



Bryan Keith Sleeper

October 18, 1971 - September 28, 2011

Bryan Keith Sleeper, 39, Lincoln, ND, and formerly of Northwood, ND, died September 28, 2011, in the line of duty serving for the Burleigh County Sheriff's Department. Services will be held at 10:00 am Tuesday, October 4, 2011, at Trinity Lutheran Church, Bismarck, with Rev. Wes Aardahl officiating. Burial will be in Fairview Cemetery, Bismarck. Visitation will be held from 6:00 pm until 8:00 pm Monday, October 3, at Trinity Lutheran Church, Bismarck. Bryan was born October 18, 1971, in Grafton, ND, the son of James and Mary Ellen Janousek Sleeper. He was raised and educated in Northwood, graduating from Northwood High School in 1990. He earned his bachelor's degree at the University of Mary in 1997. He married the love of his life, Lana Lundstrom Eisenbeis, on October 22, 2005, in Bismarck, ND. Bryan's passion for wrestling spanned six years for the Hatton-Northwood High School wrestling team and three years for the University of Mary Marauders. He qualified three years for the State Wrestling Tournament and placed fourth his senior year. In Bryan's junior year of high school, he held the state record for the most pins in his weight class. He also competed for Northwood High School's football and track teams. He was an avid hunter and fisherman and a collector of coins, knives, and guns. He earned a 3rd degree Black Belt in Taekwondo and excelled at other Martial Arts; he had a 2nd degree in Hap Kido and a 1st degree in Kumdo, Kumbub. Bryan also taught self-defense classes in the city of Bismarck, swimming classes and was also a lifeguard. Bryan worked at the ND State Penitentiary from May 1999 until December

2006 and at the Bismarck Rural Fire Department from December 2003 until January 2008. While employed at the Penitentiary, he was a member of the SORT team. Bryan earned the Lifesaving Award on March 9, 2007. He was a member of the West Dakota SWAT team. Bryan volunteered at the rural fire department for Bismarck, ND. He earned his EMT certification and taught CPR and first aid at St. Alexius Medical Center and Burleigh County Sheriff's Department. Bryan was the vice-president of the Fraternal Order of Police Missouri Valley Lodge #3 for Bismarck. Bryan enjoyed spending time with his grandson, Hunter Hiccup; special nephew, Jace; niece, Kambree Ladybug; and niece, Meredyth Sweetcheeks. Bryan will be greatly missed by his wife, Lana, Lincoln, ND; sons, Branden Eisenbeis, Mandan, ND, and Jeremy Eisenbeis, Bismarck, ND; and daughter, Heather Eisenbeis, Lincoln, ND; his grandson, Hunter Eisenbeis, Mandan, ND; his sisters, Tammy George Herald, Jacksonville, FL, Michelle Zane Giltner, Powell, WY, Lindsay Brian Darrah, Grand Forks, ND, Alicia Busch, Bismarck, ND, Brianna Busch, Valley City, ND, and Sandy Brian Schmidt, Mandan, ND; his father and stepmother, James Kathy Sleeper, Northwood; his mother and stepfather, Mary Ellen Mike Prewedo, Moorhead, MN; and many aunts, uncles; his special nieces and nephews, Crystal Schmidt, Kaylee Schmidt Joe Schlosser and Coleton Schmidt, Mandan, ND; and his First Responder and Law Enforcement family. He was preceded in death by his grandparents, James and Helen Sleeper and James and Emma Janousek.

Tribute Wall

SS

“ I got to know Bryan @ U of Mary while we were both students there. He introduced me to "we fest", his hometown, and his dad Jimbo. I hope he enjoyed our friendship as much as I did, and hope to see him on the other side. Rest in Peace my friend.

Steve Marin aka SWAK - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ So sorry to hear about Bryan. He was in TKD with my son Kyle and he was one of our favorite people in the gym. Our prayers go out to Bryan's family during this difficult time. Mary and Daryl Splichal

Mary Splichal - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ I had the privilege of working with Bryan when he was a student at the U of Mary and lifeguarding at the YMCA. It was the early morning shift, 5:30 a.m. and he was at work with his friend Devin Mayer. Bryan, with his Tazmanian Devil tatoo was a big teddy bear. He was a swim instructor at the Y for my daughters when they were preschoolers. I'm glad that my life was touched by him. He was a gentle soul and will be missed.

