

Eulogy by Christopher Cote

On February 11th, 1983 in Long Beach, CA our family was blessed with the beginning of the life of Jonathon Michael Cote; a beautiful baby boy who soon began to touch the lives of everyone he met.

Moving all over the world, it was great to have Jonathon as a brother. No matter where we lived or went, we were there for each other. We had each other to create good times and share in the bad times. When you were with Jon, the bad times were few and far between. With a remarkable talent for turning any situation into a good one, it was easy for him to make friends. I can see here today by looking around that he enjoyed making many friends; many of whom wished to show their love by being here with us today in celebration. With a kind heart and a good conscience he lived his life each day to its fullest. Always selfless, he gave from his life; always the one to lend a helping hand, an open ear, or a kind word. He remains an example to us all how to approach our own lives and how to treat each day we are given as a gift.

Jonathon was an artist to me, a beautiful person with his own rhythm. His life was his artwork and he wished to share it with anyone whom he met. I consider myself fortunate to share most of his life with him, and I know for certain all who encountered Jonathon cherish the time they spent with him. But now, we must all share his life with others so that he did not perish in vain.

While talking about my brother, I am reminded of a movie “A River Runs Through It” by Robert Redford. It is one of my favorite movies because it depicts Jonathon and our lives together. So, I would like to share with all of you a quote from that movie:

“Each one of us here today will at one time in our lives look upon a loved one who is in need and ask the same question: We are willing to help, Lord, but what, if anything, is needed? For it is true we can seldom help those closest to us. Either we don't know what part of ourselves to give or, more often than not, the part we have to give is not wanted. And so it is those we live with and should know who elude us. But we can still love them - we can love completely without complete understanding.”

I loved Jonathon completely, and I know that love for Jonathon is shared by everyone here today. Some may say we lost someone special. I would agree he was special, but we didn't lose Jonathon. We know exactly where he'll be...in our hearts forever until we see him again.