



Shane Cullen Kernen

April 17, 1981 - March 11, 2024

The Life of Shane Kernen.

aka: Shaner, Sugar Shane, Foy, Paint, Shane the Crane, Joe Gear, Coach

Shane Cullen Kernen was born on April 17, 1981, in Portland, Oregon to Debbie and Kevin Kernen. He grew up in Vancouver with his older brother, Travis, and graduated from Battle Ground High School, where he was a star athlete in football and basketball. He went on to play basketball at Central Washington University and graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Criminology. He met the love of his life, Aimee Oswald, in 2004 and they married in September 2005. With his new bride they established a life together in Cheney, Washington, and settled into family life with the birth of their first son, Blake in 2008. They enjoyed the Cheney lifestyle and made many friends while Aimee pursued her career as a nurse and Shane worked at Avista. In 2010 they welcomed their second son; Logan and their family unit was complete.

Shane and Aimee became an integral part of the Cheney community and developed a strong affinity for Eastern Washington Football, enjoying many activities which became annual traditions. When Shane's parents retired from careers in education in 2018, they moved to Cheney to be closer to Shane and his family. Shane loved having his parents near and they quickly became

an almost daily part of the family activities, even having the boys attend “school” with them during the covid shutdown. Shane was always happy to have time with his family and loved watching his boys grow up into the amazing young men they are today.

His passion for hunting grew in the bountiful lands of Eastern Washington and beyond and he took hunting trips to Montana, Oregon, and Colorado. He was a true outdoorsman and loved being one with nature. Another passion of his was watching his boys become tremendous athletes. When Blake took up golf, a sport that Shane had never quite mastered, he loved watching him dive headfirst into the game. Shane helped both of his sons learn the value of hard work and practice – qualities that he modeled, encouraged, and respected. As his boys continued their athletic endeavors, Shane became enthralled watching Blake and Logan enjoy the competition and success. Few things in life made him smile more than watching his boys compete and become better and better. His love of sports and hunting formed many lifelong friendships from his teammates at BGHS to his basketball team at CWU, Shane was more than a teammate to all of them, he was a true friend. He also excelled in coaching young athletes where he ran a tight ship, but balanced it with a delicate, soft style. His players left his team better athletes and better people.

Shane was without a doubt, a man of family first. He took so much pride in preparing for family gatherings, whether it was our annual trips to Guemes Island, which he began prepping for weeks in advance - making our favorite dishes like Cioppino, crab cakes, and crab louis with his brother or our family Christmas gatherings in snowy Leavenworth Washington, or a weekend getaway or tailgate - Shane always brought way too much food. A fabulous self-taught cook, influenced greatly by his mom and dad, Shane worked on his special recipes until he had them nailed down and he often had friends and family requesting his signature dishes. His selflessness in his ability to make sure everyone was happy and having a good time was unparalleled. This is

exemplified by his skills in the kitchen. Shane was a connoisseur of good food. Whether it was dining at his favorite pizza place or cooking a gourmet meal for his friends and family brought him so much joy. He, like his brother, spent many hours in high school and college watching Food Network and learning the skills to create amazing meals for all those he loved. Giving was truly in his nature and he would smoke racks of ribs for a work party or an Eagles tailgate, he always had more than enough to feed the whole team, and he was always down to eat some delicious food. He was at his happiest when he was surrounded by friends and family enjoying his incredible meals.

Beyond his love of family, Shane took that same love to his circle of friends. Everyone who ever met Shane saw what a shining, giving, soul he was. He had a gift for quickly forming a strong connection with everyone he met. He gained another brother with his marriage in Aimee's brother Drew. Shane and Drew became instant family and had so many years of friendship and love. They connected on so many shared loves and Shane took so much pride in being an amazing uncle to Drew's children.

His love for his extended family of aunts, uncles, and cousins was a true part of his being. He held his entire family tree in a very special place in his heart. Shane left a lasting impression on so many people in all chapters of his life. His infectious laugh was so memorable, and he wasn't afraid to let it loose at a moment's notice. Family, friends, and food were at the center of his world, and he went above and beyond in all three areas. There are those people in the world who bring a special light to this life and Shane was the true definition of a special light. His light will shine eternally through his boys and all those who knew him. He left us too soon on March 11th, but his kindness, enthusiasm and enormous heart will continue to live on in all who knew him. He is survived by his wife Aimee, his 2 sons Blake and Logan, his parents Kevin and Debbie, and his brother Travis, his wife Emily and their two children

Harper and Bode.

The Kernen Family College Fund has been established at the Cheney Federal Credit Union, 520 First St. Cheney, WA. 99004. Donations can either be brought in or mailed.

A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, March 16, at 11:00 am at Cheney Funeral Chapel. A reception will follow.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

MAR 16. 11:00 AM (PT)

Cheney Funeral Chapel
1632 W 1st St.
Cheney, WA 99004
(509) 235-2992
<https://www.cheneyfuneral.com/>

Tribute Wall

PH

“ *Phyllis & Rich Herman lit a candle in memory of Shane Cullen Kernen*



Phyllis & Rich Herman - March 22, 2024 at 08:37 PM

PH

We are both in shock and so saddened to hear of the loss of your sweet son. Our hearts are so heavy - sending Love and Hugs to you all.

Phyllis - March 22, 2024 at 08:40 PM

MS

The family at Michlitch sends our condolences. We will miss you!! Prayers for your peace!

Maria Stauffer - April 05, 2024 at 12:46 PM

TT

“ I cannot begin to express my condolences to the Kernen family. My heart goes out to Deb, Kevin and Travis, the family I knew and also to his wife and children whom I never met. This is a tragedy at so many levels knowing the kind and caring person Shane always was.

We initially met through basketball in the 5th or 6th grade and spent countless hours on and off the court together. Once in high school the Kernen house became a mainstay of our free time. A welcoming place for all to spend time under the loving, caring and joyful watch of Kevin and Deb. Those memories will always be a gift that I will always have and never be able to repay.

Shane grew into the type of person you are proud to be friends with taking on the lessons and love from both parents and older brother. Even though we haven't been in contact for many years I can feel the void that this had left in his family, close friends and community. Having a friend like Shane in my life made me a better, kinder person and will leave an impression for a lifetime.

Troy Tharp

Troy Tharp - March 19, 2024 at 04:35 PM

MH

“ I think I only met Shane one time, but I worked with Deb for 25 years. I feel like I knew him from all of Deb's stories. His HS basketball accomplishments, HS shenanigans with friends, their family dog, CWU basketball, marriage to his beautiful bride whom Deb always spoke very highly of, purchasing homes and building a family. I'm so deeply sorry for your loss. Sending love and prayers for you all. Malinda Huddleston

Malinda Huddleston - March 19, 2024 at 10:47 AM

MO

“ *Momma lit a candle in memory of Shane Cullen Kernen*



Momma - March 18, 2024 at 09:50 PM

CB

“ *My husband and I were lucky enough to live across the street from Shane and Aimee for the last three years. From the moment we moved in, Shane was nothing but a friend! My husband and I both admired what a fantastic father he was. You couldn't help but smile watching him with his children.*

I will deeply miss waving at Shane every morning as we both headed to work. I'm smiling as I write this, thinking of him working on his lawn or in his garage with his red sweats. It was truly an honor to call Shane a friend. He will be heavily missed!

Chris and Chanel Bear - March 17, 2024 at 12:03 AM

LC

“ *Louise Cox lit a candle in memory of Shane Cullen Kernen*



Louise Cox - March 16, 2024 at 02:01 PM

TD

“ I’m grateful to have known Shane for a good chunk of his middle school and high school years. Basketball brought us together, and gave us an opportunity to hang out everyday for 3 months out of the year when I was a senior and Shane a sophomore.

As we all learn later, basketball is never as important as we thought. I remember Shane’s spirit, his smile, laughter, and ability to make everyone around him just a little bit happier. The only thing about basketball I remember is I realized quickly Shane was going to be far better than I ever was.

There are people who are able to make the lives of the people around them better. I haven’t had contact with Shane in years, but without hesitation my wife and I will fly to Spokane to celebrate the life of Shane. And while I don’t know his wife or his kids, I don’t need to. I know exactly the type of people they are because of who Shane was.

Travis Drake - March 15, 2024 at 10:21 PM

AM

“ Shane’s smile lit up a room. I am beyond sorry to hear about his passing. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you. -Amanda Goyke

Amanda - March 15, 2024 at 07:34 PM

MF

“ *Uncle Shane would always just wrap you in a big hug as soon as you walked in the door. Anytime he was at the lake when I was there he would always make sure you were having fun and a good time. The most sweet and caring uncle in the world.*

-Maddy Fox



Madelynn Fox - March 15, 2024 at 12:47 PM

SU

“ *Deb and Kevin - I am so very sorry for the ridiculously too early loss of your son. My heart goes out to you and your family. Hugs - Susan McCarthy*

susan - March 15, 2024 at 10:36 AM

TR

“ I am so saddened to hear of Shane's passing. When I heard this, I instantly flashed back to all the great memories I have of him. I had the pleasure of being one of Shane's basketball teammates at both Battle Ground High School and Clark College. He was not only a teammate, but he was a great friend.

His family always welcomed me over at their house with open arms. I remember staying over at their house one time after a basketball game when there was nearly a foot of snow on the ground. I ended up staying there for 2-3 days. Playing in the snow with him, his brother Travis and his neighbors was so much fun. Sledding, making a snowman and throwing snowballs at cars passing by. That last bit was probably not a smart idea, but hey, we were kids.

Battling on the basketball court with him was amazing. He was a fierce competitor and didn't back down from any challenge. I remember at a tournament in San Francisco, when we played at Clark College, he crossed someone up and just took off about 10ft away from the basket, and just dunked it right in someone's face. He did this on more than one occasion, but this one was very impressive.

These are just some of the memories I have of Shane, but they are the ones that stick out to me the most. I hope that reading this puts a smile on your face, because these are cherished memories of mine.

Taylor Reed

Taylor Reed - March 14, 2024 at 10:28 PM