



## Mr Christopher Hoss Linzza

February 10, 1965 - May 30, 2013

Christopher Earl Ullrich Linzza, of El Campo, passed away peacefully on May 30, 2013, at the age of 48. He was born on February 10, 1965 to the late Earl and Melba Christoffel Linzza in Atlanta, Georgia. He was a member of the J. Frank Dobie High School Class of 1983. He received an Associates Degree from San Jacinto College and a Bachelors of Science Degree in History from University of Houston. On December 18, 1993, he married Kristina Leigh Farley in Houston.

During his college career he participated in Track and Field events, where he threw the hammer, shotput, and discus and set many records that still stand today. He combined that love of field events and passion for his Scottish heritage together and he and his Father, Earl, traveled around the country participating in Scottish Highland Games. Tossing the caber was his favorite event. He was the recipient of The Dewar's "White Label" Award for Outstanding Achievement in Scottish Athletics in 1985. He was a member of the Houston Highland Games Association.

Hoss, as people have come to know him, was a member of Troop 1032 of the Sam Houston Area Council Boy Scouts of America where he attained the rank of Eagle Scout. During college, he began his long career as a staff member at El Rancho Cima Scout Reservation. He worked at both Horseshoe Bend and Cockrell River Camp in all positions, big and small. He was Camp Director,

Program Director, a wrangler, a counselor, even a muleskinner. He also worked for SHAC at Camp Strake as a Ranger and served on many staffs at the council's annual Winter Camp.

In 1996, that love of service and scouting led Hoss to a professional career with the Boy Scouts of America. He was the District Executive for the Broken Arrow District of the Alamo Area Council in San Antonio. In 1999, he and his family moved to El Campo, where he served as Senior District Executive for the Brahman District of the Sam Houston Area Council. In 2008, he accepted a position as Program Director for the Great Smoky Mountain Council in Knoxville, Tennessee. He was also a James E. West Fellow. Hoss truly lived his life by the Scout Oath and Law.

His love of Texas was too strong and their family moved back to El Campo in January of 2009, where he accepted the position of Chief Professional Officer for the El Campo Boys and Girls Club. He enjoyed working with the "Club Kids" and they loved Mr. Linzza.

Though not originally from El Campo, it truly became his home. He loved his community and the community loved him back. A member of St. Philip the Apostle Catholic Church, he truly followed the motto "To Know, Love, and Serve God and Others." He was also a member of the Knights of Columbus 2490 and was a member of the Fourth Degree, a member of B.P.O.E. #1749, serving as Leading Knight, the Club Room manager and was named Elk of the Year, a former member of the El Campo Rotary Club, a member of the Sons of the American Revolution, and a member of the Sons of the Confederate Veterans.

He was an avid genealogist who loved his family history, Texas history and taking his children to see anything history related. From battlefields to cemeteries, he loved sharing that love of history with anyone who wanted to know about it.

He is preceded in death by his parents, maternal grandparents Julius Milton and Louise Christoffel, paternal grandparents Emme and Henry Linzza, aunt Hazel Schumacher, and uncle Julius Milton Christoffel, Jr.

He is survived by his wife Kristina Farley Linzza, sons Collin Ramsey and Harrison Wayne Linzza, and daughter Shelby Faye Linzza, all of El Campo; sisters Debbie Kennedy of Burnet and Pamela Haynes and husband Lee of Houston; aunt Myra Christoffel Cobb of Houston; mother and father-in-law Eva and Ramsey Farley of El Campo; and numerous nieces and cousins.

A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent. Hoss was all that and more and lived his life to the fullest to his very last day.

Vigil service and KC Rosary will be at 7 pm on Tuesday at St. Philip the Apostle Catholic Church. Mass of Christian Burial will be Wednesday, June 5, 2013, at St. Philip the Apostle Catholic Church with Rev. Gary Janak officiating. Burial will follow at the Holy Cross Memorial Park in El Campo.

