



Daniel Dwight Chelberg

OCT 9, 1959 - JUL 29, 2020



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Daniel Dwight Chelberg

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Danny was the sweetest guy ever and would give anyone the shirt off his back or his last dollar. He had a contagious, deep laugh, just like his Grandad, and loved that his Grandad called him Daniel Boone. He was born October 9, 1959 in Billings, Montana. He lived most of his life in San Diego, California.

On August 13, 2004, Danny was found beaten and left for dead on the side of a road. The perpetrators were never found.

We were told by doctors that he wouldn't make it... they were wrong. He suffered a traumatic brain injury (TBI) and remained in a coma for almost a year. His stepfather, Bert, had cancer and didn't expect to live to see Danny recover. So Bert made many recordings of songs using his harmonica. In hopes that these familiar sounds would help Danny wake up, we played these for him while he lay in a coma. One of the last songs Bert recorded was the Irish ballad, Danny Boy. Danny did wake up but not in time to say goodbye to Bert. He spent the last 15 ½ years in a nursing home bed because of the cruel actions of others. He was unable to use his body like he was accustomed – but he had his long term memory and loved telling and hearing stories of his youth, telling jokes, and singing familiar songs.

TBI is a brutal thing but, in some ways, it led to a real contentment in Danny. He no longer struggled with substance abuse. He had tremendous family support and knew was loved. He held no grudges, was not bitter, and cherished each and every visitor who came to see him.

A few short weeks ago he came down with Covid-19 in his nursing home and he beat it! A fragile TBI, non-ambulatory patient on a feeding tube beat Covid-19. (!)

None of us could visit him because of the pandemic lock-down, but we longed to celebrate with him and couldn't wait for this pandemic to be over so we could see him. However, on the morning of July 29, he passed. His exhausted body gave way.

We will always love you Danny Boy . . . may you run, sing, laugh, and be with those you love forever. You are whole now.



Obituary

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Danny never married and had no children. He came from a big, loving, blended family with lots of siblings, nieces, nephews, cousins, aunts, and uncles.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the San Diego Brain Injury Foundation at <https://sdbif.org/> .



Events

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Cemetery Details



Greenwood Memorial Park

4300 Imperial Avenue, San Diego CA 92113



(619) 450-1479





Tribute Wall

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Dr. Alan Brown posted:

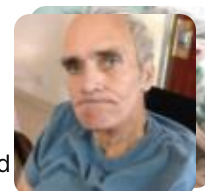
Mom, Alma Brown, and your Mom Helen met first in Grade school in Greybull Wyo, as you know. She was just saying today how we all enjoyed getting together when you all would come from Billings to Worland and visit with us! I have so many wonderful memories of being at your home in Lemon Grove, cookouts and dinners together. Have always loved you all. Hugs from Mom and I.Dr. Alan Brown

August 16 at 6:16 AM



Judi Chimits shared 2 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Danny was happy. He loved visits and every time he saw us it was like he'd just seen us the day before. He always said, "yes" when I asked if I could pray for him at the end of our visits... then he'd grab my hand and put it on his forehead... and I'd pray my heart out with tear filled eyes and, without fail, he'd thank me and smile. I'm glad he's whole now ... and I miss him.



August 12 at 5:45 AM



Kay Townsend posted:

In my heart, I see Danny and Dad fishing and visiting together, wherever that may be. Both healthy and at peace!!!

August 15 at 3:32 AM



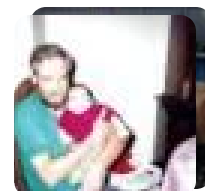
Charlene Angelo shared 4 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.



August 12 at 5:45 AM



Charlene Angelo shared an album called **Tribute Wall**.



August 12 at 5:45 AM



Media

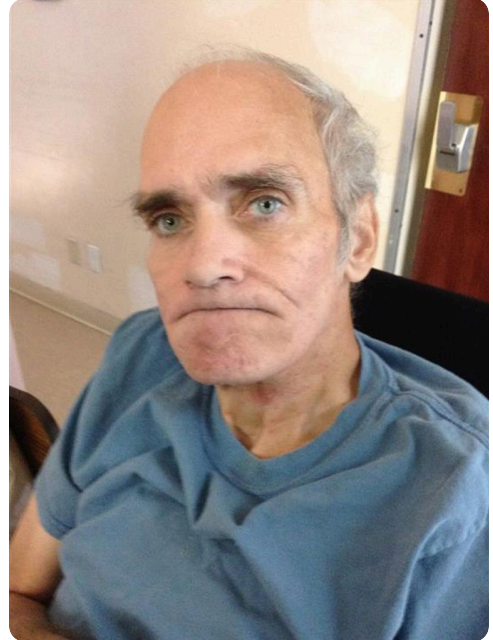
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August 15 at 5:16 PM





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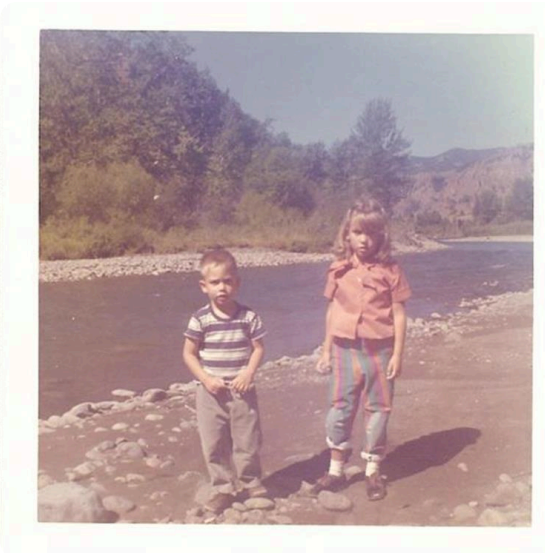
August 14 at 4:08 AM



Danny and Charlene on the farm



Danny, Charlene, and cousins



Danny and Charlene in Montana





Media

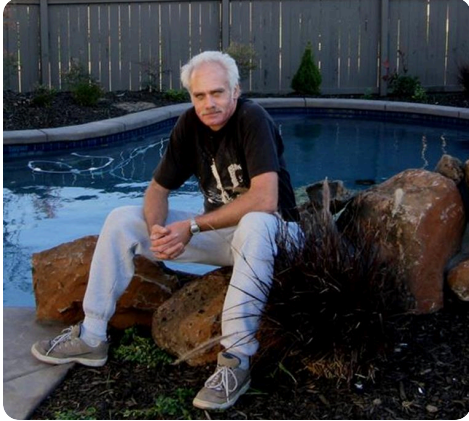
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August 12 at 5:45 AM



December 2003 and the last picture before Danny was assaulted



Proud Uncle Danny



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Daniel by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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