



Daniel Thomas Cornell

February 19, 1947 - April 7, 2017

A good man who lived his life the way he wanted, bound not by society's rules, constraints and norms would aptly describe Daniel Thomas Cornell. He was born in Brooklyn, New York on February 11th, 1947 to a Brooklyn native, John Cornell and a farm girl from the country, Edna May Lewis. The vast difference in his parents' background helped create a unique boy from the very beginning. At an early age, Dan and his parents moved to rural Newton, New Jersey to be close to Edna's family. There he was educated at local schools and his brother Jack and sister Kathy were born.

His mother died when Dan was a young boy and that forever impacted his life. Edna was an avid reader and she certainly passed that on to her son. Dan's house today is filled with books and it is our guess that every one of them was read. He had a passion for history, with World War II being the subject that he extensively perused.

Dan enlisted in the US Army and served as a Crew Chief on a Chinook helicopter during the Vietnam Conflict. He was honorably discharged in 1971 and at that time he moved to San Francisco where he lived in a commune in the Haight Ashbury District. In 1975, he took advantage of the GI Bill and moved to Bozeman, MT where he pursued his love of Architecture at Montana State University. He never completed that degree but instead went on to learn the trade of carpentry and house painting. His love for color and the Painted Ladies of San Francisco are reflected in the painting patterns of the historic homes of Butte. He boldly envisioned and began painting these

historic homes to show off their beautiful architecture and design. His home today, which he designed and built, showcases his beliefs regarding the beauty of the palette.

In 1992, Dan once again enrolled at MSU and completed degrees in Art and Science. He was employed by the Butte School District after his graduation in 1994. Many of his students will give testimony to Dan's passion for the Arts, as well as his unyielding devotion to those he taught. He retired in 2014 and spent the next years doing all the things he loved best: creating art through a variety of mediums, adventure motorcycling on his BMW with friends and his sons, exploring the world and its wonders, building a greenhouse and learning the art of gardening, planting a yard full of sunflowers, and spending more time with his children and grandchildren and teaching them about all of the above. His latest love was Layla, a little red mutt whom he adored and a companion that travelled wherever he went. Layla was by his side as he passed on from this earth, peacefully in his sleep.

As his mother greatly influenced him, so did he influence his children who survive him and will

forever miss him: Dang Cam Tu, Robbie Cornell, Addie May Cornell Karch (Paul), Seth Lewis Cornell (Kelly), Alexii Caroline Cornell (Shane Rummel) and Andrew Daniel Cornell'

His grandchildren adored Gramps. We know that their wonderful memories of him will always go

with them: Tina (Brandon), Catherine and Caroline Ngo, Steven Le, Sloan and Lex Blaze Wilson, Brooklyn and Harlyn Rummel, and Elijah Karch.

Previous Events

Service

APR 14. 5:30 PM (MT)

Phoenix Building
66 W. Park Street
Butte, MT 59701

Tribute Wall

KS

“ *Art Man is what we called him. My art teacher as a child taught me so much. My fist art show so many memories. You will be truly missed by many.. may you rest in peace..*

Keisha Scown - April 13, 2017 at 12:50 PM

TS

“ *So sorry to hear about Dan's passing. He was such a gifted, creative guy with a great sense of humor. He will be missed.*

Tim and Janet Sullivan - April 13, 2017 at 11:19 AM

BC

“ *Good bye brother. I will miss you. We shared many good times in the halls of Butte High. My condolences to Dan's family. We will meet again on the other side. Until then, watch down on all those who love you.*

Bill Callaghan

Bill Callaghan - April 13, 2017 at 07:02 AM

JB

“ *Dan was an extraordinary talent. I truly appreciated the way that he approached his work- so creative and resourceful- and he did not cut corners. His work was truly professional grade and always artistic. I also enjoyed visiting with him and listening to his views over a good beer. I will miss him. Jo B.*

Jo Buysse - April 12, 2017 at 05:03 PM

GW

“*Sorry to hear about Dan, I remember him from High School. Condolences to the Cornell family. Geraldine Winters NHS 68*

G. Winters - April 12, 2017 at 04:22 PM

SC

“*Farewell, dear friend. Sorry I missed having our annual glass of beer and political chat at the brewery, last time I was in Butte last month. Have a good time, as you usually do, wherever you are going.*

sal Cachola - April 12, 2017 at 02:05 PM