



# Sullivan Ross Van Way

June 28, 1990 - June 18, 2022

Sullivan Ross Van Way passed away on Saturday, June 18, 2022, in Porterville, California. Sullivan was an accomplished pilot, videographer, runner, surfer, mountain biker, sidecar racer, inventor, explorer and so much more. He was also a beloved son, brother, uncle, grandson, and friend. Sullivan passed away doing the thing he was most passionate about – flying.

Sullivan lived his life to the fullest. Born on June 28, 1990, in Lafayette, Louisiana. He graduated from LSU with a degree in Construction Management in 2016. He worked for JP Oil Company in Bakersfield, California with dedication and enthusiasm. Outside of work, his passion was living life to the extreme. Every weekend, he could be found flying or driving to a new or familiar destination to run a race, hike a mountain, or explore something just because he had never seen or done it before. When he was not outside, he was inside studying for new pilot ratings, planning new adventures, tinkering with his countless gadgets, and documenting it all, because he wanted to take his family and friends along for the ride.

His enthusiasm for life was infectious. He was famous for encouraging others to try new things, and he rarely took “no” for an answer. Once you were in an adventure with him, he accepted no half measures. He always gave 100%, and he pushed others to expect the same of themselves. Sullivan’s favorite accomplices on his adventures were with his family. Everyone got into the act. His mother took on the role of co-driver for rally racing and together became legends in the sport. He and his father took up sidecar racing and in one year won the US National Championship. Having his parents as perpetual teammates was his source of strength and courage. In the same way, he had a gift for making each of his brothers feel unquestionably cherished. Sullivan had a unique and personal relationship with each of his brothers – with everyone having their own unforgettable adventures with him.

At JP Oil, Sullivan was a tireless worker. He moved to California to set up a gas plant, and when no one else was up for the challenge, he took on the farming side of the business. It

was an achievement of which he was especially proud. The almond and pistachio orchards he cultivated so carefully produced harvests which he shared abundantly with family and friends. Sullivan made no distinction between his friends and the people he worked with every day. He loved and respected his work family as much as his own family. His enthusiasm for life was evident in everything he did, work or play. If the sun was up, Sullivan was up. By the time everyone else was awake, he had already accomplished a full day's work. Sullivan's fun side was also tempered with kindness. Guided by his faith, he was never too busy to help anyone in need- friend, or stranger. It was important to him for everyone to feel special and included. He was steady, good natured, and a trusted advisor. The greatest gift he left was the impact he had on the people around him. He changed so many lives – always for the better - and we are infinitely grateful for his love.

Sullivan is survived by his parents, Chris and Angie Van Way, his brothers Dillon (Sarah), Logan (Hillary), Braeden, Quintin (Maddy), and Landon; his nieces Kira and Charlotte Van Way, his nephew Zimri Van Way, his grandmother Shirley Poirier Van Way and many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends who will miss him deeply. He is preceded in death by his sister Reagan Marie, his grandparents James Paul Van Way, and Iris & Harold Castille.

Service will be held at 12:30 PM on Wednesday, June 29, 2022 at Crossroads Church in Lafayette, LA. The family requests that visiting hours be observed at Crossroads Church on Wednesday, June 29, 2022 from 9:00 AM until the time of service.

The family suggests if you want to honor Sullivan's life, in lieu of flowers or donations, go on an adventure and spend time with your loved ones.

We are filled with gratitude for his life and the deepest sorrow at his passing. To quote another:

“It was a wonderful life – full and complete with the great loves and endeavors that make it worth living. “

We are sad he has left us, but we know he leaves living the life he intended. If you want to experience Sullivan's endeavors, his YouTube channel remains a tribute to his life and can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/casteater>

Personal condolences may be sent to the Van Way family at [www.delhommefuneralhome.com](http://www.delhommefuneralhome.com)

Sullivan Ross Van Way and his family were cared for and entrusted final arrangements to Delhomme Funeral Home, 1011 Bertrand Drive, Lafayette, LA.

# Cemetery Details

## Lafayette Memorial Park Cemetery

2111 West Pinhook Road  
Lafayette, LA 70508

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN **29**. 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM (CT)

Crossroads Church  
150 Verona Drive  
Lafayette, LA 70507

## Funeral Service

JUN **29**. 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM (CT)

Crossroads Church  
150 Verona Drive  
Lafayette, LA 70507

# Tribute Wall

JN

“ Chris and family,

*Just heard the sad news. My sincere condolences to you, your family, and everyone at JP Oil for your loss.*

*I just visited with Sullivan on June 2nd and he was so excited to take me to Minter field to give me a first hand look at the latest acquisition, the de Havilland Beaver. I was extremely impressed that that Sullivan got checked out on that huge flying machine and especially that he was landing it on floats! The snow skis at the back of the hangar were quite likely next!*

