



## Matthew Riga

October 27, 1981 - October 31, 2020

Matthew Haag Riga, age 39, resident of Birmingham, MI passed away on Saturday, October 31, 2020.

Beloved husband of Kristin. Proud father of Jack and Riley. Loving son of Steven (Tracy Tener) and Debra born in Dearborn, MI. Dear brother of Elizabeth Riga (Gabriel Bedoya) and Joshua Riga. Adoring uncle of Luke, Elle, Liv, Gracelyn, Scarlett and Joshua.

If he could have chosen to live his life any different than he did, Matthew wouldn't have changed a thing. He had everything he wanted and he was doing exactly what he wanted. And along the way, he found the woman of his dreams, created a beautiful family, forged many friendships, and earned their respect and appreciation.

He was a husband, a father, a brother, a devoted son, a friend and confidant. Matt was the best of us. The kind of man one rarely meets, but once one does, never forgets. He is the person to whom we all aspire. He was insurmountable: intelligent, witty, athletic and charismatic. Matt was destined for greatness. And that's exactly what he achieved.

Matt measured his prosperity in devotion. His worth can be found in every member of his family. His achievements are his friendships. He not only

battled for his own illness, he did it for every other person fighting the same fight. His greatest accomplishment, the complete and absolute love he shared with his wife. And his greatest legacy is his children.

He was a leader through kindness, through humility, and through bravery. We recognized his value immediately. Instinctively, we wanted to keep him close. We sought out his guidance and instruction.

But he gave us so much more than we expected. He didn't just give us his attention, he gave us his time. Matt inhabited authenticity. For him, every friend, every person, every stranger, was someone who deserved his consideration, his thoughtfulness, his care, and his kindness. His interest in us was real. He had a genuine curiosity about our lives, our families, and our work. Our concerns became his concerns. And, every conversation he had with us was a conversation filled with honesty, sincerity, and affection.

In passing, Matt still gave so much of himself. He gave us his courage. He gave us his humor. He gave countless people his time and his energy, and used his abilities to give those same people hope and opportunity. Instead of listening to his doctors, he gave us nearly five more beautiful years and he used that precious time to inspire, to encourage, and to motivate. If we never thought of Matt as a teacher and a champion, we do now.

Please know that he fought. He fought through his very last breath to stay here, to be with us, and to love us. He did not want to go. He wanted to live. He wanted to keep on working with his dad and his brother. He wanted to play with his nieces and nephews. He wanted to continue holding his wife every night as she slept. He wanted to stand next to his son, welled up with pride just as his father had always been at his side. He wanted to walk his daughter down the aisle on her wedding day. Matt wanted life.

Please know that he was at peace when he left us. We told him how much we loved him. We told him how much we treasure him. He showed us how to be brave. At the end, we comforted him and we supported him, and we helped him leave, but we did it as he would have done for us, with complete and perfect love.

There will be a private family Memorial Service held Friday November 6th, 2 p.m., which will be live-streamed to the public on the Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors website. Following the Memorial Service there will be a Celebration of Matt's Life from 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. at the Birmingham Country Club, 1750 Saxon Drive, Birmingham, MI 48009. In an effort to keep everyone healthy and stay in compliance with COVID restrictions set by the Michigan Department of Public Health, we have been asked for everyone to wear a mask and to try to limit the number of people in the outdoor tent area at Birmingham Country Club. To accomplish this we are asking individuals with last names of A-L to visit from the hours of 4:00 - 5:30 p.m. and those ending in M-Z to visit between the hours of 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. We certainly understand if you are not able to make it during these set times and you are welcome at any time. There will be a short toast to Matt at 5:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Thanks to everyone for their understanding during this most difficult time.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions appreciated to the LUNGeivity Foundation, please visit [lungevity.org](http://lungevity.org) <<http://lungevity.org>>

# Previous Events

## **Celebration of Life**

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NOV 6. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM.