Juanita Hocking - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

NG

“ Lana, I am so sorry to hear of your loss. I remember when you and Bryan were dating and getting to know both of you when I worked at NDSP. He was a great man who will be missed by many. Bryan will be in a lot of people's hearts. He touched many lives. You and your family are in my prayers.

Nancy Green - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MH

“ So sad to hear of Bryan's untimely passing. He was truly one of the nicest guys. I don't have one negative memory of him. May he rest in peace. May you all find comfort & support in this most difficult & sad time. My heart is very heavy. With my deepest sympathy....
Class of 1990

Michelle HalvorsonAnderson - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TS

“ My deepest sympathy to Lana and all the Sleeper family. Bryan was a wonderful person, friend and mentor. He taught me many things while we worked together at DOCR. Walking past the weight room or sitting in the WCH office will never be the same. RIP Bryan you will be missed by all.

Tim Skarphol - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

PB

“ My condolences to Lana and family. I got to know both Lana and Bryan when they worked at NDSP. I always enjoyed Bryan's sense of humor and his intensity. He knew who he was, what he stood for and always striving to be better. Listening to the music by the band Nickelback will never be the same. Rest well brother.

Pat Bohn - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CP

“Mister Bryan” as he was known to us in the Martial Arts, was an exceptional person and role model. I knew him through Tae Kwon Do and Kumdo when I was aged 10-14 over half my life ago. Not only that, but I'm fairly certain he was my first swimming instructor at "the Y" when I was but a mere pollywog. The sum of Mister Bryan's character was composed of patience, a desire to help people, and an ingrained need to do what is right. I didn't know him long, or recently, but from what I can remember, he was a great man and will be missed.

Chris Pyle - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CP

Mr. Brian was a fierce pussy cat. I took Tae Kwon Do & Kumdo where Mr. Brian was black belt. He was patient black belt but would accept nothing but your best. I will miss him.

Charlie Pyle - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SH

Please know that you are certainly in our thoughts and prayers. May God grant you peace and guide the family at this time of profound grief. Susan Sleeper Henderson and Hugh Henderson

Susan Sleeper Henderson - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DS

My wife and I want to express our deepest sympathy for the loss of your loved one. He will be remembered by those who worked closely with him in the Sheriff's Department as a friend, and a colleague. Burleigh County was very fortunate to have had such a dedicated deputy serving our community. With deepest sympathy, Commissioner Doug Schonert

Doug Schonert - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CW

“ TO Bryan 's Family, we are deeply sorry for your loss, Bryan was a great person to know. He was always kind, we always enjoyed his humor. He was a great Law Enforcement Officer. May you find peace and grace in the days ahead. Corey & Jane Walth

Corey & Jane Walth - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BG

“ Bryan & I spent many years side-by-side at Northwood Public School as we were “alphabetical” buddies Sleeper/Swenson. I remember being paired up with him for a few dance-related school Christmas programs and often wondered if I did any permanent damage to his toes. I always had a lot of respect for Bryan. He was passionate and dedicated about wrestling even when it wasn't the popular thing to do back then. It's very apparent that he extended that same kind of passion and dedication to his personal and professional life throughout his lifetime. Wishing you peace with love and friendship.

Beverly Gibson - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

ST

“ Bryan Sleeper, was my best friend in high school. I played football, basketball, wresteling and track with him. My fondest memories was going over to his house and spending time with Tammy and his parents. We spent a lot of time touring the great state of North Dakota with the windows rolled down, a few heavy metal bands playing on the radio, a few dollars in our pockets and the meaning of life all figured out in our heads. Little did we know those weren't the answers. There isn't a day that I haven't thought about him and our years together. I will continue to talk to him in my prayers. I want to send my condolences to his family and the rest of his friends. He has made lasting impression in our hearts and he will be greatly missed.

Steven S. Thompson - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

NH

“ My heart is aching for the Sleeper family. I have such wonderful memories growing up with Bryan in Northwood as I am friends with his sister Tammy. He was always there for anyone who needed it. He was so passionate at such a young age with his goals and interests. He inspired so many of us at school to push ourselves and go for it! Anyone who knew Bryan never forgot him. I loved reading the article about all that he did for all around him in his profession and making such a huge impact in this world. I'm praying for peace for his family. Much Love!