*We shared a passion for flying and I was hopeful that we would join me in some gliding adventures in the not too distant future.*

*Your message to emulate Sullivan and always take life by the horns, and never pass on any opportunity to enjoy life rings especially true.*

*May he always be remembered.*

*Jim Neff  
Redlands, CA*

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**James Neff** - July 05 at 02:52 PM

GS

“ Dear Angie & Chris & family-remembering your precious family & happier times at Richardson Family Reunions. We are broken-hearted for you.  
Love, Gloria (Bell) & Gene Smith

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**gloria bell smith** - July 04 at 09:51 AM

CM

“ Crimson Resource Management purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Sullivan Ross Van Way.



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**Crimson Resource Management** - July 01 at 07:03 PM

TM

“ *The Family of Genesis Machine. purchased the Bountiful Rose Basket for the family of Sullivan Ross Van Way.*



The Family of Genesis Machine. - July 01 at 03:58 PM

RE

“ *Camping with the Boy Scouts, he was such a fine young man, great to be around. He became an Eagle Scout, and the beginning of being a great man.*  
*Ronald & Judy Elkins*



Ronald Elkins - June 29 at 10:20 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Sullivan Ross Van Way.*



June 28 at 04:52 PM



“ *Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Sullivan Ross Van Way.*



June 28 at 02:58 PM



“ *Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Sullivan Ross Van Way.*



June 28 at 02:34 PM

JR

“ This seemingly random picture is from Summer 2012 in CA, when Sullivan and I were tasked with a road trip to retrieve a company car in Santa Maria. He had a way of making the simplest things fun. To some, this was a medial task, but to Sullivan - an adventure. My heart is heavy, but I'm smiling at these goofy, wonderful memories I have. I'm so grateful to have had the chance to spend some time in this life around someone like Sullivan, whose friendship and kindness has stayed with me.  
Sending all my love to the Van Way's.



Jessica Simoneaux Riney - June 28 at 12:05 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Sullivan Ross Van Way.



June 28 at 10:53 AM

SP

“ Steven Hasling & Hasling Properties purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Sullivan Ross Van Way.



Steven Hasling & Hasling Properties - June 28 at 09:24 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Sullivan Ross Van Way.



June 28 at 09:13 AM

PO

“ Sullivan was such a joy to have on our People to People Student Ambassador Trip to Europe when he was a teenager. He was extremely enthusiastic and so much fun to have as a part of our 40 student group!  
Patty Ohlmeyer

Patricia Ohlmeyer - June 27 at 05:21 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Sullivan Ross Van Way.



June 27 at 04:37 PM

GF

“ Chris and Angie I'm so sorry for your loss. Remember when that rascal was a baby. Our prayers are with you and the whole Van Way family.

George Foster - June 26 at 07:09 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Sullivan Ross Van Way.



June 26 at 03:40 PM



“ Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Sullivan Ross Van Way.



June 26 at 03:32 PM



“ Sacred Garden Spray was purchased for the family of Sullivan Ross Van Way.



June 26 at 11:55 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Sullivan Ross Van Way.



June 26 at 11:31 AM



“ Michael Shea & Family purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Sullivan Ross Van Way.



Michael Shea & Family - June 26 at 11:29 AM



“ Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Sullivan Ross Van Way.



June 26 at 09:17 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Link to Profile



Delhomme Funeral Homes - June 25 at 04:33 PM



“ Angie and family.. A devastating time, I am sure.. My heart hurts so much for you. Please know you are all in my thoughts and prayers. Knowing you'll find comfort in His promise of Eternal Life. Hugs, Madeline Rabalais

Madeline Rabalais - June 24 at 05:28 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Sullivan Ross Van Way.



June 23 at 08:37 PM



“ Cindy Nearing & family purchased the Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant for the family of Sullivan Ross Van Way.



Cindy Nearing & family - June 23 at 08:29 PM



“ It was a privilege to have known Sullivan for the short time that I did, and the time we spent flying from coast to coast will be an adventure that remains with me for the rest of my life. Blue skies and tailwinds my friend.



Jeremy - June 23 at 06:30 PM



“ I am privileged to have been able to spend some 10 out of 10 days with Sullivan in the deHavilland Beaver that he absolutely loved flying. We got the opportunity to land in beautiful lakes and even jump off the wings and swim around. It was bucket list items for both of us. He definitely lived life to the fullest and his memory will always lead me to seek adventure.



J.K. Caldwell - June 23 at 05:17 PM



“ Lashmetts purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Sullivan Ross Van Way.



