



Randy Oakley

September 30, 1965 - November 15, 2025

Randy Oakley was born on September 30, 1965, in Kansas City, Missouri, to Charlie and Judy Oakley. From the start, he was a natural leader and a world changer. He loved the outdoors from a young age, ultimately earning the rank of Eagle Scout under the guidance of his father, who served as his scoutmaster. He cherished his parents and his sister, Stacy, deeply.

Randy excelled both academically and athletically at Raymore-Peculiar High School before attending BYU in Utah to continue his education. He later married Rebbeca “Becky” (Hoffmann) Oakley, and together they welcomed four children: Sarah (Benjamin), Matthew (Whitney), Daniel, and Hannah (Tony).

Though Randy and Becky eventually separated, they remained friends and held a lasting fondness for each other. After Randy and Lara married, Becky and Lara also developed a warm and supportive friendship.

In 2011, Randy met Lara, who became his wife and best friend. From the beginning, they chose each other every day. Together, they created a beautiful life filled with love, laughter, adventure, and quiet evenings in front of the fire with their two pups. They were rarely apart, and that closeness was one of the greatest gifts they shared.

Randy began his career as a recreational therapist, changing lives with his compassion and insight, and later transitioned into business. Whether through his work, church service, or entrepreneurial ventures, his mission was always the same: opening his life to others and helping them better theirs. People and impact were among the great loves of Randy's life.

His beautiful life came to a close in Sandy, Utah, where he leaves behind six children and seven grandchildren who admired him deeply. Randy passed peacefully at the age of 60 on November 15, 2025, surrounded by his loved ones, with Lara, as always, at his side. He was greeted in heaven by his parents, Charlie and Judy Oakley, and his mother-in-law, Marilyn Quinn.

He leaves behind his wife, Lara Oakley, and his children, Sarah, Matthew, Hannah, Daniel, Nicholas, and Aidan, to carry on his legacy with honor.

In lieu of flowers, the family has established a memorial fund to honor Randy's spirit of generosity and his dedication to supporting the people and work of the mental health community. Contributions can be made through his memorial Venmo, @Randy-Oakley-3.

If you feel connected to Randy, please join us at Randy's Celebration of Life this Sunday, November 23rd from 5:00pm to 8:00 pm at Willow Creek County Club, 8505 Willow Creek Dr, Sandy, UT 84093.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

NOV **23**. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (MT)

Willow Creek Country Club
8505 Willow Creek Dr,
Sandy, UT 84093

Tribute Wall



“ *My sister’s, mom and I worked with Randy and we loved him so much. He was a great influence on me. He even saved my life once.*

This is the story...

Randy, a coworker and I took a bunch of 11 year old girls to Escalante on a 5 day backpacking trip with Sunshine solutions. We were hiking down to the top of a 200 foot waterfall at Calf’s creek and the plan was to repel down and hike the rest of the way out.

After days of backpacking, we finally got to the top of the waterfall and started setting up the ropes and anchors. Randy, who was the expert, was searching for safe anchors so that we could belay the repellers from the top.

There were several boulders at the top of the waterfall that seemed stable. He jumped on them and tried to push them with all of his might and they wouldn’t move. So we set up one main anchor and a backup anchor that we could connect ourselves to with our harnesses and carabiners.

My coworker, Abby, was the first to repel as Randy and I helped lower her the 200 feet to the ground with the system we set up. But right when she went over the edge of the cliff with her rope, the 2 giant boulders that we had all anchored ourselves to belay her, started to slip and slide down toward the edge of the cliff.

Randy and I, who like Abby, were anchored to the boulders, desperately tried to hold the weight of my friend by holding the rope with our hands to take the weight off. We stood in front of the boulders, each pushing a different boulder with our backs with all of our might.

Abby had no idea what was going on and was taking her time, enjoying the view. But Randy and I were frantically trying to save her and ourselves.

I remember telling him that I couldn't hold on any longer. He said to me that you have to and after what seemed like the longest 5 minutes of my life, miraculously, my friend made it safely to the bottom. Still clueless as to what happened. And the rest of us ended up hiking out the way we came.

