



## Gregg "Barney" Gerard Graff

March 4, 1965 - March 13, 2018

Athletic Trainer Gregg "Barney" Graff died unexpectedly at Good Samaritan Hospital on March 13, 2018 in Corvallis, Oregon at the age of 53.

Gregg is survived by his mother, JoAnn Graff of Holstein, Iowa; wife, Debra; sons, Jake and Mitch; brothers, Scott (Candi) of Holstein, Iowa, Curt (Jodi) of Iowa City, Iowa, Matt (Johnna) of Lincoln, Nebraska and nine nieces and nephews. Father, Douglas Graff, of Holstein, Iowa, precedes him in death.

Gregg was born on March 4, 1965 in Omaha. He graduated from University of Iowa with a degree in Athletic Training and from Syracuse University with a Masters of Science. Gregg was an Athletic Trainer at Syracuse University, Kansas State University, Oregon State University, University of Iowa and Crescent Valley High School. He married Deb in 1997 and they began their life together in Corvallis, Oregon.

Gregg was an accomplished storyteller and often made those around him laugh with his "Barney stories". He loved life and was passionate about his work with student athletes and his fellow athletic trainers. He was the master of his grill and enjoyed fishing and turkey hunting in his free time. Whether in his roll as mentor, caregiver, husband, dad, friend or neighbor those he met saw how upbeat and friendly he was and how much laughter he brought to a room.

A Celebration of Life is scheduled for Monday, March 19th, 5PM at Crescent Valley High School Gymnasium, with a reception to follow. All are welcome to attend and celebrate Gregg's life.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

MAR 19. 5:00 PM (PT)

Crescent Valley High School Gymnasium  
4444 NW Highland Dr.  
Corvallis, OR 97330

# Tribute Wall



“ I wrestled at Syracuse when Barney was there and just heard of his passing. I remember Barney as someone who was always smiling and positive, somebody you'd always be happy to see. My most vivid memory was driving around with him at the 1992 NCAA's and him getting me to listen to (and like) some country music, specifically "Papa Loved Mama" by Garth Brooks. We had a good laugh over that song and I still think of him when I hear it. So sorry to hear of his passing. My prayers and condolences to his family. I know he was a special person.

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**Ethan Bosch** - October 14, 2018 at 04:04 AM

CC

“ Grew up with this awesome guy as my “Big Brother” and loved every minute of it. He was always there if I needed a strong voice or shoulder to cry on. He and my brother, Dutch, kept a close eye on me so I always knew I was protected. So sad he has left us down here but happy he and Dutch and My Mom will be reunited. Yikes... look out now. God Bless you Greg and Family. The struggle is real, I know but happy memories will help you laugh and cherish the years you had with him until his calling for bigger and better.  
Connie (Schubert)Cooling

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**Connie (Schubert) Cooling** - March 22, 2018 at 02:55 PM

CA

“ Cindy Miller Aron lit a candle in memory of Gregg "Barney" Gerard Graff



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**cindy miller aron** - March 19, 2018 at 12:00 AM

CA

*Deb you and the boys are in my prayers now and always.*

cindy miller aron - March 19, 2018 at 12:01 AM

KG

“ *My heart aches to hear of the loss of Barney – I have forever been impacted by his contagious laugh, his wonderful (and long) Barney stories and his amazing way to touch people's lives. Because the miles separated us after we departed from Syracuse, my children really never had the chance to get to know him, Yet they feel as if they do Because of how frequently I tell them of a Barney story. I pray that somehow you feel our love and prayers across the miles. Barney will be so very deeply missed as he was a Very special person that forever impacted my life.*

*Hugs and Prayers - We love you – Karyn & Earl & Grace & Joey  
XOXO*



Karyn Gentile - March 18, 2018 at 10:08 PM

KG

“ *My heart aches to hear of the loss of Barney – I have forever been impacted by his contagious laugh, his wonderful (and long) Barney stories and his amazing way to touch people lives. Because the miles separated us after we departed from Syracuse, my children really never had the chance to get to know him, Yet they feel as if they do Because of how frequently I tell them of a Barney story. I pray that somehow you feel our love and prayers across the miles. Barney will be so very deeply missed as he was a Very special person that forever impacted my life.*

*Hugs and Prayers - We love you – Karyn & Earl & Grace & Joey  
XOXO*



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**Karyn Gentile** - March 18, 2018 at 08:24 PM

DE

“ *I had the Graff boys in Little league when they were growing up. What a great family. A terrible loss for everyone. Our hearts are sad.  
Dan and Mindy Ehler*

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**Dan and Mindy Ehler** - March 18, 2018 at 12:11 PM

HE

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



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**Heather Elkinton** - March 17, 2018 at 10:00 PM

HE

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



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**Heather Elkinton** - March 17, 2018 at 08:59 PM

LB

“ *The world just lost a wonderful, caring, compassionate individual and a great Athletic Trainer. Sending love and hugs to the entire Graff family at this difficult time.*

*Linda Bergen*

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**Linda Bergen** - March 17, 2018 at 07:47 PM

LK

“ *Gregg was so funny! He made our high school years great! He wrote in my senior book.. "someday you will look back and say I wish Gregg were here, he was such a "adorable boy". So much truth. Deepest sympathy to Debra and their sons, JoAnn, Scott, Curt, Matt and families. We are so sorry. Wil pray for Peace and Acceptance for each of you, Liz and Dave Kistenmacher*

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**Liz Kistenmacher** - March 17, 2018 at 11:31 AM

GB

“ To Deb and Family. So sorry to hear of Barney's passing. He always brought a positive presence to those around him. Our thoughts and prayers are for your family during this time.

Gary & Vicki Beck

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Gary Beck - March 17, 2018 at 09:49 AM

HE

“ 7 files added to the tribute wall



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Heather Elkinton - March 17, 2018 at 01:27 AM

JG

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



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Jodi Graff - March 16, 2018 at 04:33 PM



“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



David Stricklin - March 16, 2018 at 01:19 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



John Cheney - March 16, 2018 at 09:55 AM



“ 4 files added to the album CV Baseball



Cam Little - March 16, 2018 at 02:44 AM

CL

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



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**Cam Little** - March 16, 2018 at 02:39 AM

JC

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**John Cheney** - March 15, 2018 at 10:40 PM

RE

“ *This guy right here...a mentor, an original, an excellent AT, a storyteller, a pal...so much more...miss you already Barn.*



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**Rebellion** - March 15, 2018 at 06:51 PM

SB

“ *A great mentor and even better friend.* ”



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**Shannon Burke** - March 15, 2018 at 11:29 AM

AM

“ *Barney and one of his biggest fans and admirers.* ”



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**Annie McCauley-Toth** - March 14, 2018 at 10:09 PM

 John  
Cheney

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall* ”



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**John Cheney** - March 14, 2018 at 05:34 PM

AM

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Aaron MacInnes** - March 14, 2018 at 05:33 PM

 John  
Cheney

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**John Cheney** - March 14, 2018 at 05:31 PM

AM

“ This is an old one but i love it! It is from the Oahu Bowl.



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**Annie McCauley-Torh** - March 14, 2018 at 04:28 PM

CN

“ *The Neff family send peace and healing to your family. So sorry to learn of Barney's passing. Every time we would run into Barney at a CV event, or out in town, he was always friendly and seemed to be enjoying life. Jake has those same qualities, so the zest lives on. Roam enjoys his time with Jake and all of you. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.*

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**cathy neff** - March 14, 2018 at 04:24 PM

 John  
Cheney

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



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**John Cheney** - March 14, 2018 at 04:09 PM

MH

“ *I met Barney and Deb through the College Athletic Trainers Society. They were a strong couple and did a great job. Barney was always upbeat and friendly. He was fun to be around and was well liked by everyone who met him. Rest in peace and stay strong Deb. Maria Hutsick, past president CATS*