# Tribute Wall

DE

“ *What a great leader of young men and a fun guy to work for and be around. Although he was with us in Tennessee a year, he made a huge impact on many lives here. We are all so sorry for your loss.*

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**David Clary - Oak Ridge, TN - Employee** - June 14, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ *I just ran across this looking for memories about working on staff at El Rancho Cima. Hoss was a big influence on my first (and second) staff experience. His presence - while looming - was comforting. I also had a chance to work with his father (Papa Hoss) on staff. I have nothing but great memories of Chris. He truly made an impact.*

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**Chad Claude - Marshall, MN - Friend** - June 05, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ *Chris I remember you growing up and there were times Pam and I would have to run you off. You grew into a great young man and yes through out the years I have kept up with you as I have Pam. I was so glad to speak with you at Pam and Lee's Birthday, you had lost a lot of weight since the last time I saw you but guess that was to be expected since you had been the hospital. Losing you was a shock, you were doing so good, but I guess God had plans for you. You have left your own life story and you did do well. You have a great family and loving and caring wife. I am so blessed to share some of my life with you and have the fun we did enjoy. Rest my friend. Love to the family.*

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**Cathe Conner - Nassau Bay, TX - Friend** - June 15, 2013 at 12:00 AM

Jl

“ Ramsey, Eva & Family,  
*I picked up this information from the State Knights of Columbus prayer chain today. We are saddened by your loss of Hoss. From what we gather he was a fine son-in-law and a good father to your grandchildren. As we recall that is why you moved to El Campo. We send our condolences and know we are praying for you all. Just remember the good times you all shared. They will give you the strength to carry on. May God Bless you all.*  
Jo Ann & Phil Leibowitz, Jr.  
Temple, Texas

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**Jo Ann & Phil Leibowitz, Jr - Temple, TX - Friend of in-laws** - June 09, 2013 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ Chris Earl Ullrich Linzza you were one of the greatest people I have ever know. We grew up together, worked together, and played together. My memories of you go back to us building fences after Hurricane Alicia, our love for both Germany and Texas, living in San Antonio, and just enjoying the simple life. You are the God-Father of my oldest daughter because you are someone to look up to. You were always patient and a great teacher and thanks for teaching a 120 lbs runner how to throw the hammer. That was fun. I knew you before you added Ullrich to your name and before anyone called you Hoss (even though they thought it back in the day). Rest in peace Brother. I will never forget you.

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**Tony Serna - Alexandria, VA - Long Time Friend** - June 07, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ Chris came by my parent's house one night looking for something to do. Which usually ended up interesting, but this one time we rode around 610 just because.

*He was a good friend, from our time in high school, to sharing a duplex in San Antonio. He will be truly missed.*

*Kris for you and the kids I am so sorry. He was loved by many..*

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**Michelle Millet Winstead - Dickson, TN - friend** - June 06, 2013 at 12:00 AM

RF

“ What a funny guy with a big heart. We had a great time in Rotary.

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**Ralph Gold - el campo, TX - Friend** - June 06, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ Ummm... I'm in shock. Chris was the reason I play the musical instrument I do; way back when, when we were in beginner band at Thompson Intermediate in Sagemont, our band director, old Mr. Foster, had Chris, the biggest kid in the class, pegged as a tuba player. But then, Chris's family found an old saxophone, so he ended up playing that... and I was the second biggest kid in band class. (I think it worked out pretty well for us both.)

Later, he got to know my wife, who is just as slender and petite (LOL) as both of us. I remember going out to eat with her and Chris in Austin, sometime back in the 90s, and the waiter asked us if we wanted the "conservative portion" of the chicken fried steak plate we had all ordered. Chris looked up at the waiter and said, "Conservative portion! Are you kidding? Look at all of us - we're like the Hungarian wrestling team!" We last saw him and his family in El Campo, a few years ago.

I wasn't Catholic when we all grew up, but I am now, so I say this: Eternal rest grant my old friend Chris, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace.

Amen.

