



Raymond Anthony Braunz

December 10, 1965 - June 21, 2014

Raymond Anthony Braunz, age 48, of Grand Junction passed away June 21, 2014, unexpectedly at his home. He was born December 10 1965 in South Haven to Raymond and Savonna Braunz and has lived the majority of his life in the South Haven Area. Raymond graduated from LC Mohr in 1984. Ray worked in an apartment complex maintenance for many years both in St. Joseph and Kalamazoo. He then worked maintenance at MPI Steel Heat Treat in Holland many years until they closed, he was one of 5 employees left when they closed. He later worked for Southwest Engineering as a home remodeler and electrician. He loved, camping, traveling, fishing, kayaking and pontooning around the lake and out to the swimming spot. He cherished his time spent with his children no matter what they were doing. He will be deeply missed by all of his family. He is survived by his 2 daughters, Ashley Braunz of Bangor, Madison Braunz of Grand Junction; son, Jackson Braunz of Grand Junction; 2 grandsons, Mason Williams, Payton Crandall both of Bangor; parents, Raymond and Savonna Braunz of Grand Junction; sister, Sandy (Dave) Besemer of South Haven; brother, David (Angie) Braunz of South Haven; special nieces Halea Besemer of South Haven, Kara Fazzini of Wichita Falls, TX; and nephews, Nathan and Jacob Braunz of South Haven. According to his wishes cremation has taken place. A memorial will be held at a later date.

Tribute Wall

DB

“ After almost a year, There is no way to say that it is alright. Rays death is the greatest sorrow anyone in my family has ever felt. I have come to realize, That as much as we miss him, is how he missed himself, the Ray that he even lost. We all try to remember the good times, but us that knew what he went through his last 2+ years. We must understand his pain, we do not want to accept that it was that bad. But too him, it was. I will always remember my brother as the most protective person I've known. Never even wishing harm on anyone, even people he should have. The shock of his sudden departure will always be that weight in the deepest part of our hearts. Time doesn't really heal, just slightly dulls the pain. Moving forward is a constant battle, yet it's what we must all do. We must not feel guilty, to have more great times. Enjoy the ones that we love, put up with the ones we don't. There is never a good way to say good bye forever

david braunz - June 15, 2015 at 11:29 PM

SA

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



sandy - December 01, 2014 at 01:34 PM

AS

“ *Dad today seems pretty blank without you, well most days do but the holidays seem to be pretty rough. Thank you for being such a wonderful dad, I will share the traditions you passed down to me, and our memories. Love you happy thanksgiving*



Ashley - November 27, 2014 at 11:11 AM

SB

“ *What moves through us is a silence, a quiet sadness, a longing for one more day, one more word, one more touch. We may not understand why you left this earth so soon or why you left before we were ready to say goodbye- but little by little we begin to remember not just that you died but that you lived and your life gave us memories too beautiful to forget. Dad & Mom*

Savonna Braunz - August 30, 2014 at 03:30 PM

AS

“ *Just the other day I received my necklace to put my dads ashes in. My seven year old mason and I were headed to the beach when he looked at me with a serious face and said " mom dont forget to bring Grammy, he loves the beach!" My eyes teared up and I started telling him stories of when I was a little girl. How we would spend hours searching for beach glass, swimming along the rocks, jumping the waves, and my all time favorite covering you with sand... we had so much fun, you were such a amazing father and I love you so much*

Ashley - August 09, 2014 at 11:01 PM

SA

“ 3 files added to the album *New Album Name*



Sandy - August 07, 2014 at 12:25 PM

SA

“ *My memories: I cherish and hold tight to my childhood memories shared with Ray, the days when we were young and life was carefree, times without stress, anxiety or sorrow.*

The countless hours spent having a blast on our Honda 70, running around as fast as we could on Halloween night for candy, going to Granny's for Christmas Eve, memories of making rafts for the pond out back and forts in the woods, catching tadpoles to snakes, we truly had great times.

