



Peter (Pete) Drake Pennington

June 21, 1981 - June 4, 2022

Peter Drake Pennington (Pete), age 40, was born on June 21, 1981 in Goldendale, Washington. He died in Bend, Oregon on June 4, 2022.

From a young age Pete loved nature and the great outdoors. Growing up he was active in Boy Scouts. He trained in Pacific Northwest Search and Rescue, and became an Eagle Scout while attending high school in Kent, WA. Pete received a liberal arts degree from Grinnell College in Grinnell, Iowa. He later earned a master's degree in counseling from OSU Cascades in Bend, OR.

Highlights of his career include mentoring at-risk youth in a wilderness program, and building a successful problem gambling recovery program. He was a skilled and compassionate mental health counselor.

Pete was incredibly creative, with interests varying from playing and composing music, to wildlife photography, to writing poetry, fiction and nonfiction, to documentary filmmaking. He was constantly pushing himself to learn new skills and take on ambitious projects. An orchestra piece that Pete composed was performed during his commencement ceremony at Grinnell College. Pete traveled the world. He enjoyed yoga, and practiced meditation. He loved kids, and got along well with elders.

He was an avid sportsman. Pete kayaked through the Grand Canyon, and

was a rock climber. He hiked, biked, backcountry skied, hunted, and fished. He loved camping, and spent many nights under the open skies of Central Oregon.

Throughout his life, Pete struggled with his mental health. He continually worked hard to understand and navigate these challenges. As a counselor and educator he dedicated his career to helping others with similar troubles.

Pete is survived by his beloved chocolate lab, Anna; his mom and dad, Sue and Paul Pennington; sisters Amy Pennington (Shahrear Navin Rahman) and Laura Pennington (Elliot Stapleton); niece and nephew June and Avery Stapleton; and many aunts, uncles and cousins.

He will be deeply missed by those who love him, and his memory will live on in their hearts. A celebration of Pete's life will take place on Friday, September 9, 2022, at 12 Noon at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Central Oregon, 61980 Skyline Ranch Rd, Bend, OR.

Memorial donations can be made to NAMI of Central Oregon (info@namicentraloregon.org), or a charity of your choice.

Tribute Wall



“ 18 files added to the album *Obituary Wall*



Niswonger Reynolds Funeral Home & Greenwood Cemetery - May 18, 2023 at 03:10 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *New Album*



Niswonger Reynolds Funeral Home & Greenwood Cemetery - May 18, 2023 at 03:10 PM



“ *Peter (Pete) Drake Pennington*

Anonymous - December 08, 2022 at 12:00 AM

HB

“ Q: *How did you meet Peter (Pete)?*

A: I met Pete at Trout Creek Campground. I didn't realize what an incredible impact he would have on my life. I fell in love with his charm, his knowledge, his thoughtfulness, and his spirit. He took my kids all the way up the mountain. He took pictures of horses and wrote poems. I wish...so much. Peace for his spirit. I pray for comfort for his family. I will never forget you, Pete.

Heather Brown - September 22, 2022 at 12:00 AM

SW

“Pete, you and I met at our favorite adventure spot. Trout Creek. You and I instantly hit it off. We shared a deep passion and that was Mental Health and addiction awareness..Trough our own personal experience we were able to connect on so many levels. Your enthusiasm and zest for life was admiral and people were instantly drawn to you once they got to know you, and I mean the real you. The Raw The vulnerable and the authentic Pete.

In your honor I share a special poem:

*No one knew the torment,
That you were going through ;
We only kept on seeing
What we really wanted to.*

*We saw the outward smile,
But not your inner pain;
We never really dreamt,
That you would never smile again.*

*Forgive us if we failed to see,
What we could do to aid;
Or if we failed to comprehend,
How much you were afraid..*

*We pray your mental anguish,
Will now forever cease
And that your deep anxieties,
Will be replaced by peace.*

*We know your pain invaded,
Every single thought you had;
It made you cry internally,
And deeply, deeply sad.*

But we in turn remember,

*The good times, not the bad;
We remember when you smiled at us,
And not when you were sad
So when we think about your life,
We won't dwell upon it's close;
We'll remember all the good times,
And forget about life's blows*

*We'll remember all the happiness,
The joy and not the tears;
The assurance and the confidence,
And not irrational fears.*

*Our lives have all been better,
Because you have been there;
So now we leave a memory,
Your in Gods all- loving care.*

Forever in our hearts and forever in our minds

*Love always,
Sabrina and Darren*

Sabrina Wilson - September 22, 2022 at 12:00 AM

DK

“ *The times we were able to spend with Peter were wonderful and some of our fondest memories. He was humorous, fun and adventurous.*

Peter easily showed his wit and intelligence. He brought a great deal to the family gatherings we had over the years.

We will always remember Peter and the great times we were so fortunate to share with him. He is deeply missed.

