



## Thomas Brian Reed

April 15, 1958 - May 11, 2018

Brian Reed (1958 - 2018) passed away peacefully at the Hospice Hawaii Kailua House on May 11, 2018 surrounded by his loved ones. He was also known affectionately by his many friends as "Bri" or just "B".

He was born in Langsing, Michigan, moved with his family to Hawaii in 1969, and attended Kailua High School.

Brian was a professional photographer for most of his life. He had a photographic studio in Honolulu and later in Kailua specializing in portrait, product, and animal photography. He also contracted to do specialty photographs and many, what he called, "grip and grin" photographs of political dignitaries and entertainment celebrities. He worked for Woodstock Multimedia that covered the Merrill Lynch Company's annual conventions worldwide. He photographed the annual Pro Bowl event in Honolulu for several years. His specific job was a group photo of the team cheerleaders around a beautiful hotel pool in Waikiki with Diamond Head in the background.

He was also an outstanding creative photographer of scenery on almost every continent, wherever he was, especially in Sweden where he lived for ten years with his wife Anna.

Brian's great compassion was his music. He easily and expertly played the harmonica or "blues harp" and jazz. Many blues bands were happy to have him as part of the group. He was a member of the Blues Band "Slim Jr". He was a professional harmonica player in Sweden, especially sought after in the Blues and Jazz Circles there.

Someone once remarked "I never knew anyone who didn't like Brian". We will all miss this kind, generous and truly humorous person.

He is survived by his mother and father Ann and Arthur Reed, his wife, Anna Sundberg (son Gustav), his brother Mark Reed, his sisters Kristine (Nik) Thomas and Karen (Doug) Izak, and many nieces and nephews.

In lieu of gifts and flowers, suggested donations in honor of Brian's life might go to Hospice Hawaii and the Hospice Hawaii Kailua House where he was well cared for during his last few days.

Private Services

# Comments

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“ Laura Garon is following this tribute.

Laura Garon - January 27, 2020 at 11:36 AM

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“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Laura Garon - January 17, 2020 at 01:23 PM

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“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Laura Garon - January 16, 2020 at 06:18 PM

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“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Laura Garon - January 16, 2020 at 01:13 PM

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“ I was so saddened and stunned to learn that Brian had died. My last email exchange with him was in 2013. Brian was very close friends with my son's Dad, Tim Garon which is how I met and knew Brian. Tim and Brian became friends in the 1970's when we were living in Kailua, Hawaii and they remained close friends throughout Tim's life. Tim passed away May 2008. I have copious amounts of photographs that Brian took of Tim and me and our son, and even more of the trip that Brian and Tim took when they traveled to England together just so Tim could live out his dream of visiting all of the places/haunts of The Beatles. Brian documented the entire trip through his camera lens. All I know is that Tim valued his friendship with Brian probably more than with any of his other friends, and their friendship withstood the test of time. If there is a heavenly realm, I can only hope that they're reunited again laughing and hanging out together.



Laura Garon - December 02, 2019 at 07:53 PM

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“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



Laura Garon - December 02, 2019 at 07:37 PM

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“ Aloha! Brian Reed was my best friend.

It's been a year since his passing & the void left still hurts like hell. I still can't believe he's gone. Brian will always be in my heart & soul.

Like most people who met him, Brian was someone with whom you could connect instantly, and across so many levels & interests & experiences. He was amazingly bright, completely creative, intuitive, unfailingly generous & was one of the funniest people I have ever met. I remember all the little noises & imitations he would pull out at times, "Maddy! Maddy! (in a high-pitched voice describing our friend's dog). And he appreciated mine as well. Sam Kinison, Rodney - B-Man loved them all.

Perhaps his coolest quality was that Brian Reed was always the coolest person in any room or situation, no matter the circumstances. Yet he was also among the most humble & unaffected people I've ever met. That's a rare combination of qualities in any one person. He was unflappable, yet he didn't take himself too seriously, & saw all the ironies of life. Brian was the best of friend to many different kinds of people all over the world.

Of course, playing the blues on his custom harps was his passion. The old saying is that everybody knows that "how you play is who you are." He & I played a Greenpeace Benefit gig when we first met in the early 80's. He killed it! The reason why everyone wanted to play with Brian was because, the way he saw it, his job was to make you & the music better. Completely unselfish as a musician. And the B-Man could really blow the harp. Yet he always held back when playing with others whom he sensed needed the limelight more than he.

In the last 12-15 years, Brian spent more time away from the Islands, preferring the Old World grace, refinement & intelligence of Europa. When he'd come back, he could just click in with you in an instant, with a laugh, a song, an unique observation, an invite to share music, a joke, or a new photo to give you. Brian was our lives' chronicler/photographer for decades! And he was the only non-classical musician I've ever met who, for decades, always improved his skill level on his instrument every year!

When he'd come back from Sweden or wherever, he'd always flash a new lick or combo that would blow me away. Amazing! He loved all kinds of music & musicians. And my music collection is primarily made up of his suggestions or copies he made - even of me playing gigs.. "Hey Oz, check this out."

When Brian worked for Woodstock Productions, he'd often send me a picture of a landmark in the locations he worked - asking me to 'guess where this is?' For decades, out of the blue, I'd get a picture from the cross-walk at Abbey Roads, the upper level walkway of the Brooklyn bridge, a canal in the red-light district of St. Petersburg, a bench in Florence's Boboli Gardens, a city-wide flamenco convention shot of the train station in Madrid, or of an elephant in South Africa "smiling" at his camera. But the obvious clues were always hidden by Brian's intelligence & creative picture taking. He did this with all of his friends & family. It's a wonder he had time to

do anything else. We were all so blessed by Brian Reed & his 'Right Eye.'. He was also the first among my friends to embrace computers & digital recording.

In the last month of his life, Brian imparted some amazing lessons with such grace to each of us. He made time for everyone, even as his pain was often terrible & his well-wishers almost smothering him with all the love - the line going out the door some days.

The last wisdom that Brian shared with me & our close visiting friend Ira (besides some songs) was: Don't be afraid of death. The secret of life is knowing that it's all, all about love. Soon, I & each of us will be a part of everything. Nothing else really matters." He was completely clear on everything. He was still the coolest guy in the room.

Love You B-Man Mahalo a Nui - Forever!

Chris Oswald  
5-12-19

**Chris Oswald** - May 13, 2019 at 02:40 AM

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“ In the 80's Brian visited and sat in (on harmonica) with my latin band. He asked me what the word for “dance” was? “Bri, just go up to them and say baila”.....by the end of the night we had to pry him away from his new friends. I miss that guy. Always brings a smile when i think of him. mike f.

**mike f** - February 13, 2019 at 01:06 AM

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“ Thank you Art and Ann for sharing Brian.

**Heather Madden** - June 10, 2018 at 08:09 PM

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“ I will forever hold Brian in my heart and so many fabulous memories!!!! My bestest friend of all and forever. Love you Bri...

**Heather Madden** - June 10, 2018 at 08:06 PM

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“ Brian was a close friend, even though we hadn't spoken in a year. I'll miss all the long and good discussions we had about life, music, photography, movies...

I remember once sitting around the small kitchen table in Brian and Anna's house talking and as I was about to leave, the rain started pouring down, so I decided to wait it out. Then we got into an interesting conversation, the rain stopped, but we kept talking and once I got up to leave, it started raining again, so I sat back down and let the whole procedure repeat itself. It continued like that for so long that Anna said that I had grown a full five o'clock shadow during that time. Thanks for the good times. I love you brother.

Mats Rehle, Malmö, Sweden

**Mats Rehle** - June 05, 2018 at 02:05 PM