Birmingham Country Club

# Tribute Wall



“ *Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Directors created a Webcast in memory of Matthew Riga*



**Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Directors** - November 06, 2020 at 12:00 PM

TS

*Miss you so much Matt. Sending love to your family. I wish I could hug them all and tell them how much you meant to all of us.*

**Treger Strasberg** - November 06, 2020 at 02:27 PM

DB

*Matt was a great man, prayers for his family. I will miss him and his humor!*

**Danielle Bates** - November 06, 2020 at 03:10 PM

DB

*My condolences to the extended Riga family. It was a pleasure not only knowing Matt for the past 15 years, but also seeing him over lunch earlier this year with his father. Always looked happy and in great. You will be missed.*

**Devang Baxi** - November 11, 2020 at 11:28 AM

ND

*I am really sorry 😞 to hear that I feel bad for Jack and Riley Rilley,s step sister Lucy is in my class Luckily it wasn't my parents*

**Nathan Dunn** - April 17, 2025 at 03:56 PM

ND

“ *Wa wa wa I miss him so much I love you*

Nathan Dunn - March 07, 2025 at 04:46 PM

EF

“ *Sending my love to Kristen and the entire Riga family. Matt, you will be so missed.*



Emily Fisher - November 08, 2020 at 09:40 AM

SB

“ *Matt Riga you will be missed. It's been a pleasure to know you the past 18 years. You'll be remembered by all for your big heart and kind ways. My condolences to the whole Riga Family.*

Satish Bajaj - November 06, 2020 at 04:28 PM

RP

“ *Our deepest condolences to the entire Riga family. We are with you in spirit and send our love on this most difficult day.*

Rick Bedoya & Alana Pietragallo - November 06, 2020 at 01:59 PM

LC

“ *My condolences go out to the entire family. I have fond memories of hanging out when the family lived next door. Peace be with you all.*



Lindsay (Nickel) Cambre - November 06, 2020 at 01:01 PM

DK

*“ I had the honor to call Matt my close friend. I first met him in Middle School and as we grew up we became even closer. We spent nearly every weekend together in college and those are still some of my most cherished memories. He left this world too soon and he will be forever missed. All my love to his family and other friends who have lost such an incredible person.*

David Karbon - November 06, 2020 at 12:46 PM

NN

*“ Matt was a huge part of my life growing up, and I'll cherish all of those memories for the rest of mine. He was a great friend, and the strongest person I've ever met. The world lost a very special person, but Heaven gained a great one. He will be truly missed, and never forgotten.*



Nick Neubauer - November 06, 2020 at 10:46 AM

SU

*As Nicholas stated above Matt was part of our family. He was at our house every day. We have so many fond memories of Matt and Josh that will never be forgotten. He was very special to all of us. Matt will always be in my heart.*

susanzonno - November 06, 2020 at 11:16 AM

BM

*“ Bev Munson sent a virtual gift in memory of Matthew Riga*



bev munson - November 05, 2020 at 10:55 AM

DD

“ It has been a pleasure to know Matt. He was always more interested in how others were doing than himself. I never saw him complain and I never saw him in bad spirt. Matt always looked at the bright side of things. Matt always tried to inspire others. A inspiration to everyone around him.



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David Duncan - November 05, 2020 at 10:33 AM

DK

“ We have fondly known Matt for the past 20 years, and the obituary about him is spot on. We feel privileged to have been able to share great times with Matt, both personal and in business. Michigan football games, golf games, after golf 19th hole celebrations, Christmas get togethers at Hyde park, and many more occasions. The Riga family is close and strong and will honor Matt and his wishes. Our heartfelt condolences go out to the entire Riga family. Dave and Ann Kelter.

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David Kelter - November 05, 2020 at 09:23 AM

JC

“ Matt and I became really close right after college. We had some great times and shared some unforgettable memories. Great guy, great friend, great person. As the years passed and I moved, we didn't get a chance to hangout as much as I would have liked. I've been following his journey and praying for a positive outcome. I am so heartbroken about this and I'm sending my sincere condolences to Kristin, his kids, josh, and his pops and the rest of the family. May the fond memories live on forever. Gone way too soon. Love you buddy!!