I could not have had a better big brother to share that time with. Ray was kind and thoughtful, warm and generous; he had compassion for others, and a true love for those around him. May his spirit be free and at peace.

*With all my love,
Sandy*



Sandy - August 07, 2014 at 12:17 PM

JO

“ Always on our mind forever in our heart
I will never forget Ray. We had a good relationship and spoke frequently in the past 4 years. He was a great handyman. He taught me alot about different appliances and the outdoors.
We were always outside when together. We built a handrail with mason.
He asked me to pick him up some ice cream. He ate the whole gallon on one cone. He said" jo jo theres some ice cream" I went to get some there was a scoop left. Ray was a great person and loved his family very much.
We will share our pictures and memories with our 2 boys and never forget Ray.

joe - July 19, 2014 at 10:34 PM

SB

“ On behalf of Ray's family we would like to thank all who have shared your memories of Ray. There are so many to Thank- for your support, visits, cards, flowers, food- that we do not want to miss any one...so we will simply say to all of you who knew Ray and loved him as we do-thank you. We will miss him always but he will be in our hearts forever.
Thank you
ALL of Rays Family

Savonna Braunz - July 03, 2014 at 09:40 PM

SB

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Savonna Braunz - July 02, 2014 at 11:48 PM

DB

Such a handsome guy ray was. Thank you Savonna . This made me weep. Were at the cabin . Going to miss Raymond coming to see me .

Donald Borah - July 03, 2014 at 10:54 AM

SB

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Savonna Braunz - July 02, 2014 at 11:47 PM

SB

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Savonna Braunz - July 02, 2014 at 11:43 PM

AL

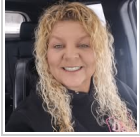
“ Raymond always supported his kids and was there for them. He could fix and build anything. If he didn't know much about it when he started He knew everything by the time he was finished. He took a little pottery shed , tore down walls, added on rooms, built a new kitchen and bathroom, redid everything from top to bottom and made it into a home his family could be proud of. His Home. A home that is now just a house with people living in it. Raymond would always check in on his family to make sure they were ok and if he could do anything for them. He would check on granny (my mom) everyday. Most of the time she would be sleeping and he would quietly watch her for a while then leave. When granny found out he had been over she would tell him, why didn't you say something after all I wasn't asleep I was just resting my eyes. That is how Ray was always trying to take care of everyone and make their lives a little easier. Raymond will be missed by many. But for me there will always be a void in my life and heart that will never be filled without him. Love Always Aunt Lisa

Aunt Lisa - July 01, 2014 at 09:42 PM

ST

“ Condolences to the Braunz family. Even though I was younger, Ray always treated me kindly as kids. I remember his Mustang and him letting David and I drive it around the yard sometimes. I would occasionally see him around SoHa and we would always chat. He will be missed. - Scott Thaler

Scott Thaler - July 01, 2014 at 05:53 PM



“ I have several great memories with the Braunz's... Greens Market, Smoking Monkeys, Crab Apple Fights, Little Motor Cycles, Homemade Zip Line, Mr. Georges Swimming Pool. I couldn't have had better friends growing up! He will be greatly missed by me and my family!

Katrina Harris - July 01, 2014 at 05:16 PM

DS

“ I have lots of fond memories of Ray, But my favorite memories are not what we did or said or where we were. It was how Ray made me feel when were together. His huge smile, His aura of sweetness and kindness, making me feel safe and comfortable. He always seemed genuinely happy to see me and I was genuinely happy to see him. All the feelings that are so important especially during adolescent years. But no matter how many years have gone by, whenever I think of Ray, I still have those same feelings. He was my friend and he will always be important to me. Love, Danielle

Danielle Smith - July 01, 2014 at 05:03 PM

CC

“ Thank you Ray for all the many smiles and beautiful heart you shared with everyone who crossed your path - keep smiling down on us until we meet again - we all love and miss you but we are comforted in your peace - peace my friend
Crystal Carr

Crystal Carr Carpenter - June 30, 2014 at 08:18 PM

LH

“ I remember all the fun times we had "back then". And I never remember seeing Ray in a Bad Mood. I hope he's happy and at peace now. Love you All! Lori Mahoney

Lori Holmes - June 30, 2014 at 05:33 PM

TB

“ Donny, Ray and I went to Ozzie Osborne concert in Kazoo together....Had a great time. Rest in God's arms Ray. You will be missed .

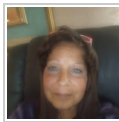
Trina (Rainey) Berghorst

Trina Berghorst - June 30, 2014 at 05:12 PM

AT

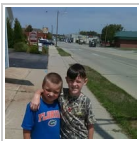
“ Ray always had a smile and a genuine interest in what was happening in your world. He was a kind soul and had a good heart. Great sadness comes over my heart at the hearing of his passing. May peace be salve to your hearts and time pass swiftly to peace.

Andrea Tait - June 29, 2014 at 08:02 PM



I will never forget you were my first kiss, the first to hold my hand, and the first I called boyfriend. you will always be in my heart. I know you have found peace dear friend and till we meet again !!

Donna Jordan - June 30, 2014 at 03:55 PM



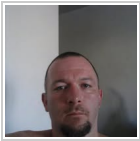
“ For my father William Dale Chamberlain...Raymond was a one of a kind man,he knew how to do a little bit of everything but was a master at none,except for being a father..a master indeed.He was a loveing and careing nephew that stoped by to check on me often.i shared alot of great times with Raymond,Im sure my sister Savonna had a few late night calls because of our GREAT TIMES...He will always be loved,and missed.

William Chamberlain - June 29, 2014 at 12:18 PM



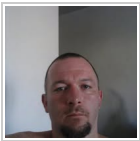
“ *There is so much I could say about Ray, what a wonderful man and father. My 'other dad'!! He was always so silly! He had the very best smile and the best laugh maybe I've ever heard. He was always friendly. Everytime we ever went anywhere, we always ran into someone he knew, and people who always had kind words to say about him. He is so incredibly missed.*

Kim Vorva - June 28, 2014 at 09:47 PM



“ *Ray always was fun to be around he always had a smile r.i.p brother u will be miss deeply....*

Russell Koenig - June 28, 2014 at 09:19 PM



“ *Ray always was fun to be around he always had a smile r.i.p brother u will be miss deeply....*

Russell Koenig - June 28, 2014 at 09:19 PM



“ *I will never forget how he when he had just a little to much "fun" he would grind his teeth. You are deeply missed my friend. Thank you for all the good times we spent together.*

ken wood - June 28, 2014 at 02:33 PM

D(

“ Ray always had a smile when u seen him. And always willing to help anyone out. I remember in HS, I was skipping class with a couple of girlfriends and he let me drive his car down to the beach! (he stayed in class :) that was my first introduction to a stick shift . And he never let me do that again. Prayers and hugs to his whole family... I know he will be missed. ????

Donna Roberts (Casselman) - June 28, 2014 at 01:43 PM

 Kenny Mines

“ He was always friendly and cool to chat with.Loved his smile.Always had something nice to say, wish I could bring him back.

Kenny Mines - June 28, 2014 at 01:30 PM

DB

“ okay we were about 10 or 11.I remember this one time me and ray went over to greens market and got one of those confetti party poppers. We took it back to his house. So we took the confetti out and put gunpowder in it. We thought it would explode. So we were tring to tie a longer string on it . We were having trouble doing it .Ray says you hold it and i will get it . So im holding this thing pointed at my face . And Ray trys to tighten the knot with his teeth . He pulls the string and it gose off . It just sparked really intensely right in to my face. It shinged my bang and burnt my eyebrows off . And after it happened Ray says oh wow sorry man . And we laughed. Really hard. Ive got a million stories for me and him hanging out. Im really goig to miss him alot.

Donald Borah - June 28, 2014 at 06:42 AM



“ *My cousin Ray was one a kind! Anyone in our family who knows me knows I am scared to death of heights, but somehow, someway, Ray convinced me to help him carry shingles up on a roof and had me sit staring at stars on grmas roof on park ave. Everything I know today of building houses I can thank my cousin for teaching me!!!! Ray was an awesome cousin and an amazing friend who will be missed by all who had the honor of knowing him!!!! Til we meet again!!!!*

Scott Edgerton - June 27, 2014 at 05:20 PM

MR

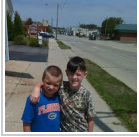
“ *Sending my love to all of my family, I'm so sorry for loss of a great member our family. I will always remember the big smile and hug that I received every time I saw Ray. Whether it was a family get together or a random passing of each other it was always a highlight in my day. I'm going to miss sitting and catching up with Ray and seeing his infectious smile that he always wore.*

Maggie Rendon - June 27, 2014 at 05:08 PM



“ *I wanna send love and prayers out to my Aunt Savonna and Uncle Ray, Cousins Sandy and David. Sorry for the families loss. I loved when we'd go camping as kids. Ray would always come hang out and the funniest shit was when we would sit by the campfire and Ray would always break things down and get all philosophical. He was very knowledgeable about a lot of things and and always made learning new things fun for me. Saw him more when I was younger but we could hang anytime. Gonna miss you bro. RIP man!*

Bill Mayer - June 27, 2014 at 04:52 PM



“ *The earliest memory i have of my first cousin was of him being really angry at me for burning our grandmothers house down where we both lived..we were (grandmas boys)on park ave.i always appreciated the time you took tobe a big part,and an inspiration to my upbringing and strong family morals.we love you ray,we will miss you greatly,you are finally at peace,in paradise.along side of our grandmother and grandfather..watch over us all until we meet again.*

William Chamberlain - June 27, 2014 at 04:21 PM

KC

“ *Raymond was a sweetheart. I will think of him often and miss him forever. He was always there for anyone who needed him. One of the best nephews in the world , I will miss him greatly.*

Kay Chamberlain - June 27, 2014 at 02:08 PM

SA

“ *2 files added to the album New Album Name*



Sandy - June 27, 2014 at 10:54 AM

BQ

“ *My deepest sympathy to Ray's family and friends. Losing someone you love is so difficult and when it's someone as young as Ray it seems even harder to cope with. Please know that God is saddened by your loss also, he does not want your family to grieve in pain. He is very well aware of the many fond memories you shared together. Hopefully you can find some comfort in His promise of a resurrection. (John 5:28,29) As you await the fulfillment of His promise, take comfort from His word, and extend comfort to your other grieving loved ones. (2 Cor 1:3,4) You can also find and share encouragement from the site www.jw.org. All the best wishes for your family at this difficult time, I am truly sorry for your loss.*

Babe Quintrall - June 27, 2014 at 10:42 AM

AS

“ I want to start off by saying thank you for all the support from everyone my family and I greatly appreciate all the support. My father was a amazing man. He lived life for his family and friends. Growing up I remember everywhere we went my dad knew someone. He was always saying hi with a huge smile and a memory to share. He loved to be outdoors, I have countless memories camping at the family property, looking for rocks on the beach, we loved to swim sometimes I swear we are part fish. Lol... it didn't matter whether it was a pool, lake, pond we just loved the water.

My father loved to play his guitar, he would crank his amp up get his treasured guitar out and jam to his rock. If he was not playing the guitar he was rocking out on the stereo.


Growing up I learned so much from my dad he was always building or working on something. I prouly was not the most help but I treasure the memories watching my father tge handy man. We always would say, "ray ray hes the man he can't fix it no one can..." My father had a heart of gold and wore it on his shoulder! The love he had for myself my sister madi and brother jack was so deep he was such a proud daddy, he would drop anything and in the blink of a eye he was there when we needed or wanted him.

He loved his whole family and loved to share stories wirh all if us. The fourth of july is right around the corner, my dad loved fire works, I was just sharing a stories with my seven year old mason and we giggled together as I toldhim about his grampy oohing and aahing as the sky lit up or sometimes at the little sparkling ones.

Regardless he loved every minute.

I could go on forever sharing and I will. I will hold my father close to my heart as he watches over, I will share all the memories and pictures with my two beautiful amazing boys, so they know how amazing, funny, loving grampy they have watching over them.

Ashley - June 26, 2014 at 11:15 PM

 Nancy
Irish

“ *Nancy Irish lit a candle in memory of
Raymond Anthony Braunz*



Nancy Irish - June 26, 2014 at 06:57 PM

DC

“ *Donna Corbin lit a candle in memory of
Raymond Anthony Braunz*



Donna Corbin - June 26, 2014 at 06:45 PM

 Nancy
Irish

“ *If our tears could build a stairway and our memories a lane. We
would all walk right up to heaven and bring you home again. Love
and prayers to your family, you will be dearly missed, Ray!*

Nancy Irish - June 26, 2014 at 05:45 PM

SB

“ *2 files added to the album New Album Name*



Sandy Besemer - June 26, 2014 at 01:25 PM

DB

“ Raymond was my best friend through all these years . I will miss him dearly . He give me so many great memories and good times. I will hold them close to my heart for the rest of my life. He was a man with a big heart and i love him li a brother . With Love Donald Borah

Donald Borah - June 26, 2014 at 01:16 PM

LC

“ Raymond was a sweet little boy who grew into a kind compassionate and caring man. He touched so many lives in ways he will never know. Raymond will be forever loved and remembered.

Lisa Chamberlain - June 26, 2014 at 12:11 PM



“ I've known Ray since we were kids. I have so many fond memories I don't know which to share. Rays family is in my prayers. If there's anything I can do please don't hesitate to ask. Love to the family stick close and lean on each other.

Theresa Easley - June 26, 2014 at 11:12 AM

JK

“ I remember Ray when we were kids and he was always smiling and kind to everyone. I will keep your family in my thoughts and prayers.

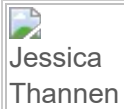
Jacquelyn King - June 26, 2014 at 07:54 AM



“ *Daralyn Braunz lit a candle in memory of Raymond Anthony Braunz*



Daralyn Braunz - June 26, 2014 at 06:13 AM



“ *I will always remember Jon and I riding bikes out to see Ray and Sandy. What a fun summer. Your family is in my prayers.*

Jessica Thannen - June 25, 2014 at 10:14 PM



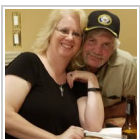
“ *Ray will always hold a special place in my heart. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family and friends.*

Debra Stewart - June 25, 2014 at 07:06 PM



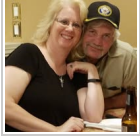
“ *My sympathy goes out to Rays family and parents. I have known him most of his life and I am sorry to hear about the loss of him. You are all in my prayers. Alice Bradford*

Alice Bradford and Phyllis Reyna - June 25, 2014 at 06:57 PM



“ *I will always remember his kindness and his smile. Prayers to the family.*

Razanne Sheets Day - June 25, 2014 at 06:53 PM



“ *I will always remember his kindness and his smile. Prayers to the family.*

Razanne Sheets Day - June 25, 2014 at 06:53 PM

AB

“ *my thoughts are with you and your family in this time. much love to you and your family. Amanda*

Amanda Balasick - June 25, 2014 at 04:52 PM

MI

“ *Sandy - Much love, many hugs to you and to the family. Michele*

Michele - June 25, 2014 at 09:33 AM

JW

“ *We are so very sorry for your loss. You are all in our hearts and prayers. Dave, Sandy, and girls, we send you our love and lot's of hugs.*

Jackie and Mike Washegesic

Jackie Washeegsic - June 25, 2014 at 07:49 AM

SG

“ *You were -are a Great Man Ray and you are well loved, You will be missed deeply...Love You my Friend....*

Sharon Gullion - June 24, 2014 at 10:04 PM