Lashmetts - June 23 at 01:55 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Sullivan Ross Van Way.



June 23 at 11:45 AM



“ Amy Fell and family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Sullivan Ross Van Way.



Amy Fell and family - June 23 at 10:22 AM



“ I had the pleasure to take care of this wonderful boy for 5 years working for the VanWay family, sweet and loving is all I can remember. Very adventurous and smart. I pray for strength for the family and hope y'all become stronger every day. All my thoughts and prayers go out to you in this time of grief .

andrea Vasquez/Martinez - June 23 at 08:36 AM

CD

“ Eddie and I were saddened to hear of your loss. Sullivan had an incredible life and was a wonderful young man. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Van Way family. We can only imagine the pain you are feeling. May God heal your pain.

Corinne and Eddie Dupuy - June 22 at 07:47 PM

JS

“ I went with my husband twice this past year to stay at the house in Bakersfield while Sullivan and my husband, Greg worked. That was the first time I met Sullivan. He's an awesome special man. He will be missed by my husband and work will not be the same without him. Our hearts and prayers go out to the Van Way family.



Jennifer and Greg Simoneaux - June 22 at 06:45 PM

CM

“ Cindy McD lit a candle in memory of Sullivan Ross Van Way



Cindy McD - June 22 at 04:31 PM

AS

“ Sincere condolences



Angela "morello" Sarver - June 22 at 04:19 PM

JS

“ JP Oil shop purchased the Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant for the family of Sullivan Ross Van Way.



JP Oil shop - June 22 at 03:20 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Sullivan Ross Van Way.*



June 22 at 09:23 AM

MF

“ *Martin Richard Family purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of Sullivan Ross Van Way.*



**Martin Richard Family** - June 22 at 08:56 AM

LM

“ *Leona Mello lit a candle in memory of Sullivan Ross Van Way*



**Leona Mello** - June 22 at 02:19 AM

TN

“ *Sullivan was a great guy, as next door neighbors we had got to know each other, often discussing dirt bikes, riding and his love of planes. He definitely enjoyed the outdoors and always had a smile on his face. He will be missed,*

*Condolences from the New Family*

**Ted New** - June 21 at 04:04 PM

LM

*To the Van Way family are deepest condolences  
Ron and Leona Mello*

**Leona Mello** - June 22 at 12:03 AM

HD

*Words cannot express the feelings of sorrow for your loss. We can only pray that the sadness that is felt now, will soon be replaced by the wonderful memories that we all have of Sullivan.*

*Hank & Denise David*

**Hank David** - June 22 at 08:17 AM



*Rene' and I rejoice in the memories of how Sullivan influenced our lives, and especially how much he influenced our son's lives, Philip and Johnny. We will miss you, Sully. Your time here on Earth was brief, but you left a legacy of kindness, adventure, and love for all of us to strive for!*

**Crystal DeMoura** - June 22 at 01:27 PM

HA

*we are deeply sorry for your loss and your family is in our prayers, David and Heidi Arboneaux*

**heidi arboneaux** - June 22 at 03:56 PM

CM

*I am truly saddened for your loss. I didn't personally know Sullivan but watched his vlogs and videos and wished I could have bottled his energy! What a kind heart, endless zest for life and pure inspiration. I would have been proud to know him; so successful, accomplished and genuine.*

*You are all in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. He has left a world of memories for you all to cherish and will be "filming" front row from heaven, while you continue to make more.*

*It's not goodbye, it's see you all later :-)*

**Cindy McD** - June 22 at 04:31 PM

TP

*What a loss to his entire family and his entire airplane family. He was a wonderful person and I looked forward to every time I saw him. We're neighbors at Shafter airport and he was one of the first people to come by my hangar and congratulate me after my checkride. One day I was on my tractor at my ranch and came over a hill and there he was with his Kitfox at the end of my runway and a big smile. He stopped by to just say hello. Such a great person. Gonna miss that kid. RIP and Godspeed my friend. Farmertom in Bakersfield.*

**Tom Pinnell** - June 22 at 05:00 PM

JS

*Beautiful memoir. Sullivan was very special to all of us. My prayers are with your family. May this time be a time filled with those wonderful memories you were able to make. May God wrap his arms around you and your family.*

**jill M skobel** - June 22 at 06:14 PM

AF

*I worked with Elizabeth (Sullivan's Aunt). My prayers are with you all*

*Amy Fell*

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**Amy Fell** - June 23 at 10:26 AM

CL

*Chris and Angie, I am so sorry for your hear breaking loss of Sullivan. I really enjoyed visiting with him during his time living at Victory Commons. My prayers are with you and your family.*

*Cindy LeBlanc*

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**Cindy LeBlanc** - July 02 at 08:48 PM