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joey christopher - November 04, 2020 at 10:02 PM

PP

“ *Prashant Patel lit a candle in memory of Matthew Riga*



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**Prashant Patel** - November 04, 2020 at 08:58 PM

EG

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



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**Eric Green** - November 04, 2020 at 08:53 PM

JG

“ *I met Matt as a kid growing up in Dearborn, on Woodcrest Dr. I was lucky enough to also be friends with him as an adult. My heart is broken for the entire Riga family, for Kristin and the kids, for Steve and Debbie...Liz and Josh. I will always remember Matt having a smile on his face...gone way too soon...*

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**Jackie Adray Giaier** - November 04, 2020 at 08:06 PM

MP

“ I met Matt not long after it became clear he & Kristen were serious. I ran him through the ringer asking intrusive & personal questions to assess his worthiness to marry my best friends daughter.

The questions were tough - what was the longest he dated someone, why'd they break up, how many guy friends did he have, who was he closest to in his family/why, how does he handle disagreements, etc.?

Seriously, I stepped over all kinds of boundaries, but I told him I wanted to see if he was good enough for Kristin. He took it very seriously, answered frankly, honestly with humor & humility. I was so impressed by him, so mature, thoughtful, introspective & self-aware. Finally, it was crystal clear how much he cherished, admired & loved Kristin. I admit, I fell in love with him myself. What a good man!

My heart just breaks for Kristin & the kids that he is no longer here giving his steadfast love & protection. I know he touched so many lives and my hope is we can ensure his spirit lives on in each of us who loved him. Well done, Matthew Riga, Rest In Peace.

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**Meri Pohutsky** - November 04, 2020 at 07:15 PM

HH

“ So sorry for the loss of a lively lovely young man. I recall him as a child. Beautiful prayers to you and yours.  
Heidi Haag

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**Heidi Haag** - November 04, 2020 at 04:23 PM



“ *Some of us had the pleasure of serving on the Humble Design board with Matt. This beautiful obituary and tribute honors his legacy - he was a warm, caring person, made instantly clear to any that knew him or met him - even briefly or by chance. We will hold Matt and all of you in our thoughts and prayers.*

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**Brooke Fisher** - November 04, 2020 at 02:42 PM



“ *To all of Matt's family....gone too soon...Matt was simply amazing. Always kind to everyone...and definitely the devoted family man. I love this pic I took of Kristin and Matt this summer....truly the look of love. Wishing you peace eventually in the memories as well as when you look at Jack and Riley and can see and feel Matt's presence. God Bless all of you while you navigate this difficult time. With love,  
Tracey & Randal Golden*



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**Tracey Golden** - November 04, 2020 at 02:42 PM



*Sincerely sorry for the loss of your wonderful son, brother, father husband , nephew. The Riga family lost a treasure. Just thinking of all of you grieving for this exceptional young man. Ronni Fraser*

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**Veronica Fraser** - November 06, 2020 at 08:03 PM

DD

“ I so missed the privilege of meeting this fine young man ...Kristen, children and family our thoughts and prayers are with you during this very difficult journey... Hold onto those wonderful memories.  
*Donna & Dennis Dean*

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**Donna Dean** - November 04, 2020 at 02:30 PM

AN

“ What an amazing man. His attitude about life was inspiring and his smile was infectious. His passing is a tremendous loss for anyone who had ever met him, he was a fighter for all that is good in life. Prayers to all that loved him. - Andrew Reynolds

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**Andrew** - November 04, 2020 at 02:06 PM

PO

“ Very sorry for the loss of such a fine young man. Condolences to the entire family. All will be kept in prayer. May your hearts always be filled with loving memories. Pat O'Donnell

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**Pat O'Donnell** - November 04, 2020 at 01:44 PM

TW

“ So very sorry for your loss. (terri Watson)

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**terri watson** - November 04, 2020 at 11:58 AM