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**Mike Parker - Laredo, TX - friend** - June 06, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with Chris, the children and whole family. We pray that you may find peace. Sincerely, the Nixons

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**Jessica Nixon - Austin , TX - Friend of Chris** - June 05, 2013 at 12:00 AM

CI

“ I knew Hoss from my time on Camp Staff. He was a good man and friend to all. He will be missed greatly by all who knew him. Our prayers go out to his family during their time of need.

Chris & Cynthia Bailey & Family - Glen Carbon, IL - June 05, 2013 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ Our deepest symphy goes out to Kris and the children. I remember taking my son Hunter to his Cub Scout pack meeting several years ago and Hoss was the Pack Leader at that time for Pack 196, during this meeting Hoss sings out Pizza Man, my sons eyes got big watching and chanting this song, this became a popular song in our home for my son. After that night my son Hunter would refer to Hoss as The Pizza Man for several years. As the years have gone by my son would refer to him as Mr. Hoss. Hoss you will truly be missed by so many. You were a gentle giant, with a heart of gold. We will continue to pray for strenght for Kris and the children during your journey to heaven. May you rest in peace.

The Rachunek Family, John, Jackie, Kayla and Hunter - El Campo, TX - Friend - June 05, 2013 at 12:00 AM

AR

“ Kris, Collin, Harrison and Shelby, The obitituary of your husband and dad is beautiful! I wish I would of had chance to know him better. From one great Texas history buff, I'm sure I could of enjoyed many more conversations with him. So glad we got to enjoy recent times together. With AXiD love and peace, Ann Roberts

Ann Roberts - June 05, 2013 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ This is a true loss for our community! What a great and giving man! You will be missed! Glad I had honor of knowing hoss!

Scott mollnar - El campo, TX - Friend - June 05, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ Chris was such a genuinely nice person.....always kind, always ready to lend his help and always living his faith and loving his family.....A great example for all....Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time.....

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**Beverly and Larry Russell - El Campo, TX - friend - June 05, 2013 at 12:00 AM**

GF

“ One of the finest people I have ever known. Even as youngsters Chris's pure heart and moral character made an impact on me that has influenced me to this day. I am so glad I got to speak with Chris recently and we got to remind each other how we felt. Love ya Chris - gonna miss you.

*My sincerest condolences to Chris's family.*

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**George King - Houston, TX - High School/Scouting Friend - June 05, 2013 at 12:00 AM**

RF

“ We were so sad to hear about Chris. Even though we have not seen him in many years, he has often been in our thoughts and conversations. He was a good friend to Richard growing up though the school years. He stood as a groomsmen in our wedding supporting us even though his mother had died the same week. Even through his sorrow he celebrated with us. We have the fondest memories of him. He always made us smile! Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family!

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**Richard and Stacey Farrias - Wylie, TX - Friends - June 05, 2013 at 12:00 AM**

TC

“ Kristina...and of course sweet Shelby. Sending my love through my parents...

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**Traci Thiebaud - Los Angeles , CA - Cousin - June 04, 2013 at 12:00 AM**

MF

“ My heart broke when I heard about Chris. We have known each other from the time we were 4 years old. We started school together at Humpty Dumpty all the way to graduating from Dobie High School. On behalf of the Mansell Family we would like to express our sincere condolences to you and your family.

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**Mary Jane Mansell - Pearland, TX - Friend - June 04, 2013 at 12:00 AM**

KC

“ The world was a better place with Chris in it. Even as a young man the character and integrity he displayed set the bar high for the rest of us. Heaven truly gained another angel. My thoughts and prayers are with Chris' family.

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**Kenny Sharpless - Seabrook, TX - classmate/friend - June 04, 2013 at 12:00 AM**

JF

“ Chris Linzza was a Giant of a Man! He was also a childhood playmate from the land of the Sages. Chris was a good friend to my brothers, Richard, Michael and Joey. The Linzza Family memories are some of the best! This a sad day indeed. We have lost an Earthly Angel.

*With Deepest Sympathy*

*Jerilynn Farrias Johns*

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**Jerilynn Farrias Johns - Houston, TX - Friend - June 03, 2013 at 12:00 AM**

TC

“ My deepest condolences to you and your boys, Chris. Sending you guys thoughts of sympathy, strength, and love.

