



# Benjamin Daniel Connolly

September 2, 1999 - April 6, 2025

Benjamin Daniel Connolly, 25, passed away on April 6, 2025, in Salt Lake City, Utah. He was born September 2, 1999, in Steubenville, Ohio to Thomas & Ann Connolly.

Benjamin, known by many as Benji, was a fun loving, young man who lived his life to the fullest. During Ben's younger years he played baseball, soccer, and participated in gymnastics, however he never once looked back when introduced to snowboarding during his high school years. On weekends, he and his high school friends would spend hours riding up and down the mountain at Mountain High Resort in Wrightwood, California. Ben graduated with honors at Desert Christian High School in Lancaster, California. He chose Northern Arizona University for the soul purpose of snowboarding after class every day. While upholding a high GPA in college, Ben worked at Snowbowl in Flagstaff, Arizona. He worked his way from a parking assistant to parking manager. He later adopted his pride & joy Hazel (cat), who he attributed all his college success. He graduated from Northern Arizona University (NAU) with a bachelor's degree in business management and a minor in marketing. After leaving NAU, Ben spent a few years working his way up in positions at an Amazon warehouse in Goodyear, AZ. While there, he developed skills in different processes including picking and process assistant. He later moved into a flow lead position in Tempe, Arizona. He continued his career within this organization to become an area manager in Salt Lake City, Utah. This

opportunity was a no brainer for him, as it held all the best snowboarding resorts in Utah.

This move to Utah in March of 2024 allowed him to make many great friends, while still working, hiking, snowboarding and continuing his passion in photography. In late February 2025, Ben was diagnosed with sarcoma cancer. Regardless of how Ben felt, he walked into every room or area with a huge grin. During his treatments, he made it a goal to put a smile on everyone's face or pass along high-fives. Ben never lost his love or energy for living every day to its fullest. On Sunday, the 6th of April, Ben passed away doing the thing he loved most in this whole world, snowboarding. He passed away with his boots strapped onto a snowboard, on the one mountain he always dreamt of riding, located in Woodward Park City, UT.

His beautiful memory and enthusiasm for life will continue in the hearts of many. His focus: to live each day, not in fear or anxiety, but with a drive to explore what God has given and offered.

Benjamin is survived by his mother, Ann Marie Connolly and brother, Jonathan Christian Connolly. Other relatives include many aunts, uncles, as well as many cousins on both sides of the family.

Preceded in death by his father, Thomas Kevin Connolly, maternal grandparents: Mary Elizabeth and Robert Joseph Porod, and paternal grandparents: Agnus and Gerald Connolly.

We will honor our Benjamin in both Utah and Arizona:

Utah Visitation:

Serenity Funeral Home: on April 15, 2025, at 5:30-7:30pm  
13863 S 2700 W, Bluffdale, UT.

Arizona Visitation and Funeral:  
Menke Funeral Home on April 24, 2025  
12420 North 103 rd Avenue  
Sun City, Arizona 85351  
Viewing: 1 PM  
Funeral Service: 3 PM  
Reception to follow

We would like to thank Benji's friends, coworkers, and family for the  
overwhelming love and support.  
May you touch others, as Benjamin has touched you.

# Previous Events

## Viewing

APR **15.** 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM (MT)

Serenity Funeral Home of Bluffdale  
13863 S 2700 W  
Bluffdale, UT 84065  
(801) 255-2801  
<https://www.serenityfhs.com>

## Viewing

APR **24.** 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (MT)

Menke Funeral Home  
12420 North 103 rd Avenue  
Sun City, AZ 85351

## Funeral Service

APR **24.** 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (MT)

Menke Funeral Home  
12420 North 103 rd Avenue  
Sun City, AZ 85351

# Tribute Wall

PH

“ I had the pleasure of working with Benji up at snowbowl. It been a while and this news hits hard... one memory I'll never forget 2019 cardboard box sled race! We spend the entire night before the race slapping together a replica of the infamous parking truck... would not have won any beauty contest but boy did it fly.. took off to a slow start but once the momentum picked up it could not be stopped! As we approached the finish line other sleds began slowing down but not the parking sled! We pulled out in front crossed the finish line and plowed into the crowd of people lined out at the bottom of the hill... 2019 cardboard box sled champions! Rest easy friend hope the powder is deep and the lift lines are nonexistent



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**Paul Harper** - April 19, 2025 at 11:38 AM

BM

“ Ben, I am sorry I didn't make it to your viewing today, I thought long and hard about it but decided that I want to keep the last memories I have of you as is. I cannot picture you motionless, not smiling or laughing, it's not the Ben I know and quite honestly, I am still in denial that you're no longer here. Last memory of you is the last hug I gave you before moving to Washington and the Fantastik 4 group having brunch at Sundays Best and talking about our “Summer 2025” plans to reunite in Seattle and see if you'd want to move here, the craziest part of this is that what we feared would ruined our plans actually happened. I am glad we were doing what you loved more than anything in this world. The three of us will carry on with the plans Ben and we know you will be here with us- fantastik4 forever!

*My favorite memories of Ben*

*1. Ben the great listener and life changer.*

*Everyone should have a Ben in their lives and the world needs more people like Ben, he is that great! I have never met a more genuine, empathetic, caring, loving, and compassionate person. Ben's smile and laughter were contagious for sure but Ben was more than just the happy guy. He had a way with people and just know what they needed, he met people where they were at, he was a friend, a good listener, and attentive. Ben's tears and compassion for others were just as contagious and deep because if you know Ben you'd know that he was an empath and carried others sorrows and pain with them.*

*Ben met a man at work who was struggling really bad and none of us knew how to help the guy keep his job, Ben had received the notification to go give the man his final warning as things were just bad and none of us could get through him, a few minutes later as I was walking by I saw Ben and this man hugging (if you know amazon, managers don't get hugs after giving final warnings) and*

*they're crying and that guy was well over 6 ft and at least 300 lbs, Ben looked like a kid in his arms so I stopped what I was doing to checked on them and through talking with the man, Ben found out that this man's wife had just died after battling some serious illnesses and he was lonely and work was his escape and the only thing keeping him from joining his wife. The man started bawling and said in over 40 something years Ben was the first person who offered him a hug because to his size and race people normally approached him differently but Ben looked from within and that changed his life forever, the two of them became "buddies" as Ben would say. The man showed up to work with a smile daily and even cut his long hair he used to cover his face and stopped covering his mouth when he speaks. Ben did that! He gave a stranger hope and his confidence back.*

## *2. Ben the team player*

*I desperately needed another manager as I was running a shift that's supposed to be running by 4 managers solo so in March of 2024 Ben came to SLC1 and he was truly heaven sent and exactly what the team needed, I was supposed to trained him but Ben didn't need any training honestly, first day he walked all 4 floors and said hello and introduced himself to every single associate individually. Later that same month we got another manager and we became the "Oreos" as a joke but also for obvious reasons haha but our team just thrived and Ben just never have a complaint or anything negative to say about anything or anyone and just loved that about him. I was the president for the Black Employees Network, which Amazon calls BEN and I needed a VP and I told Ben well it's only fit that he should be the VP because the program is called BEN, first 3 letters of my name is Ben and he is Ben so let's do it and he didn't hesitate at all, Ben showed up to that meeting with all kind of interesting facts about black history from just about every country and he stayed up late learning about different cultures to make sure when he came to the meeting no one feel left out.*

## *3. The fun/easy going Ben*

*1. Ben and I learned that we live 5 minutes from each other and quickly became friends and would carpool to work together. First ride in Ben's car was truly an experience out of Fast and Furious movie for sure. I was holding on to dear life and Ben was just laughing his head off and would say "ok ready?!" pretending that he is going to go even faster.*

*2. July 18th was probably the hottest day of the year last year, our associates were feeling down after they pushed 3.5 million packages in a week so Ben got into a super piggy inflatable costume and me in a cow (pictured below) for 4 hours we walked that warehouse passing out Gatorade and popsicles to cheer everyone on and kept them hydrated gosh, we were drenched in sweat and laughing and we had to go get new clothes from HR to finish the rest of the shift (picture below).*

#### *4. Paid attention to details Ben*

*Ben and I always walked out of work together, we'd chitchat in the parking lot and then go home. One day as I am walking out with Ben the padding in my sportbra managed to fall out, embarrassed I walked quickly ahead of Ben, pretended I didn't see it, hoping that he didn't either but Ben saw it happen and casually picked it up and waited until no one was looking and said "girl you're falling apart, here, your boob fell off" gosh we were laughing so hard that none of us could breathe. From that point on every time we about to walk out Ben always say "don't fall apart on me now ok?" haha.*

#### *5. Ben the teacher and financial advisor*

*Ben taught me how investing works and how money is important but not the most important and taught how to invest my money in things of value.*

*Ben and my 4 year old daughter share a birthday month and I told*

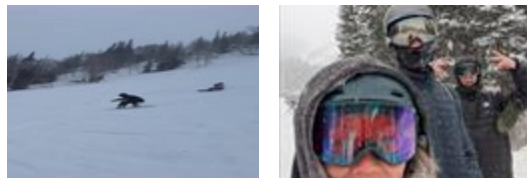
*him how much my daughter loves being in the snow and I wanted her to take snowboarding/skiing lessons but was told by a professional to wait until she's 5 and Ben said "nah you don't need to pay a professional, she just need 1 day with uncle Benji" I am only sad that that one day will never come with uncle Benji but she will for sure remember you.  
Ugh Ben to say I'll miss you is understatement but I know I'll see you again, for now rest easy my friend❤️*



**Benita McArthur** - April 16, 2025 at 01:01 AM

TO

“*Hey Ben, I know you're no longer with us, but I want you to know that I'll always cherish the memories we made on and off the slopes. I hope you're shredding endless pow and carving the sickest park laps in the afterlife. Ride hard, ride free, and never stop smiling.*



**Tobey** - April 15, 2025 at 11:39 PM

ML

“ One of my favorite memories of Ben was the time we went snowboarding because honestly, what did that man love more than boarding?

*It was my first time, so I asked him to take me to the bunny hill. I was thinking, “let me ease into this, maybe stay upright for a few minutes.” Ben, of course, heard that and decided instead to take me anywhere but the bunny hill.*

*I was terrified. I wiped out more times than I could count. But Ben just laughed, cheered me on, and kept saying, “You’re doing great!” even when I was clearly not.*

*But the best part? He always stayed behind me. He could’ve easily flown down the mountain like he always did, but instead, he stuck close to make sure I was okay. Maybe part of him just wanted a front-row seat to watch me fall over and over again but more than anything, it was because he didn’t want me to feel alone. And if anything had happened to me, I knew he’d be right there, no hesitation.*

*That was Ben. He’d push you way out of your comfort zone, but he never left your side while you figured it out. He gave you the courage to try something new, just by being there.*

*I was just a lonely California boy when I first came out to Utah, not knowing what to expect. But Ben? Ben made it feel like home. Through the mountains, the laughs, and the chaos he gave me community, friendship, and memories that’ll stick with me forever.*

*I miss him more than words can explain, but if there’s one thing he taught me, it’s this: no bunny hills. Just full sends, every time!*



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**Max Lee** - April 12, 2025 at 07:17 PM

JB

“ I hadn’t known Ben for long, but he quickly became one of my favorite managers to work with. Even on the rough days, he still managed to smile and have a good time—like the troubles of the world just slid right past him.



I always appreciated how, if we hadn’t seen each other in a while, he’d point it out with something like, “Hey man, I missed you!” You might not have thought much of it at the time, but he had a way of making you feel like you were truly on his mind. He genuinely made everyone he worked with feel seen and cared for.

I remember just enjoying having him around—not only because he was dependable and great at his job, but because it meant there’d be a moment to chill, talk, and laugh.

Before his diagnosis, he came to me and asked me to check out his leg and give my thoughts. I encouraged him to see a doctor, which he did right away. Not long after, he was gone for a time. When he came back, he shared the news.