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**Maria Hutsick** - March 14, 2018 at 03:56 PM

JS

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with all of you such a great man and such a tremendous loss they come no better rest in peace Jon streif*

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**John Streif** - March 14, 2018 at 03:48 PM

MS

“Barney was a man of stories. He loved to tell them, but I don’t think he realized how much he impacted other people’s stories. So this one is for you BG and I know you are listening from a Cabo like beach in Heaven. There was this guy, they called him BG and he took a chance on hiring me, a woman, to work with a division one football program. He taught and shaped me as an athletic trainer. I have never taped an ankle any other way than the “Barney way” after working with him. He took a leap of faith in hiring the man I was dating, knowing we would work together. He celebrated our engagement and attended our wedding. He challenged me to think about my future as a wife and what I wanted that to look like. He encouraged and supported me when I pursued a teaching certificate. He offered my husband his first professional job. Without this experience, Mitch would not be working for a top ranked wrestling program today. Likely his profession would have taken him elsewhere in the country. Mitch and I would have not been able to grow some of the deepest friendships that we have without our opportunities Barney gave us in Corvallis. He was a mentor to me, but became a friend and like family. As families do, we shared many meals together along with our favorite recipes. He gave me some of his top secret cooking tips. I viewed it as one of the highest honors he could give a fellow chef. He was so much to so many: mentor, caregiver, friend, family and the list goes on. His story is one that will forever go down in the record books.



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Mitch & Candicr Swee - March 14, 2018 at 03:10 PM

DI

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Diana - March 14, 2018 at 02:55 PM

DI

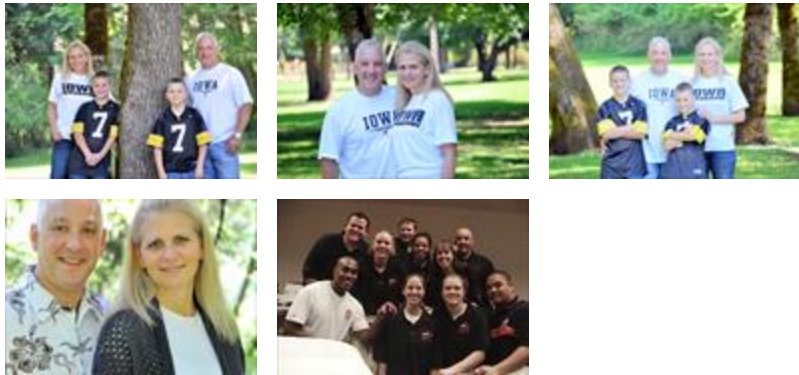
“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Diana - March 14, 2018 at 02:53 PM

Holly Fisher

“ Love this family and how much laughter BG brought to a room. Loved the late nights in the training room listening to stories and learning from the master. You will be missed by so many Barney.



Holly Fisher - March 14, 2018 at 01:23 PM

JC

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



John Cheney - March 14, 2018 at 01:09 PM



“ 3 files added to the tribute wall

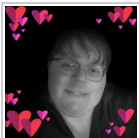


David Stricklin - March 14, 2018 at 10:59 AM

TB

“ *Deb and boys I'm so sorry for your loss. Deb, you two were such great neighbors in Albany back when both of our kids were born. I remember fondly the many times Barney would drop by for a beer and we would chat about sports, hunting, and being new fathers. God bless, Terry Brock*

Terry Brock - March 14, 2018 at 08:25 AM



“ *I loved hearing Barney's work stories and seeing his grin on his face made his takes that much better. Remember don't pet the cactus. Love you Barney, rest in peace. You will always be in our hearts and minds 💜💜.*

Jenna Crisp Plant - March 14, 2018 at 01:50 AM

John  
Cheney

“ 6 files added to the tribute wall



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**John Cheney** - March 13, 2018 at 11:10 PM