

Sammy Joe Smith | 1985-2016

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Tags: Runaway Bay



Sammy Joe Smith

Sammy Joe Smith, 31, of Runaway Bay, died Monday, July 25, 2016.

Funeral is 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 2, at Hawkins Funeral Home in Bridgeport with the Rev. Randy James officiating. Burial will follow at Chico Cemetery.

Visitation is 6 to 8 p.m. Monday, Aug. 1, at Hawkins Funeral Home.

Pallbearers are Juan Cardenas, Rick Conally, Amon Cox, Jason Cox, Alan Creighton, Corey Keel, Colby Loper, Jason Manning, Jake Mclean, Derrick Mowery, Allen O’Kief and Ben Richey.

Sammy was born April 30, 1985, in Houston. He was a maintenance man at his family’s business, Chico Limestone Inc.

Sammy loved being outdoors and enjoyed golfing, fishing and grilling outside. He excelled as an athlete, playing football, basketball, baseball and running track in high school. He also played baseball and football at Hardin Simmons University in Abilene.

As much as Sammy loved to participate in sports, he found his true passion coaching his children’s teams. He coached Taegan’s T-ball team and Talon’s baseball and basketball teams. He often umpired baseball games for other teams and volunteered many hours

maintaining the little league field at Jewel Park in Chico. He was planning to return to college to pursue a career in coaching. He and his brother, Steven, had planned to coach Chico pee wee football this fall.

To honor Sammy's kind and giving nature, his family chose organ donation to help others. Because of his precious gift, three lives were saved, including a 13-year-old.

Sammy was preceded in death by his father, Sammy Smith; grandparents Elmer Cox, Helen Smith, Bob Manning, Billy Manning, Valton Thomas and "Drifter."

He is survived by his children, Talon Fredrick Smith, 7, and Taegan Faith Smith, 5; their mother, Ashley Davidson; his parents, Gina Richards and husband, Chris, of Idaho, Tammy Smith of Houston and Van and Sheila Cox of Chico; brothers Steven Cox and wife, Breann, of Chico and Perry Beard of Chico; sister-in-law Christie Beard of Chico; sisters Andi Jones and husband, Nick, of Decatur, Chasity Richardson and husband, Ryan, of Shepard, Krystina Holden and husband, Kole, of Kingwood and Lexi Smith of Houston; grandparents Lot and Nora Hood of Chico, June Cox of Bowie and Joann Thomas of Houston.

Other survivors include numerous nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins and friends that stretch from Chico to Houston, including his two best friends and roommates, Jeremy and Jessica Tiller.