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**Traci Thiebaud - Los Angeles , CA - Cousin - June 03, 2013 at 12:00 AM**

CF

“ *Hoss was a great guy and will be missed by all. Our heartfelt condolences go out to his family.*

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**Carolyn & Kenneth Townsend - El Campo, TX - Friend** - June 03, 2013 at 12:00 AM

AF

“ *A fond memory is tailgating with Hoss and Kris at the Texas State football games. Hoss was a friendly, helpful and kind soul and he is missed. My heart breaks for Kris and the kids and you are in my thoughts and prayers every day. I love you.*

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**Allyson Johnstone-Reid and Kirk Reid - Houston, TX - friend** - June 03, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ *Heartfelt condolences go out to his family.*

*The Chris I knew was how many of us remember him - a gentle giant.*

*Rest in peace my friend.*

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**Danette Graham - Pasadena, TX - Dobie Classmate & Friend** - June 03, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JT

“ *Dear Kris*

*I am so sorry for the loss of your husband. You and your children will be in my prayers.*

*Julie Purnell  
Delta Psi*

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**Julie Purnell - Shavano Park, TX** - June 03, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JA

“ Kristina, so, so sorry to hear about Christopher. I know you and your family have been through so much during his illness and rehabilitation. But he is in a better place now and free from pain and suffering. I hope you are doing okay. I can't imagine how hard this must be, but God is with you every step of the way. I hate that we live so far away and cannot be there for the funeral, but you all are in our hearts and our prayers through this tough time. Love you, Kris. Hang in there precious girl. Aunt Joycie & Uncle Bill

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**Joycie Bryant - Canyon, TX - Aunt** - June 03, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ Only 48 years but wonderful memories of the Linzza family. They were active organizers and supporters of Athletics at the annual Houston Highland Games/Festival for many years. Rest Well, Chris... till the Sound of the Trump!

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**Melvyn Douglass - HOUSTON, TX - Friend** - June 02, 2013 at 12:00 AM

LF

“ I remember Chris from our time together in the J Frank Dobie High School band. He was playing his baritone saxophone along with my brother, Rich while I played the tenor saxophone. Chris could make us laugh and was just all around fun to be around. May your family know that Chris will continue to be remembered with fondness!

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**Laura Dominguez Chan - Sunnyvale, CA - high school friend** - June 02, 2013 at 12:00 AM

RS

“ I'm deeply saddened to hear about Chris. He was a class act! The last time I saw Chris was when he was in the hospital last year. It had been almost since we graduated high school when I saw him before that, but when I heard that he was in the hospital, I had to go visit him. Chris impacted others in such a great way, and he was a goodhearted guy. I know that everyone at our upcoming high school reunion will be thinking about him and missing him.

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**Roger Lesley - Houston, TX - Friend from High School** - June 02, 2013 at 12:00 AM

LT

“ I remember Chris from High School. A true "Gentle Giant" who never knew a stranger.

One night in our Senior Year he was giving me a ride in his car when some people started yelling at us. He pulled over and asked me to step out (I was small and skinny). After I got assurances from him he would not leave me behind, I got out; the other guys got out and were talking trash. Chris climbed out of his car, which made the other guys stop in their tracks (I think there were 3). It got real quiet, Chris smiled and said hi, the other guys apologized and said they thought he was someone else; everyone left happy (at least I did).

Even though I have not seen him since High School, knowing he is gone makes me sad. My prayers to all his loved ones.

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**Luis Cedeno - Houston, TX** - June 01, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ Hoss had such a HUGE influence on our son Colin. It turned into a lifelong family interaction.

He bounded out across the parking lot to hug us us before your wedding, as excited as a little kid. He was anxious for us to come inside and watch as he smiled at his soon to be bride.  
Unforgettable!

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**John & Donna Parrish - Houston, TX - Friends** - June 01, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ Great memories of Chris from school. He was a good friend to all and will be missed.

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**Jeff Jamison - Friend** - June 01, 2013 at 12:00 AM

AS

“ Kris, my heart goes out to you and the kids. I am so sorry for your loss. Thinking about and praying for you.

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**Amy Glass - Dallas, TX - Sorority Sister** - June 01, 2013 at 12:00 AM

PT

“ Kris:

Melanie and I are are sad for your loss. We will hold you and your family up in prayer in the days to come.

Pat and Melanie Kennedy

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**Pat and Melanie Kennedy - Dallas, TX** - June 01, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KF

“ We mourn the passing of Chris and send our heartfelt condolences to all his family. He will be remembered.

Kerry, Kevin and Ara Hollyday, and Betty Kennedy - Spring, TX - family - June 01, 2013 at 12:00 AM

FF

“ A sad time for your family and for the City of El Campo. Hoss will be truly missed by many. Our community has lost a leader and a friend. May God's grace carry you through the future.

Fran Kyle - El Campo, TX - friend - June 01, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ Hoss is one of the finest men I have worked with, especially in Scouting. He is a man of integrity and devotion. My whole family sends our deepest regards and sympathy to his wife and children. We will pray for your peace.

Bill Ragsdale - Ingram/Kerrville, TX - Friend - June 01, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BC

“ Chris will be greatly missed by his classmates at J. Frank Dobie High School 1983. He was always happy and had something good to say. A true gentle giant.

Britt Rascoe - Houston, TX - Friend / Classmate - June 01, 2013 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ Kris, my heart is broken to hear this. Im here if u need anything and know ur in my prayers and love.

Susanne Lawton May - El Paso, TX - AZD sister - June 01, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MT

“ *My love and prayers are with all of you.*

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**Marsha Schendel - San Antonio, TX - June 01, 2013 at 12:00 AM**

LB

“ *Condolences from the Berglund family--Larry, Vickie, Landon and Trey--from our Scout family to yours. Hoss was such a kind gentle man. He will be missed*

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**Larry and Vickie Berglund - Wharton, TX - BSA - June 01, 2013 at 12:00 AM**

ST

“ *Thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of Hoss! May God be with you all during this time of sorrow!*

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**Sherrie Graeter - El Campo, TX - June 01, 2013 at 12:00 AM**

KF

“ We have known the Linzza family since we moved to Houston in 1975 and lived on the same block in Sagemont. Chris was several years older, but was active in the same Scout Troop as our sons. He and his Dad were always together and were active and participated not only in Scouting, but also in the Scottish Highland Games. During his college years, one of our sons worked with "Hoss" and "Papa Hoss" for two years of summer camp at El Rancho Cima. It was a great experience for our son to work with people he had known since kindergarten, and he now actively participates with his three sons in Scouting. I am sure that the Linzza's influenced him greatly in that area. We moved away from Houston, but kept in touch over the years. We moved back to the Houston area five years ago and it was a great surprise and pleasure for us when we ran into Chris and his family at the Nada Fish Fries during Lent. We know how much Chris was involved in the community of El Campo and in the lives of many boys and girls. He was a great person and a great humanitarian. We will miss him terribly. To Kris and the family, please do not hesitate to call upon us for anything you might need.

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**Ken and Joan Beishir - Alleyton, TX - longtime friends** - June 01, 2013 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ So sorry for your loss, Kris. My family and I will keep you all in our prayers. I will pray for God's peace and comfort for you now and in the days to come.

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**Sandra Heaslet - Keller, TX - Friend** - June 01, 2013 at 12:00 AM

TS

“ So sorry for your loss. He we be missed by all. His light and goodness was a big as he was. Tina, Jeremiah & Tanner

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**Tina Burris & Tanner Albrecht - Eagle Lake, TX - Tanner was a cub scout** - May 31, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KF

“ *The Town of El Campo had lost another Great Citizen. No matter where you saw Hoss, we was always ready to lend a helping hand no matter what; he and his Family were Great Supporters of many organizations. RIP in Peace Big Guy - You Will be Dearly Missed! Scott, Kendra & Kambree Charbula*

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**Kendra - Louise, TX - Friend** - May 31, 2013 at 12:00 AM