



Bradley Dean Diepholz

July 12, 1961 - November 10, 2022

Bradley Dean Diepholz passed away unexpectedly and peacefully while on his annual hunting trip in Illinois on November 10, 2022; he was 61 years old. The family is planning a celebration of life at a later date. Mitchell-Jerdan Funeral Home, 1200 Wabash Avenue, Mattoon, IL 61938 is in charge of arrangements.

He was born to Wanda Imojean (Rinehart) Diepholz and Harry Dean 'Bud' Diepholz on July 12, 1961, in Mattoon, IL. Brad's first job was helping his father establish D to Z Sports, a fixture in the Mattoon community for many years. He caught the entrepreneurial spirit from Bud and was self-employed his entire career. Brad loved the challenge of taking a business idea and bringing it to life, repeating that cycle many times. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Marketing from Eastern Illinois University in 1984, was a registered Real Estate agent in AZ since 2006, and a Class B General Residential Contractor in AZ since 2007.

In 1980, Brad was introduced by mutual friends to Karen Kolinski, the daughter of George and Elaine Kolinski, who also lived in Mattoon. They became an inseparable couple almost immediately, and married on October 19, 1985, after Karen graduated from Eastern Illinois University. Moving to Arizona in 1986, they established themselves there and enjoyed all that the valley of the sun had to offer. They made many lifelong friends along the way, before they relocated to Napa, CA in 2016. They shared 37 years of marriage and had two sons, Clark and Dean, that made him very proud.

Brad was the true definition of a family-man and organized many family gatherings. He had a passion for cooking that he loved to share with others. There are many happy memories of the “Brad-B-Que’s” that he hosted, where everyone was able to enjoy his delicious grilling. He spent many hours planning menus and trying recipes for the enjoyment of others.

Like his father, Brad never met a stranger. He took the time to really listen and be present when he asked how you were doing and touched many people with his sincere caring. He was a master of surprises and loved to scheme up a plan that would delight the recipient. He was truly happiest while making other people happy.

Brad developed expert level knowledge about cigars which he avidly collected, enjoyed, and shared with all. He also had a passion for bow hunting and spent weeks in joyful anticipation of his annual white tail deer hunt in Illinois and his elk hunt in northern AZ with his friends.

Brad is survived by his wife, Karen (Kolinski) Diepholz of Napa, CA, his two sons, Clark Vincent Diepholz of Scottsdale, AZ and Harry Dean Diepholz II of Phoenix, AZ. Brad is also survived by his sister Jean Marie Reid of Manchester, MO, nephew Scott Reid of Manchester, MO, niece Jennifer Reid of Chatham, IL, brother Kris Diepholz of Albuquerque, NM, and brother Kurt Diepholz of Mattoon, IL.

Brad lived and died on his own terms, living his life fully to the end. His final wishes were to not have a mournful funeral, but rather to be remembered with a celebration of life one year after his passing. His family asks that in lieu of flowers a donation be made to the American Heart Association: <https://ahatribute.funraise.org/fundraiser/clark-diepholz>

Please visit www.mitchell-jerdan.com or www.facebook.com/mitchelljerdanfuneralhome to light a virtual candle in his honor or share a memory with the family.

Tribute Wall



“ *Bradley Dean Diepholz*

October 08, 2023 at 07:40 PM



“ *Brad, Thanks for being my Big Brother going up. There were many times you kept me out of trouble, and a few where you got me into minor trouble. ;) As time passed and our zip codes changed we drifted apart. And that is something I'll struggle with forever. Rest in Peace Brother.*

Ken Diepholz - December 06, 2022 at 08:20 AM

MK

“ Thank you Brad for so many wonderful lifetime memories - all the family visits when we gathered in IL, AZ, CO, BC, WA and then Napa.

A couple of my favorite memories: the year we spent Thanksgiving at the cabin in the pines near Flagstaff and you trailered the BBQ up there and cooked the turkey right on the trailer. It was an Uncle Bro style first!

But it's hard to top the joy and excitement of arriving to my 50th bday destination in Provence where unbeknownst to me you and Karen had flown to surprise me. I caught a glimpse of you smoking a cigar in the garden at the inn and could not believe my eyes!! Best birthday ever thanks to you!

As the holiday season approaches you will be held close in our hearts as you were Mr, Christmas and took a contagious joy in the season. You were taken from us far too soon but have left a legacy of family and love that will endure. Thank you for making such a beautiful family with my sister Karen. May cherished memories give some measure of comfort to Karen, Clark, and Dean and all of Brad's family and friends.

Marcia Kolinski

Marcia Kolinski - December 05, 2022 at 02:48 PM

CD

“ Cathy Davis lit a candle in memory of Bradley Dean Diepholz



Cathy Davis - December 01, 2022 at 07:40 PM

KC

“ *Kathi Sewell Cobble lit a candle in memory of
Bradley Dean Diepholz*



kathi sewell cobble - November 24, 2022 at 09:08 AM

HF

“ *Hopkins Family lit a candle in memory of
Bradley Dean Diepholz*



Hopkins Family - November 20, 2022 at 09:34 AM

HF

*Brad ~~
Thanks for lighting candles along the path to guide others. An eternal
friend who brought laughter and kindness to us all. Prayers, comfort &
love to Karen, Clark and Dean.*

Hopkins Family - November 20, 2022 at 09:45 AM

ER

“ Brad you were a beautiful man. Always super invested in being the best version of yourself. You were very dear to my Father, Bill Nasby and to myself. Now Brad’, your hanging in good company with Bill, one of your favourite people I know. Brad your spirit was bright, positive, and super thoughtful. It was always an honour to share time with him. You left too soon Yiu will be greatly missed.



Karen, Clark and Dean - on countless occasions he would share stories, and experiences that expressed the deep love and gratitude he had for you. He was always so proud of his boys, and Karen his love for you was so beautiful and deep.

Much love and light to you all right now as you go through this tricky journey - way too early.

💖 Erica xo

erica - November 19, 2022 at 10:41 PM

BD

“ Besides being a classmate and cousin, Brad was one of my ushers when I married. He traveled from out of state to do so. Took his tux measurements over the phone. Once he got here his pants didn't fit because he had been working out a lot. He ripped his pants. They managed to get his pants fixed in time. He walked my mother down the aisle and all was well. For that day at least. My sympathies for Karen, the love of his life, I vividly remember uncle Bud saying that) and their boys.

Becky diepholz - November 18, 2022 at 11:35 PM

JM

“ Prayers for all of Brad’s family, Jean and her family, Kris, and Kurt!! He was such a great guy!! Gone at such an early age!!! Rest In Peace Brad!!! You will always be remembered!!!

Janet Miller - November 18, 2022 at 10:08 PM

DH

“ Ivory and I are going to miss you so much brother! Since we first met in 2017 and found out our new neighbor in Napa was also a down the road neighbor in Denver, CO, we had an immediate connection. Since then you and Karen took care of us in so many ways. We had so many memorable bike rides, hangouts, dinners and even a little dancing on the street. We feel like our journey with you had just gotten started. We hate that we didn't get more time. We love you Karen! Clark and Dean, he always spoke of how proud he was of you two.



David Hammon - November 18, 2022 at 02:50 PM

LH

“ To Karen and the boys and Brad's family, our deepest sympathy's!! I'm glad I was able to talk to Brad not too long ago, when Jeffrey's friend found your dad's checks and I mailed them to you. I'll always remember our last conversation. RIP cuz!

Laura Haskins - November 18, 2022 at 01:47 PM

CD

“ Karen, Dean, Clark, Jean Marie, Kris and families. Our hearts are hurting for your loss. May you feel God’s arms wrapped around you during this difficult time. You all are in our prayers daily.
Love you all
Mike and Chris

Christi Diepholz - November 18, 2022 at 12:25 PM

CK

“ Karen and family u have my sympathy. Way back when I was 15 Brad would come out and pick me up in his “Smokey and the Bandit “ Trans Am. Later while he was attending EIU we used to meet at JD’s health club and workout. Enjoyed hanging out with family, shooting pool in there basement. God bless.

Charlie Keller - November 18, 2022 at 10:12 AM

SD

“ One of my earliest memories of Brad was helping him build trophies at D to Z with his pet python on the floor next to us! He assured me we would be OK. I always enjoyed our time together. Shane Diepholz

Shane Diepholz - November 18, 2022 at 08:47 AM

CD

Our hearts are hurting for your loss. May you feel God’s arms wrapped around you during this difficult time. You all are in our prayers daily 🙏
Love you all ❤️ Mike and Chris


Christi Diepholz - November 18, 2022 at 09:23 AM

KD

“ I'm going to miss you big brother. Didn't know you told all those wild stories about us but we can't escape the truth. Much love to my sister in-law Karen and my two wonderful nephews Clark and Dean.

KD

Kris Diepholz - November 17, 2022 at 07:03 PM

 Sharon Skaggs

“ My heartfelt prayers and sympathy to Brads family. May he rest in peace. Sincerely, Sharon Skaggs, former teacher in CU2.

Sharon Skaggs - November 17, 2022 at 06:38 PM

DE

“ My deepest condolences on your loss. I met the Diepholz family at age six. My father Gary Elliott and Bud were great friends. We all had a the funniest times on weekends riding dirt bikes and our family were close. Will miss Brad such a wonderful man.

Darla Elliott - November 17, 2022 at 11:47 AM

KD

Hi Darla, He loved telling those stories about riding dirt bikes on the track and Kris chasing with the Mustang!

Karen Diepholz - November 17, 2022 at 01:24 PM

TM

“ I remember his sweet smile and how friendly he was. Brad and Karen made the cutest couple, and I am glad that they shared a beautiful life together. Big, big hug going out to Karen!



Tammy McCormick - November 16, 2022 at 10:33 PM

BD

“ *Becky Diepholz lit a candle in memory of
Bradley Dean Diepholz*



Becky Diepholz - November 16, 2022 at 09:28 PM

BC

“ *Brad and I met in high school. He was always a good friend and we
enjoyed lots of laughs together. RIP my old friend.*

Bill Carpenter - November 16, 2022 at 08:42 PM

SS

“ *Stacy Sewell lit a candle in memory of
Bradley Dean Diepholz*



Stacy Sewell - November 16, 2022 at 03:41 PM