Nickie Rondestvedt Hilgert - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

AD

“ Lana, Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this time. Amanda and my heart fell heavy when we learned of what had happened. Know Bryan will always be your guardian as he was for so many citizens of Burliegh County. He will truly be missed. Bryan, Rest in peace brother, my friend.

Amanda Parker & Kelly Dollinger - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

LA

“ Very nice deputy who was very kind to me in 2007 after a domestic violence episode with my ex-husband. So sorry to hear of his passing.

Lavonne - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MK

“ Take care and know you will be missed. Rest in peace Bryan. My deepest condolences. Goodbye my friend.

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

CU

“ Bryan, From our first day of training together at NDSP, I new I would always be safe when you were around. You are greatly missed.

Carisa Smith Upton - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ I am unable to stand on the street while the procession passes by. I think this the most fitting gesture for people to do when they are unable to attend the funeral. I will be thinking and praying for Sleeper family during this time of sorrow. Blessings to all.

JOYANN HOLSTEN - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CM

“ Bryan was the kind of guy that everyone strived to be like. He was kind, brave, loving,funny, and most of all devoted. He gave his all to everything he did. He will be missed by all who knew him, but never forgotten by all whose lives he touched. My prayers go out to all his family and friends. God Bless you Bryan you are Americas True Hero.

Craig McGarvey - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SH

“ God's Speed Deputy, Thank you for your service to your Community, State, and Nation. May God's Blessings comfort and bring peace to your family and friends during this difficult time. Your Brothers and Sisters wearing the Badge will miss you, but will carry on with our duties to Honor your Legacy.

Sheriff Barry Hillestad - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ You were always there for us. The training at NDSP you gave me, I will remember forever. The days we worked together in Ad. Seg. were great. You will be missed.

Marc and Kelly Schwehr - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SM

“ My deepest condolences to Lana and the children, Bryan was a wonderful man, a person I looked up to while working with him and still looked up to the few times I had the privelege to come across him while he was on patrol. I will miss that smile, that laugh and the person in general that Bryan was. We can all learn something from Bryan, if everyone could be just a fraction of the man and person Bryan was this world would be a much better place. I am honored to say I knew Bryan and sad and hurt to see him have to leave this earth so soon. God Bless and keep his soul in his loving hands.

Scott Miller - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

NS

“ Brian was one of the most mature people I have ever met. I have known Brian for several years and worked with him in the past. One of the best guys to have on your side. He will be greatly missed. Very sad day.

norm stetson - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SM

“ Bryan was a high school classmate and will be dearly missed. He had a big heart and a big personality. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family.

Shari Maurseth - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

AL

“*“Final Call” An Angel In The Sky Must Leave His Place Of Rest, Gently Tucking His Wings Beneath His Armored Vest. For Duty Has Called, There Is Much Work To Do Little Did He Know, This One Is Dressed In Blue. Arriving On The Scene, He Knows Just What To Say, “Follow Me, Fallen Brother, I’ll Show You The Way.” “Your Duty Has Ended, Your Work Is Now Through.” “Come Hang Your Hat Beside Mine, I’m A Cop, Too.” My heart goes out to Officer Sleeper’s Family, Department Family & Friends. Let your memories help you heal.*”

Ann Leiseth - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

KB

“*We would like to send our deepest sympathy to Bryan's family. Our thoughts and prayers go out to you during this difficult time.*”

Ken & Judy Berg - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CS

“*Jim, Kathy, Mary Ellen, Mike, Lana, kids, my deepest condolences to all of you during this unimaginably difficult time. I remember, of course, when Bryan was in high school and just a couple of years older than my boys, and how proud you all were of him and it sounds like I missed out on a lot because I did not get to know him as an adult. What I am reading about him, he was truly an amazing and very giving person. You are all in my thoughts, prayers and in my heart. The world is a better place for his having been here. That should make you very, very proud. Take care.*”

Cathy Snyder - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

AO

“ I didn't get the opportunity to met Deputy Bryan Sleeper I wished that I had . Having retired from the Burleigh County SO ten years ago I worked with the best . I know that Bryan was to. Sincerely for Burleigh Sheriff's Department, Art Olson

Art Olson - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ We share your loss and celebrate Bryon's memory and dedication to duty. We are proud remembering that he lived a life of selfless service to many different people, and his state, community and family. I remember him best as a teenager when Russell and I visited the farm. His reputation reveals that he led by example and touched many lives. These rememberances from so many validate that he remained true to his values and family. Please let his spirit guide and comfort you. Our Lord has prepared a place for Bryan to await you. Until then, keep him close in your hearts.

