



## Robert Cardoso

April 12, 1967 - April 23, 2024

### ROBERT CARDOSO

April 12, 1967 - April 23, 2024

Our Dad, Robert Cardoso, 57, passed away unexpectedly on April 23, 2024. Born on April 12, 1967, in El Paso, Texas, he was the second born child to John and Barbara Cardoso. As a child the family relocated to Chula Vista, California where he was raised and met his soulmate, Julie Little Cardoso, at Bonita Vista High School. The two were instantly inseparable and went on to raise two children, daughter, Katy Kooyman, and son, Johnny Cardoso.

As a kid his friends and family remember him being wild, but doing it with skill. His calm and collected demeanor won everyone over. Robert's siblings looked up to him like a Dad and he taught and nurtured them in his own way. He wasn't a brother who picked on you. Favorite memories of his youth include when he practiced falconry, perfected risk-taking and mastered broken bones. If you had the opportunity to hear stories of his younger years, you were in for a laugh, or a good scare.

Robert moved his family from Chula Vista, California to Butte, Montana in January of 1992, where he lived the rest of his life. Robert dedicated his life to providing for his family, and was most happiest when called "Papa."

He worked hard as a local freight hauler for both Montana Broom and Brush and UPS over the years. Dad loved his job, loved to drive those trucks, and always loved to share stories about his adventures driving in the mountains on his UPS route. He was so happy to call Montana his home and found every opportunity to embrace the beauty it has to offer. From bald eagles to barbecuing in the snow below freezing, Robert loved the life he built in Montana. He knew he had a great green thumb and his garden was admired by all who knew him.

Whether he was taking scenic rides, packing for a picnic with a view, or reminding us to check our oil; he was the one who led the family and held everything together. We will cherish his guidance and bravery and always hold on to the good he instilled in us. Friends remember hanging out at the house, and Dad making sure everyone was well fed, taken care of, and part of the family. He was always a phone call away and ended every conversation with “love yaz.” Our dad loved to laugh, relax, and ‘get stuff done.’ He had a unique, determined, resilient way of navigating life. Dad taught us to stand up for what we believe in. Although it is hard to believe he is no longer physically with us, we know he is at peace and forever with us until we meet again. We're proud of all you did during your short time with us, Dad.

Robert was met on the other side by his mom and dad, Barbara and John Cardoso; older brother, Mony Cardoso; father in law, Tony Caliger; our family dog of 16 years, Hunny girl, and our kitty of 10 years, Roxy. He will be remembered by everyone who loves him here on Earth: best friend Julie Little Cardoso, daughter Katy Kooyman and her husband Tim Kooyman and granddaughters Keyenna McGee, Tayvah Stiff, Amiya Little, and Maxyne Kooyman; son Johnny Cardoso and his partner Melissa Gattuso; younger sister Cindy Cardoso and her husband Bobby Ziomek; younger brother Richard Cardoso; mother in law Suzanne Caliger; and many other friends and family.

This is not goodbye, just a new way of life with you. Rest easy Dad, see you on the other side.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to the family's cremation and services fund at [www.gofundme.com/robert-cardoso](http://www.gofundme.com/robert-cardoso) and/or consider donating to The Butte SPIRIT Homes [www.buttspirit.org/donate/](http://www.buttspirit.org/donate/).

# Tribute Wall

CC

“ *Cindy Cardoso sent a virtual gift in memory of Robert Cardoso*



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**Cindy Cardoso** - December 31, 2025 at 09:03 PM

CC

“ *Thinking of you every day, especially during the holidays. Robert, I miss you.*



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**Cindy Cardoso** - December 31, 2025 at 09:01 PM

CS

“ *Robert,  
There's so much I want to say to you. So many things I need to say and ask that big brotherly advice. Richard asked me for things I was not sure how to help him with, things that Mom and Dad would help him with. I see him taking charge in some things, others I see him so helpless. I told him i want to go to Montana, lets go. My heart aches to be there so badly. He said for me to go, and not let him stop me. I just want everyone to be okay.  
I miss you so badly. I ve had 2 dreams about you, well, you know, you where there, and I thank you for that and love you for that.  
He Robert, Love Yas.*

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**Cindy Cardoso little sister** - December 16, 2024 at 10:54 PM

KK

*Love you my Auntie ❤️❤️❤️*

**Katy Kooyman** - February 25, 2025 at 07:19 PM

JL

“ *I love you forever Robert Cardoso life without you it's hard continue to watch over all of us I miss you so much I appreciate every single thing you did for all of us love you Julie*

**Julie Little** - August 26, 2024 at 11:26 AM

KK

*Love you mom! I miss Dad so much*

**Katy Kooyman** - September 18, 2024 at 05:36 AM

CS

*I love you all so very much. We love you Robert.*

**Cindy Cardoso little sister** - December 16, 2024 at 11:05 PM

CC

“ *Robert, I love you my brother!!!!!! I miss you everyday!  
Love,  
Your little sister Cindy*

**Cindy Cardoso** - June 23, 2024 at 12:31 AM

JL

“ *Robert John I'll always love you n miss our Crazy times we spent 38 years together .. Rest in peace I appreciate all of your hard work that you worked so hard for our family .. Fly high Babe our Angel XO your Wife your Best friend xoxo*

**Julie little** - May 07, 2024 at 09:57 PM

JW

“ To Roberts family, hi, I worked with Robert at UPS for several years. I was his union steward for a few years....and battles ,he was a guy I could tell things in confidence to and never have to worry about it biting me back. Not to many stand up guys there like him and I just plain liked him! I know he' s headed up cause he already knows what hell,s like. He always talked about you all, I know he loved you very much! So very sorry for your loss, too too soon. Thoughts and prayers Jack Wallace

jack wallace - May 07, 2024 at 08:38 PM

KK

Thank you for sharing Jack. This means so much to read this!

Katy Kooyman - September 18, 2024 at 05:23 AM

CS

Thank you Jack. I wasn't sure if it was right for me to say anything but just like my neice said, Jack it truly means alot.

Cindy Cardoso little sister - December 16, 2024 at 10:59 PM

GS

“ Dear Julie & Family,  
I'm so sorry for your loss. I worked with Robert at Montana Broom and he was my favorite. Alway a great worker and very considerate!  
RIP Dear Friend 🙏  
With love and prayers to all!!! Gayle Schumacher

Gayle Schumacher - May 07, 2024 at 12:20 AM

KK

Thank you for sharing Gayle! I remember your name. He was definitely favorite material.

Katy Kooyman - September 18, 2024 at 05:32 AM

CS

*Thank you Gayle, I think I remember your name too. It truly makes some good feelings flow thru our hearts.  
Thank you.*

**Cindy Cardoso little sister** - December 16, 2024 at 11:03 PM

CC

“ *Cindy Cardoso lit a candle in memory of  
Robert Cardoso*



**Cindy Cardoso** - May 01, 2024 at 06:15 PM

KK

*Love you my Auntie!*

**Katy Kooyman** - September 18, 2024 at 05:32 AM

CS

*Thank you my beautiful neice!*

**Cindy Cardoso little sister** - December 16, 2024 at 11:06 PM