But I'll always remember Randy's strength, kindness and fun spirit. He was such a wonderful influence in my life and taught me so much when I worked for him.

So sorry for your loss. He lived such a rich and big life.

Erin Hart - November 25, 2025 at 01:04 PM

MR

“Randy was such a great guy. My first connection to him was through his sister Stacy, who was a dear friend of mine in high school. Stacy, my heart is with you during this tender time. I wish I could be there on Sunday, but I'll be in Missouri.

Who would have guessed that Randy and I would cross paths again years later—two kids from Missouri ending up working at the same organization in Utah.

Working with Randy at the Boys Ranch gave me some of my great memories and deepened my appreciation for Rec Therapy. He had such a gift for connecting with the kids, helping them find peace, confidence, and a sense of the beauty around them. Whether we were in Escalante or Hanna, just spending time with the boys, Randy always brought a calm strength and a genuine heart to everything he did.

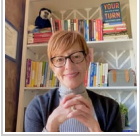
I'm grateful for the time we shared, love for our roots from Missouri and the good he brought into the world. He will be deeply missed. Sending love and comfort to his sister Stacey, his dear wife, his children, and his grandchildren. - Marcie (Emery) Remington

Marcie Remington - November 19, 2025 at 11:59 PM



“I knew Randy since he worked at the Boys Ranch with my mom. He was always doing something up in the mountains, and even remember when he had hiked Kings Peak and was indirectly struck by lightning. I was a lot younger then, so I could be wrong on the mountain, I might have just assumed it was Kings Peak cuz I know he's hiked it before. Anyway, Randy was always kind to me and always had a smile on his face. Very sad to hear of his passing, he was a great man.

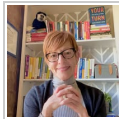
Becka Cohen - November 19, 2025 at 05:02 PM



“ 17 files added to the tribute wall



Sarah Persha - November 19, 2025 at 04:27 PM



Randy, I'm sharing photos from some very good projects you and Lara and I were involved in-you guys supported me in the years before Covid with Portland Pacia Life. Dana introduced us 25 years ago, and I hope we all remember the creativity, expansive experiences you always wanted to bring to young adults. I hope I chose well from the file I've been going through to post today. So many connections from so many years.

Sarah Persha - November 19, 2025 at 04:31 PM

BB

“ *I went to high school with Randy and made some great memories. His family was always so nice and welcoming. Randy was a special person, kind to all and just a great friend. After high school we both went in different directions like we all do, but it was always nice to stay in touch and see his impact on others through Facebook. I'm happy that he lived a great life and had such a positive impact on those around him. I'll always remember him sharing his faith as well as actually living it. One of the reasons I've always held him in such high regard as a human. RIP Randy, you are already missed.*

Bruce Brown - November 18, 2025 at 11:26 PM

JM

“ I knew Randy and his family from when we were young children to our teens through Church. I remember him being carefree and adventurous yet kind and caring. He always included everyone and had a knack for making you feel welcome. We didn't have contact after High school but I can see from his Facebook posts that he continued to be an adventurous and warm hearted soul. Even though we haven't been in touch for many years, I'm saddened that his personal light has been dimmed. I feel a piece of my childhood has been taken and true goodness has been lost. RIP my friend.

Janet Martin - November 18, 2025 at 09:37 PM

RJ

“ Randy Oakley was a great friend, hands down.

I met Randy and his first wife Becky in 1994 and came to know Randy really well after years of memories out at the Utah Boys Ranch/West Ridge Academy. Randy was known as kind, fun, friendly, outgoing, humorous, adventurous, athletic, a teacher, and most importantly, a friend.

Randy in the space of nearly 30 years has taught me many things including rock climbing, hiking, snowshoeing, how to be a mentor, camping, how to appreciate the great outdoors and so much more including how to survive some of the most difficult circumstances. This was demonstrated when he survived a deadly lightning strike in 1997. It was nothing short of a miracle for him. Sadly, his black lab Beauty was killed, but he miraculously survived. We all thought that was incredible. I think that is when I first believed in miracles. I remember Randy describing the experience as "very hot, and very loud." Of course, I would only know based on what he told everyone who knew if the incident.

