



Jeffrey Paul Abney

February 11, 1986 - July 30, 2025

Jeffrey “Jeff” Abney passed away peacefully at home in Pickerington, Ohio, on Saturday, July 26, 2025, at the age of 39.

Jeff was born on February 11, 1986, and grew up in Rio Rancho, New Mexico. He spent the past decade living in Ohio. Jeff was a beloved son, brother, and uncle. He is survived by his mother, Peggy Hill Abney; his brother, Michael (Doreen); his sister, Caitlyn (Brandon); and his nephews, Christopher, Caydon, and Alexander. He was preceded in death by his father, James “Bob” Abney, and his biological mother, Sally Sipple.

Jeff had an extraordinary heart for animals, especially dogs. It was not uncommon for him to come home with a “rescue” in need of love. His faithful black lab, Rinker, surely greeted him in heaven.

He cherished his career as a flight attendant, the friends he met along the way, and the places he traveled to. For over 25 years, he was a valued member of three different balloon crews in Albuquerque: Mi Casa Shoe Casa, Last Dance, and the lovely Lady Jester. He was always up for an adventure with less-than-ideal landings.

To know Jeff was to love him. He had the biggest heart, a great sense of humor, and a gift for making others feel special. He will be deeply missed by his family, countless friends, and all who had the blessing of knowing him.

In Lieu of flowers please consider a donation to an animal rescue or shelter in Jeffs honor.

A celebration of life will be planned for a later date.

Day Funeral Service is honored to serve the family of Jeffrey Abney.


Tribute Wall

NK

“ Jeff has been my friend since we were 7 years old. No matter our distance, we've always spoken at least twice every year...on each of our birthdays. Unfortunately, I learned of his passing tonight after he didn't respond to my 40th birthday text to him yesterday. I knew he was sick, and I had a feeling he was gone since he's never not responded. My sweet friend...my life-long friend... you are SO missed and SO loved.

Nikita Kane - February 12 at 10:35 PM

CD

“ Jeff was like another brother to me. He always watched out for me, encouraged me, and showed up when I needed him. He had one of the biggest hearts I've ever known. He always stayed positive in every circumstance and was such a bright light. To know him, was to love him. I will never forget him and all the memories we shared. I can only imagine how happy Rinker is to be reunited with you. I love you Jeffers ☐ 
Chenoa

Chenoa Davis - September 04, 2025 at 11:00 AM

HD

“ Jeff was a very special person and one you will never forget. We would sit and talk for hours and it never got old. He became like one of my children and would always call me Dad. I will definitely miss that. He had the kindest heart and biggest smile which I will never forget. He always tried to put a positive spin on everything and could change a room with his laughter. His love for animals was amazing and I think he actually loved animals more than people. I am blessed to have known him and to have had him in my life. Jeff you may be gone but not forgotten. You will always be loved and missed. You are home now and it is time to rest my brother. Love you and miss you Jeff.

Harry

Harry Davis - September 04, 2025 at 09:01 AM



“ I will miss this guy and getting his text. He will always remain in my heart. He is at peace now.



Twing Fields - August 10, 2025 at 10:22 AM

“ I am heartbroken to hear about Jeff’s passing. Somehow, I can already hear him telling us to stop moping and go do something fun instead. Maybe a hot air balloon ride, with a dog in our lap and the wind in our face.

Jeff had a way of turning ordinary days into adventures. Whether it was chasing sunrises from the basket of Lady Jester or making an instant best friend out of a rescued Labrador Retriever named Rinker. He embraced life with joy and a wide open heart.

He also had that signature smile. It was bright, easy, and absolutely contagious. Honestly, I don’t think I ever saw him frown, except maybe when someone said they didn’t like dogs.

There’s a quote from a certain doctor, one Jeff definitely approved of, that I keep coming back to: “Don’t cry because it’s over. Smile because it happened.” (Dr. Seuss.)

There are, and will be, many tears shed for the loss of Jeff. But there should be a million more smiles when we remember all the great experiences we shared with him. That quote feels like something Jeff would’ve said himself, with a wink, and maybe a joke about how we’d better be smiling or else he’d come back to haunt us, with a puppy army, no less.

It’s hard not to miss someone who brought so much light and laughter. But I take comfort in knowing that joy leaves a lasting imprint. Every time we smile at a goofy dog, feel the lift of a balloon overhead, or catch ourselves grinning for no reason, we’ll think of Jeff.

I really want to cry when I think of Jeff’s passing but, I sure as hell am going to smile for having the opportunity to know him.

Sending you love, strength, and at least one good reason to smile today.

Rest now, you’re home, Jeff.,

Dave