Dale & Marcia Kaasa - September 22, 2022 at 12:00 AM

AH

“Pete and I became very close as we both fell in love with music composition and theory at Grinnell College. I recall many, many hours of the most stimulating conversation, on any and all topics with Pete. Pete was a livewire that brought passion, brilliance, sometimes a little chaos, into any situation. I loved him for it. He took me hiking once after we graduated, way up into the mountains outside of Seattle. We got lost and I hurt my knee. But he led us out safely. It was one of the greatest nature experiences I've ever had. I'll be forever grateful for the gift of Pete's presence in my life.

Ari Hart - September 22, 2022 at 12:00 AM

BD

“Plant another tree for Peter. He will probably end up with his own forest. A lasting tribute to a nephew we admired.

Bonnie and Doug - September 06, 2022 at 12:00 AM

DM

“Remember the great times we had with Pete. Sorry for our loss. With you in spirit.

Dale & Marcia - September 02, 2022 at 12:00 AM

SW

“Photos Pete captured at Trout creek of the wild horses , offsprey and natural wildlife. Pete, we will remember you as an offsprey souring over us all, so from here on out whenever we see an offsprey we will find comfort knowing you are with us always. ❤️❤️
❤️

Sabrina Wilson - August 26, 2022 at 12:00 AM

AN

“ *Peter (Pete) Drake Pennington*

Anonymous - August 26, 2022 at 12:00 AM

HB

“ *Pete's selfie ❤️ And Sabrina and Cameron at Trout Creek*

Heather Brown - August 24, 2022 at 12:00 AM

HB

“ *I pray for comfort for his family and final peace for his spirit. Here is a picture of all of us at Trout Creek and some poems he wrote. Love you, Pete.*

Heather Brown - August 24, 2022 at 12:00 AM

HB

“ *Flowers Pete photographed*

Heather Brown - August 24, 2022 at 12:00 AM

SU

“ *Thank you, Anna, for the photo and your gracious message. Through his friends we are able to know Pete more fully.*

suepenn - August 15, 2022 at 12:00 AM

AC

“ *Pete was such a kind and genuine guy. I got to know him on a Grinnell spring break when we volunteered at the Pine Ridge reservation.*

Anna Carey - August 08, 2022 at 12:00 AM

JL

“ Peter contributed so much to the earth and to so many people. His life was such a gift of service. I pray this tree will give honor to his legacy.

Jennifer Lovegren - August 02, 2022 at 12:00 AM

AN

“ I cannot speak to what you are going through but I want you to know our hearts hurt right along with YOU. May each tree planted bring comfort!

Anonymous - July 29, 2022 at 12:00 AM

SP

“ Thank you, Sheila. Your photos and memories brought tears to our eyes - and comfort to our souls. Pete had a second home with your family - filled with adventure, laughter, and love.

Sue Pennington - July 16, 2022 at 12:00 AM

SP

“ Thank you, Jimmy, for sharing your wonderful childhood memories with us. It makes us smile to think of those days so long ago. How kind of you to reach out.

Sue Pennington - July 16, 2022 at 12:00 AM

SP

“ Thank you for your thoughtfulness, Art.

Sue Pennington - July 16, 2022 at 12:00 AM

SP

“ Thank you, Linda, for your kind words and gracious gift in Pete's name.

Sue Pennington - July 16, 2022 at 12:00 AM

BA

“ Strong and true. Caring and intelligent and resourceful. Nurtured others. Pete remains as someone to admire.

Beth and Mel Adams - July 03, 2022 at 12:00 AM

SC

“ Peter (Pete) Drake Pennington

Sheila Catterall - June 24, 2022 at 12:00 AM

SC

“ Remembering you and Peter (Pete) Pennington in our minds and in our hearts.

Sheila, Damon, Tobin, Mignon & Carson - June 24, 2022 at 12:00 AM

LO

“ Peter (Pete) Pennington will remain in our hearts forever. He helped me so much. He always was so genuine and caring of others and a brilliant mind.

Linda Opdycke - June 22, 2022 at 12:00 AM

LO

“ Peter (Pete) Drake Pennington

Linda Opdycke - June 22, 2022 at 12:00 AM

DJ

“ With love for our cousin Pete and fond memories of being kids together at family camp.

Drake, Zach, and JoJo - June 20, 2022 at 12:00 AM

TS

“ Peter (Pete) Drake Pennington

Tribute Store - June 20, 2022 at 12:00 AM

AS

“ Sincere condolences on the loss of Pete. peace and Joy, Art Sasaki

Art Sasaki - June 20, 2022 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ I just found out today seeing a post on Facebook. I don't have any words at this moment, other than heartbroken. Peter was such a huge part of my childhood. We were like brothers for so many years. Enough adventures and memories to fill a book. Paul, Sue, Laura, Amy... I'm so sorry. Deepest of condolences to you all, Jimmy Fisher (I'd love to hear from any of you. Drop a line anytime.) Jimmiemf@yahoo.com

Jimmy Fisher - June 19, 2022 at 12:00 AM

AP

“ We are deeply sorry for your loss ~ Niswonger-Reynolds Funeral Home

A Memorial Tree was planted for Peter "Pete" Drake Pennington - June 16, 2022 at 12:00 AM

BH

“ *Peter (Pete) Drake Pennington*

Bend Funeral Homes - June 16, 2022 at 12:00 AM