The photo of lightning that I took in front of my apartment a few years ago will always remind me not only of miracles (that photo was a miracle by itself. I'll post a copy in Randy's memory shortly) , but of Randy.

Randy was a man of empathy, compassion, and understanding of those who endured hardships and struggles because he had them too. He knew what it was like to suffer and struggle but then turn those things into good memories or replace them with good memories.

Again, Randy will always be known for his kindness and selflessness. The good that he did for others is unmeasurable and he will never be forgotten, but his memory will live on with him being legendary in the endless chasm of light and time until we meet again.

Rest in peace Randy. You'll never be forgotten ever. God be with you until we meet again. Thank You for your friendship, love, and kindness.

Robert Jones - November 18, 2025 at 09:17 PM

SM

“ *He was a outstanding foster dad. He helped me tremendously in my young teen years of becoming a better person. He taught me so much and he is sorely be missed by me. My thoughts and prayers goes out to his family and close friends. Just wished I got to talk to him more as a older adult.*

Scott Morrill - November 18, 2025 at 08:33 PM

JR

“ I met Randy in about 1975 in Hickman Mills area of Kansas City. Although I was 2 years older than him and 3 grades ahead, we played together in the neighborhood all the time. I was at his house all the time. He had a fort on the side of his house, and we would set up an obstacle course to run in his yard. We played football together in a neighbor's perfect yard until we got kicked off. He and I got into a stupid fight one day and I broke my hand punching him. The next day I apologized with a cast on my hand, and we went on like nothing happened. His dad took me to play in Randy's church basketball league. We would ride our bikes on trails in the area. One day his dad dropped us off in the country and let us go exploring. We stepped out on to a frozen (deep) creek (The Little Blue River) and he fell through the ice and we could see him under the ice. We got him out, but wow, that was a close call. In 77 or 78 he moved to Raymore. After visiting a few times, the distance made us grow apart. I bumped into him one time in high school. This was pre-internet and pre-Facebook. After joining Facebook 30 years later, we were able to reconnect. He and I and a small group of neighborhood friends were attached at the hip for about 2 ½ years of our lives. I am blessed to have known him and his family. His parents were special people in my earlier life. I pray for Stacy and his wife and kids. Randy was one heck of a human being. He will be missed. So sorry for your loss. Prayers for family and friends.

Jeff Ridenhour - November 18, 2025 at 07:03 PM

“ We met Randy and Lara on a cruise to the Mediterranean back in 2017, My spouse, Billy and I scurried to get to the top of the ship where the pool was, and apparently so were Randy and Lara. We all raced to the top level to capture the best loungers before the rest of the ship passengers flooded the area. -)



Upon settling in on our “premiere lounger”, they settled down right next to us and we began a conversation that ebbed and flowed. immediately feeling comfortable with both of them, the jokes and anecdotes followed.

They were such a fun couple to see on our cruise. As our two week cruise continued, a bond had formed, both Randy and Lara were so warm, welcoming and supportive.

We stayed in touch with them after we disembarked. They were so gracious to invite us to visit their hometown. We had such a memorable adventure with them. We still hold this trip close to our hearts.

Their relationship was a strong bond, reminded us of how similar they were to us. Randy always exuded this ray of light, of unwavering warmth and non judgement. Lara always lit up the room, with her smile and spirit, especially when Randy was nearby.

We are so honored to know them both, it’s so heartbreaking to know that beautiful light that Randy shared with the world, his family and friends has been dimmed. However, it has not because his spirit, his legacy, his smile will forever live inside of us.

*Sending healing prayers to his beloved wife, our friend Lara, his children, family, and friends. May God Bless and keep you close.
Lovingly, Billy and Franky*

Franky Jagrosse - November 18, 2025 at 05:20 PM