Julia and Charlie Sleeper, Russell & Charlotte Sleeper - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

GB

“ My thoughts and prayers go out to Bryan's family. He was a good friend from the high school days of wrestling. He will be greatly missed.

Greg Beck - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

KS

“ Dear Mary Ellen and Family, We have read so many wonderful things about Bryan. What a strong and talented young man. Don and I send all our love and sympathy. Don and Kay Shilling

Kay Dipple Shilling - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TG

“ I am very sorry for the loss of Bryan. My sympathies go out to his entire family. I grew up with Bryan and graduated with him from Northwood. I was able to catch up with him last summer at our 20 year reunion and it was very obvious he was a happy man and very proud of his family. God Bless

Todd Good - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CR

“ Lana, Our deepest sympathies are extended to you and your family. Bryan is and always will be a great man. May you find peace in knowing you will be together again and he will be loving, watching, and protecting you from heaven. God Bless You All.

Connie Hackman Rivinius - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

EP

“ Special thoughts and prayers go out to Bryans family. My heart aches for your loss. It was nearly 20 years ago that we knew one another, however my memories of Bryan are all good ones. It is clear from all of the posts here that he was very loved and a wonderful man. May that love see you all through this difficult time.

Ellie Rettig Papineau - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RK

“ I knew Bryan in college where he gave me swimming lessons for free in his spare time. Always giving of himself, he was just plain fun to be around. He will be missed...

Rod Koch - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SW

“ Rest in Peace Brother, We have the watch from here.

Sheriff Toby Wishard - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SA

“ Lana and family, I'm so sorry to hear about your loss of Bryan. He will be greatly missed. I enjoyed working with him at the Prison and he was such a loving and friendly guy. I will keep you and your family in my prayers.

Sherri Allard - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ I am so sorry for your loss. My heart goes out to you. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

Connie Schwartz - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TJ

“ Our thoughts and prayers go out to you and the kids Lana. Many great memories over the years. Bryan was one of a kind and a great friend.

Tara Johnson - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ Bryan was the TaeKwonDo instructor for our son years ago at the YMCA in Bismarck. He was an inspired teacher, a person of integrity, kindness, and caring. He gave our son a life-long love for and commitment to martial arts because of his inspiration. He was a wonderful role model for our young son to have and we are grateful for his life. We pray you will be comforted by your precious memories.

Doug and Leslee Smith - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ Bryan was a co-worker, fellow fire fighter and dear friend. He was the kind of guy you looked up to and wanted to be around. We had many great memories together. Our hearts go out to Lana and the kids. He will be missed.

Joe and Lana Charvat - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ We will miss you Bryan. I will never forget your smile and the way you could light up a room. You are a true hero and I only hope to one day be the type of person you were. I have and always will look up to you.

James & Mindy Saylor - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

PJ

“ To Mama Mary Ellen, Dad Jim, Lana and family: Our sincere feelings of sorrow and loss to each of you. Bryan was a strong man, and he left this earth entirely too soon. We send a hug, thoughts and prayers to each of you.

Paul & Carol Janousek - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CT

“ My heart goes out to Lana and you family on the loss of a Wonderful Man, Friend, Co-worker and Former Fellow Fire Fighter. Our lives touched in so many ways and the fun times we had together will never be forgotten. Till we meet again. Rest in peace Brother.

Craig Theurer - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

EA

“ Bryan will be greatly missed by all! He was a classmate of mine in Northwood. I've been reading all the wonderful words that have been written about him and his great accomplishments. I was blessed to have a wonderful conversation with him at our 20th HS Reunion a little over a year ago. He was so proud of his family and work! I send my prayers to Lana and the entire Sleeper Family! May God be with you during this very difficult time.

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

JK

“ My husband and I want to send you all our deepest sympathy. We have heard nothing but praise about Bryan from others in the community. May the memories you have help you through this most difficult time. May God keep you close as you walk through this difficult time.

Julie Kuhn - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM