



Joseph James Scelso

May 27, 1951 - February 2, 2025

Joseph James Scelso, age 73, passed away on February 2, 2025, in Provo, Utah. He was born on May 27, 1951, in Brooklyn, New York, to Joseph James Scelso and Theresa Mary Modica.

Throughout his life, Joseph lived in New York, California, Texas, Colorado, Indiana, New Mexico, and Utah. A man of many talents and passions, he pursued a degree in music, served in the National Guard—joining in California and completing basic training in San Antonio, Texas—and dedicated over 20 years of service to the U.S. Postal Service in California and Colorado. He was also skilled in computer repair and programming, always eager to learn and share his knowledge with others.

On May 16, 2009, Joseph married the love of his life, Debra (Kalea) Kaye Breeden, in Farmington, New Mexico. Together, they built a life filled with love, adventure, and hard work. Joseph had a deep love for the outdoors, gardening, and serving others. One of his lifelong dreams was to own land where he could cultivate his own garden, greenhouse and orchard—a dream he and Kalea fulfilled when they purchased property in the Utah desert. Living off-grid, Joseph meticulously built much of their home with his own hands, with the help of others at the ranch, creating a peaceful retreat where they could live in harmony with nature.

Joseph was known for his generosity, wisdom, and willingness to help others. The ranch community where he lived cherished his guidance and often sought his advice. Whether teaching, baking, or working with his hands, he found joy

in sharing his skills with those around him.

Joseph was preceded in death by his father, Joseph James Scelso; his mother, Theresa Mary Modica; his brother-in-law, Jim Kennington; and Dr. Walker.

He is survived by and will be deeply missed by his loving wife, Debra (Kalea) Scelso; his brothers, Salvatore Scelso, Anthony Scelso (Kathleen), Terry Breeden, Walter Breeden, David Breeden (Bettye), and Rodney Breeden (Connie); his sisters, Norma Perez (Alex), and Julie Rhuby (Jim); his daughters, Gina Dattoli and Stephanie Ballenger (Mike); his stepsons, Michael Patterson (Angelia) and Aaron Patterson (Jeanne); and his grandchildren: Caitlyn Walton (Alex), Madeline Ballenger, Savannah Ballenger, Talon Dattoli, Toren Dattoli, Saber Dattoli, Kaden Patterson, Blake Patterson, Nathan Patterson, Abigail Patterson, Sean Patterson, Cody Patterson, and Gabriel Patterson. He will also be missed by many friends whose lives he touched. His legacy of kindness, resilience, and dedication will live on in the hearts of all who knew him.

A viewing and funeral service will be held on February 10, 2025, at 481 East 300 North, Lehi, Utah 84043.

Viewing: 10:00 – 11:00 AM

Funeral Service: 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Family Dinner: 12:00 – 1:00 PM

A celebration of life will be held at a later date. In honor of Joseph's love for nature and self-sufficiency, the family encourages those who wish to remember him to plant a tree or start a garden in his memory.

Previous Events

Viewing

FEB **10**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (MT)

Lehi Chapel-Lehi Utah
481 East 300 North Street
Lehi, UT 84043

Funeral Service

FEB **10**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (MT)

Lehi Chapel-Lehi Utah
481 East 300 North Street
Lehi, UT 84043

Tribute Wall

HZ

“ my mom knew Joseph and we knew them that we would call them grandma and grandpa selesco when I found out he passed away I was so sad but I know he is no longer in pain and he is in heaven with heavenly father and his other family that already passed away goodbye grandpa scelso rest in peace

hannah zenger - March 27, 2025 at 02:37 PM

AV

“ I met Joseph last year when we moved to the same community. I needed help fixing the house and he took me under his wing, gave me cats and taught me how to use a sawzall. He made bread for my kids and was always so kind. My family will miss him.

Amanda Valluri - February 06, 2025 at 09:47 AM

NP

“ I came into Joe's life when our parents married and I was 9 years old. He treated me like his real sister from day one. Making me a bike out of spare parts and sticking up for me whenever bullied! There didn't seem to be an adjustment period. I was very blessed to have him for a brother ❤️

Norma Perez - February 05, 2025 at 03:03 PM

JF

“ Joseph's kindness and willingness to help his friends and neighbors were truly remarkable. His presence will be deeply missed.

Jesse Fisher - February 05, 2025 at 12:48 PM