I know it couldn’t have been easy to say, but he smiled, shrugged, and walked away as if to say, “Life keeps going, and so shall I.”

Life isn’t easy. Work isn’t always easy. And I’m sure it wasn’t for him—especially after the diagnosis. But he never let it take away his spirit. It never took away the Ben that everyone knew and loved.

He was a unique man, with a spirit and a light like no other. He reminded us not to take life for granted—to appreciate the people around us, to smile even when things are tough, and to live life to the fullest while we can.

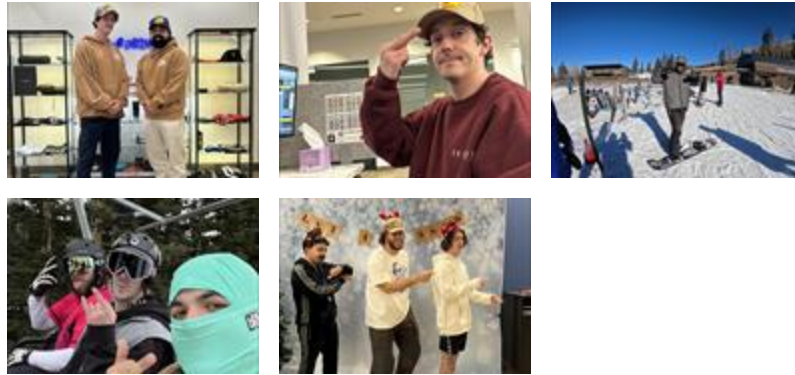
And even though he may not be with us anymore, I know we can still feel that spirit—that light he shared. And in remembering him, maybe we can carry a piece of that forward: sharing a smile, and a

*little more genuine love for others.*

**Jacob Bagwell** - April 12, 2025 at 12:32 PM

NB

“ *Benji was a one of a kind type of human. Always had the best attitude no matter what was going on in his life. I only had the pleasure of meeting him around 3 years ago when we both started working at an Amazon office in Tempe, AZ. Instantly we clicked and I knew we'd be good friends. His spirit will always protect the riders of snowbowl 🏂 long live Benji*



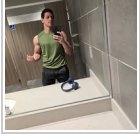
**Nathan Becker** - April 12, 2025 at 12:26 PM

LA

“ *Ben was my manager for only a short time at SLCC1 but he was always on the go, doing his job and helping out the whole pack singles crew get are numbers in. I'm so sorry for his loss, cancer and what it does to people and what it does to families is awful. I'm so deeply sorry he will be missed.*



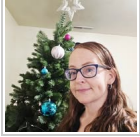
**laurie** - April 12, 2025 at 01:20 AM



“ *Best manager I ever had, rest in peace Ben* 😞

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**Roberto Zamuria** - April 12, 2025 at 12:15 AM



“ Ben was an awesome manager. Finally, someone I felt understood me, as a supervisor, a human, and a peer. Someone that actually understood WHY it was important to make others smile 10+ hours a day. This was the first manager I had who wrote positive affirmations on my desk before I came into work. I was so excited getting to work with someone who actually knew why I loved predicting other peoples actions and reactions. He would always come back to tell me I was right and got a kick out of it. He was ready to help me move up and was so upset when he found out he would have to break his promise. (It's fine Ben, I'm learning to stand my ground, no holding back.) He was also a strong personality and when an issue would arise he would always go with what was right, every time. This made us felt heard.

When he went on his leave of absence and came back, we would talk for a quick moment, and then I would I send him away to talk to others. I felt it was more important for our associates to get that special one on one time. I'm so glad I made that choice. He did not pass a single person without smiling and waving those few days. People were so excited to tell me they saw him as if he was a celebrity they had seen. It made me happy. When you make that many people smile, that is celebrity status at its finest. I'm so glad he passed doing what he loved the most, with one of his favorite people. Most people are not that lucky.

As I said to many this past week, be like Ben, get outdoors and even if its for an hour a week, absorb your surroundings, say hi to others. Ben Connolly, you will be missed by so many people and your legend of living life to the fullest will carry on by those of us at SLC1 and beyond.

P.S. Mom Connolly, great job raising such an amazing human. You guys could not have done any better. As the young people say, he was HIM.

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Nancy Murphy - April 11, 2025 at 10:43 PM

CU

“ Benji was one of my first friends at Northern Arizona University. We met in a hospitality class with two of our other friends, Kelsey and Ryan. I will never forget the countless hours we spent hanging out and pulling all nighters together for our exams in college. He was always such a joy to be around and gave me the best advice that I still use to this day. He was selfless, kind, and one of the most amazing people I have ever met. I will never forget him and his impact he has made on my life and everyone else's. I love you forever Benji, my sweet angel. Sending condolences to his family and other friends.

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**Chloe Uy** - April 11, 2025 at 09:55 PM

JE

“ *"My Friend", como siempre te llamo. Solo tendré nuestra última conversación en mi memoria. Gracias porque contigo sigo aprendiendo lo maravilloso que es vivir y estar agradecido a todo y a todos. Nunca olvidaré ese mensaje fraternal que nos dimos a nosotros mismos. Donde quiera que estés "Estoy seguro de que es un lugar mejor que este", por favor sigue dándonos esa maravillosa fuerza que irradiaste. Tu "Friend" Jorge, este venezolano que te enseñó español. Gracias, gracias, gracias.*

*"My Friend," as I always call you. I will only have our last conversation in my memory. Thank you because with you I continue to learn how wonderful it is to live and to be grateful to everything and everyone. I will never forget that brotherly message we gave ourselves. Wherever you are "I'm sure it's a better place than this," please keep giving us that wonderful strength you radiated. Your "Friend" Jorge, this Venezuelan who taught you Spanish. Thank you, thank you, thank you.*

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**Jorge Estrano** - April 11, 2025 at 09:15 PM

ZW

“ I have a thousands of memories of Benji. Ranging from the first day of highschool 11 years ago. The most recent when he came up to visit me in Nevada. We hiked, we zip lined, are awesome food, but the most memorable part is he helped me shoot my first ever booked wedding. His attitude and confidence helped me gain the confidence to pursue my passion. There hasn't been a month where Benji and I haven't talked about random things about life. I'm going to miss him deeply.



Zachary Wilson - April 11, 2025 at 09:00 PM

KD

“ Benji had one of the most contagious smiles I have ever seen! I grew up doing gymnastics with Benji and he always knew how to brighten a room. Benji was like an older brother to me and always knew how to make me smile. I am so lucky to have been able to know Benji and I am looking forward to seeing him again soon! But for now I know he's still smiling up in heaven.

Katie Darwood - April 11, 2025 at 08:45 PM

CA

“ I first met Benji at a Snowbowl career fair, and he quickly became my manager after finding out I could get a free season pass by helping park cars. That winter, our whole team became really close, and a big part of that was Benji. He and I connected right away over both growing up skiing at Mt. High. Benji had this incredible way of making everyone feel welcome. You could always find him with a big smile. Till we meet again Banjo!

cameron - April 11, 2025 at 08:31 PM

JH

“ A small memory we’d like to share, Jonathan, Mom Connolly, and I (Jayne) went to Cheesecake Factory in AZ, 2024. As I was taking my phone camera out, I told him don’t blow out your (bday) candle! Benji blew it right out! He said, “OOF I didn’t mean to do that”, with a huge look of regret but mischievously smiling, we all couldn’t stop laughing. A quote that Jon and I would love to share, “A day without laughter, is a day wasted.” Let’s enjoy life as Ben did. With all love - Jonathan & Jayne



Jayne De Hoyos - April 11, 2025 at 05:32 PM



“ Benji, or as we called him, Banjo, was not only one of my best friends, he was a brother and someone I looked forward to seeing, hearing from, or hearing about everyday. Nothing will ever fill the void of him being gone, but I look forward to honoring his memory every day of my life. Love you in this life and the next, Banjo. Keep the slopes clear for when we strap in and ride again brother.

Garret Karl Jr. - April 11, 2025 at 05:29 PM