligent, caring, giving, and very funny man. I will miss him. My deepest sorrow to his family, you are in my thoughts and prayers. Rest in Peace old friend. With love from your friend always. Shannon Wilcox*

Shannon Wilcox - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ I am so sorry for your loss. Your family is in my thoughts and prayers. Brad and I were very close. My son Michael and I have many great memories of him. We love him and will miss him every day.

Danielle Bailey - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RS

“ Diane, John and family, My thoughts and prayers are with you at this time of great sorrow.

Rachel Schmidt - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

PB

“ John, Diane & Family, I am so sorry for your loss. I send my condolences to the family and may God Bless each of you as you go through this difficult time of loss. Your wonderful memories will see you through this hard and trying time in your life. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you. God Bless You All With Deepest Sympathy Peggy Benz

Peggy Benz - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ John and Diane, I'm so sorry to hear of the passing of Brad. The memories that stand out for me is our time we spent in high school. We became pretty close friends and I will always remember driving together to grab burgers during our noon hour at school. Even though I didn't talk to Brad as much after high school, I always would ask Florence when I talked to her about what Brad was up to. He was a wonderful person and will be truly missed. My thoughts and prayers are with you and the family.

Jason Bullinger - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TK

“ John and Diane, I am truly sorry for your loss. Brad has been a friend of mine for a long time. We spoke at least 3 to 4 times a year and I always looked forward to our conversations to see how much closer Brad was to getting his pilots license. Or we would spend countless hours talking about the stupid stuff kids do when they are kids and how we didn't manage to get into more trouble then we did. Brad you will not be forgotten.

Tracy Knapp - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BB

“ DIANE & FAMILY,I WAS SO SADDENED TO HEAR ABOUT YOUR SON. GOD DOES WORK IN WAYS THAT WE JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND. I DO KNOW THAT THE MEMORIES YOU HAVE AND TIME CAN HELP THE HEALING PROCESS, BUT I KNOW IT'S NOT EASY. PLEASE KNOW THAT I AM THINKING ABOUT YOU AND YOUR FAMILY. GOD BLESS.

BERNIE BRADY - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TR

“ My deepest sympathy to the Birkholz family. You hit the nail on the head with the way he could light up a room statement. I clearly remember high school nights with Brad and his one of many different cars. Brad's "HANG ON" while driving his black Trans Am his ability to make people laugh. My thoughts are with you Brad.

Tom Rohlfs - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CV

“ First to John Diane and Steve. I am so very sorry for the loss of Brad. He had such an impact on everybody that he met. If you need help with anything please let me know. I love you guys and stay strong through this trying time. Brad, where do I even begin. We have spent a lot of time together through out the years 20 years to be exact. You have left us way too early and you will be missed by all of us. I know you never got your chance to fly down here but whos laughing now. I will miss you. Your good friend Clint.

Clint Vitez - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

HB

“ Dear John ,Diane ,Steve and Laura,Cheryl and I are so sorry for your loss.I can't even imagine what pain like this must be.Even though work prevented us from being there, you all were in our minds andprayers.His smile was everpresent and will alwaysbe remembered.Harlie

Harlan Bullinger - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

PH

“ I first met Brad while in Tech School at Sheppard AFB in Texas after basic military training. We were also in the same class at Keesler AFB, MS. Although we went through flight training at the same time we were in different squadrons. We met from time to time over the years and ended up getting stationed together in Okinawa, Japan.I only just heard about Brad's accident and am sorry to hear of his passing. A few of us here at Tinker AFB, OK have been trying to get in touch with those of us who knew Brad.TSgt Patrick Heston

Patrick Heston - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

HS

“ I first met Brad a few years ago when he began working at Comtech. We immediately had alot to say as I am from Bismarck. My family still lives there today. I heard about the accident today on my first day back to work from maternity leave. I have wept many times today as I also will always remeber Brad as a bright, witty and often very sarcastic individual. He was one of very few people that smiled and made me smile during the day. I will miss seeing him and trading jokes about why we no longer live in Bismarck. His untimely death has reminded me that life is short and each day we should remeber to love each other, keep our priorities straight, God and family first and not allow the little things to seperate or get to us. My heart goes out to the family members who have lost someone so precious to them. May God be able to give you a peace that surpasses all understanding during this time.

Heather Sease/Robinson - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ Please accept my condolences on the loss of Brad. We went through ground school together and shared the same instructor. Brad had a great sense of humor and I enjoyed sharing jokes with him and talking about our favorite comedians. We had planned on going to the Improv together for some laughs. Brad was a good man and will be missed.

Mike Shumway - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JW

“ John, Diane, Steve & Laura: I believe we have said just about all there is to say. Our feelings about Brad are more than we can express. My sadness is so great, I can't think about Brad without spilling over. However, my thoughts of him are only happy ones and the bright way he had of cheering everyone up; he was a ray of bright light when he entered a room. He left all of us way too soon, but God has a plan that we don't know about. Bless you all and take care of each other. Love is sent to all of you. Judith

Judith & James Walker - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JA

“ I just heard of Brad's untimely death on the day of his funeral. I wish I could have been present to personally pay my respects to Brad's memory and give my sympathies to his family. I met Brad when I first moved to Phoenix in 2003 and we have spent many, many days laughing, joking, advising, and venting about life with a cold one nearby. I'm a Phoenix police officer and, because of his love for aviation, Brad was planning on teaching me skills to help me become a helicopter pilot for the dept. We shared the experience of the Air Force and swapped many stories. My heart breaks at the missed opportunities to spend time with him and it brightens thinking about the precious time I did spend with him. Brad will be sorely missed. My deepest, most heartfelt sympathies go to his family.

Jennifer Anderson - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM