



## Christopher Todd McKnight

February 15, 1969 - March 22, 2019

Christopher McKnight, 50, of Ephrata, Washington, passed away on Friday, March 22, 2019. He was a loving husband, father and friend to all children entrusted with their care. Chris was born on February 15, 1969 in Tacoma, Washington to Dennis McKnight and Gloria Gurr. Growing up, Chris loved spending time playing football, camping, hunting and enjoying the outdoors with his gang of buddies (brother and sister) Rod and Lynette Follett; Larry (Rachel) Moreno; Glen (Laurie) Bates; Darrel (Theresa) Lembcke; Dan (Kristy) Beierman; Dave (Julie) Milbrandt; Terry (Nicole) Clemans; Kyle (Jessica) Aloysius; Roger (Nicole) Iverson; Jory Latimer; Shaun (Karen) Krantz; Will (Stacy) Mouat; and many, many others. He loved golfing, especially with his son Cameron and Grandpa Buck. He enjoyed snorkeling with his daughter Brooke. He coached football, baseball, fast-pitch and basketball over his career. Chris met the future love of his life, Melissa Hatch, in his freshman year at Ephrata High School. It wasn't necessarily love at first sight, but set the foundation for an eventual 20 plus year marriage. Chris received his Bachelor's Degree in Special Education at Washington State University and his Master's Degree from United States Sports Academy and his Principal Certification from Heritage College. He worked for 24 years in the field of education. Chris hardly ever met a child he didn't like and spent his entire career helping children navigate during times of crisis or need. His ability to connect with kids was a gift and was able to help scores of kids that needed an empathetic ear, someone to talk to, of someone to give them a leg

up in life. Chris dearly loved his children, Cameron and Brooke. He especially loved the fast paced camping trips with his kids and wife. A highlight of his life was purchasing Brooke's first horse, with her, at Safeway. Chris is survived by his wife Melissa; son Cameron; and daughter Brooke. He is also survived by his father Dennis (Georgia) McKnight; sisters Katie (Nick) Dire and Cindy Gurr; grandmother Shirley Nelson; aunt Cindy (Rick) Anderson; cousins Reid (Anessa) Anderson JJ Anderson; Grant Nelson; Natalie Nelson; many nieces and nephews; father- and mother-in-law Joe and Camilla Hatch and a host of Hatch patch in-laws. And chosen family Scott (Sam-Jane) Evens, Michael (Kylie) Evens, Brian (Cara) Evens, Marty Field, Cory Keller, Carlos Gill, Deno (Melissa) Wiebenga, and Daniel Stenbakken. He was preceded in death by his mother, Gloria Gurr: and his grandfather, Buck Nelson. There will be Celebrations of Life in Warden, Quincy and possibly Ephrata to be determined at a later date, due to not having a venue large enough to accommodate everyone who has expressed to us that they want to attend his service. Please express your thoughts and memories for the family at [www.nicolesfuneralhome.com](http://www.nicolesfuneralhome.com) Arrangements are under the care of Nicoles Funeral Home, Ephrata, Wash.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR **30**. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (PT)

Nicoles Funeral Home  
157 C St. N.W.  
Ephrata, WA 98823  
(509) 754-3420  
[bea.white@nicolesfuneralhome.com](mailto:bea.white@nicolesfuneralhome.com)

# Tribute Wall

SG

“ Always love you! You know that and I know your with mom and knowing we all will be together again !! ❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️

---

**sister Cynthia Gurr** - August 09, 2021 at 12:41 PM

LK

“ Missy, Cameron and Brook,

*Our hearts and prayers are with you in the hope that you are able to find some peace and comfort one day soon. Chris was such an amazing person who shared of himself with anyone who needed his guidance. We shall always be grateful for having known him.*

*lots of love to you,*

*Cory & Lori Kinzel*

---

**Lori Kinzel** - April 22, 2019 at 07:27 PM

CP

“ When I think of teachers, friends, or mentors that have truly made an impact on my life, McKnight is the first one that comes to mind. As a Junior attending Quincy High School Mc Knight was not only my Varsity girls Fastpitch Coach, he was also a mentor and most importantly my guardian. I say my guardian because he helped guide me through a rough time when life didn't seem to matter anymore. McKnight swooped in at the right time to help me in my time of need. He allowed me to have a safe place in his classroom away from the drama that took all interest of everyday life away. During this time he was there to listen when I needed to vent, give advice even when I didn't ask, and always cracked jokes to make me smile. I can honestly say without him, I wouldn't have been able to get through that hard time in my life. McKnight allowed me to enjoy life at school once more and always reminded me that he would be there for me, and he was.

As a coach, he showed us what teamwork is even when we would have to run extra while teammates worked out their issues. We won as a team, lost as a team, and learned as a team. McKnight pumped us up before and after any game with his motivational speeches. He saw potential in each and every one of us and wasn't quiet about expressing it to us. He gave teammates courage to try new positions. I thank him for seeing my athletic ability playing center field in which I was blessed to be chosen All League First Team Outfield for two consecutive years. Playing softball under his coaching those years in high school were the best memories when thinking about sports.

When I heard of his passing, my heart sank and all I could think of was his family and how hard it must be for them to have lost such a great father and husband. I am sad that I never got to directly say “thank you” to McKnight after all these years. Since I it wasn't said then, I felt this was my way of saying “Thank you!” With a big hug! McKnight you will be missed by many. Memories will keep your spirit alive forever!

---

Crystal Pedregon - April 02, 2019 at 10:34 PM

Alida  
Sullivan

“ *Mr McKnight was a hero to my family he stood up for my daughters and we will never forget his kindness and devotion to the kids he worked with much love sent from the Sullivan to McKnight family thank you for sharing this amazing man with us*

---

**Alida Sullivan** - April 01, 2019 at 11:31 PM

MM

“ *My condolences to Melissa and kids and all of Chris's family and friends.*



---

**Margie Milbrandt** - March 31, 2019 at 11:18 AM

DM

“ *Missy....our hearts are broken for you, Cameron and Brook. Also for your parents Camilla & Joe Hatch, sister Cami Sue's family and brother James' family. Prayers & hugs coming your way from our hearts.*

---

**Della Myers** - March 30, 2019 at 03:45 PM

ST

“ *Because Purple is my favorite color!*



---

**Stacey** - March 30, 2019 at 10:17 AM

ST

“ I am so sad to hear of Chris’ passing! When I heard about it I was in tears! He was working so hard to better my 6th & 8th grader & he used to be my teacher in Quincy when I attended school there! I will definitely be making sure I attend at least 1 of these! Love & miss you dearly Chris McKnight & to his family I’m very truly sorry for your loss

Love Always,  
Stacey Elliott  
RIP Chris McKnight  
Fly With The Angels  
Gone But Never Forgotten  
P.S. make sure you say hi to my family up in heaven!

---

**Stacey** - March 30, 2019 at 10:16 AM

PF

“ Perez Family lit a candle in memory of Christopher Todd McKnight



---

**Perez family** - March 30, 2019 at 12:33 AM

RF

“ Rachel And Nicholas Rice And Family lit a candle in memory of Christopher Todd McKnight



---

**Rachel and Nicholas Rice and Family** - March 29, 2019 at 05:23 PM



“ I remember this guy as Mr. McKnight, a teacher at Quincy High School and was most definatley a mentor to the class of 1999 and 2000. He helped friends of my daughters and always had their backs. Such a great soul. I'm so sorry for your loss.

-----  
**Dawn Schmider Cummings** - March 29, 2019 at 04:10 PM

SH

“ When my family moved to Ephrata in 1979 we were unloading the Uhaul when a kid with dark curly hair and big dimples rode up on his bike. He said Hi! I'm Chris! I heard a new family with kids moved here, want to ride bikes? He was just that nice forever. Never had anything bad to say to anyone and was true blue. My heart goes out to you Missy and your kids. Much Love, Susan Madden Hottel

-----  
**Susan Madden Hottel** - March 29, 2019 at 03:05 PM

 Ellie Osborne

“ Missy,

*I am so sorry to hear about Chris. My heart, thoughts and prayers go out to you and your kids. Also, I feel for the kids that he mentored . . . oh so many lives he touched! Love you,*

*Ellie Osborne*

-----  
**Ellie Osborne** - March 29, 2019 at 01:45 PM

TF

“ The Phillips Family lit a candle in memory of Christopher Todd McKnight



-----  
**The Phillips Family** - March 29, 2019 at 11:49 AM

NM

“ *Nancy Mireles lit a candle in memory of Christopher Todd McKnight*



---

**Nancy Mireles** - March 29, 2019 at 11:41 AM

SV

“ *So sorry to hear of your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you all!*

---

**Sigrid Vira** - March 28, 2019 at 11:01 PM

KL

“ *My deepest condolences to Mcknight family, friends, amd colleagues. He was an amazing man with a big heart, and beautiful soul. He will be missed by all.*



---

**Krystal Lopez** - March 28, 2019 at 10:19 PM

YL

“ *Yaneth Lopez lit a candle in memory of Christopher Todd McKnight*



---

**Yaneth Lopez** - March 28, 2019 at 04:53 PM



“ Missy,

*We are so sorry to hear of Chris' death. He was a great guy and an inspiration to many. His love for you and the kids always shined through. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.*

*David, Karen, RaeShelle, and RaeAnna Hand*

---

**Karen Hand** - March 27, 2019 at 06:42 PM

GM

*To the family,  
Chris was a good guy. Like a son to us when he was growing up. Many times over my years He will be missed and there are no words to express our sorry to the family. You are in our thoughts and prayers.*

---

**Gidget Moreno** - March 28, 2019 at 12:30 PM

GM

*Many times over my years I have thought of a time in particular with my son Larry and Chris. Sweet memories.*

---

**Gidget Moreno** - March 28, 2019 at 12:32 PM



“ Karen Hand lit a candle in memory of Christopher Todd McKnight



---

**Karen Hand** - March 27, 2019 at 06:38 PM