



Emmitt Jay Tatum

January 17, 2001 - April 21, 2026

It is with great sorrow to announce that Emmitt Jay Tatum passed away on April 21, 2026.

Emmitt was born January 17th 2001 in Moses Lake where he was raised. He is survived by his mother Amber Tracy and father Brandon Tatum, brother Zeb, sister Bethany, wife Zoe, grandparents Doug and Betty Tatum, and Lewis and Kathy Mason, along with a large extended family.

When welcoming Emmitt into the world we knew he was going to be an amazing young man. He had the gift of not having to say a word, his honest smiling eyes told us everything we needed to know. Emmitt was always calm, steady, kind and humble. He truly was an old soul, a friend to all, and a natural born athlete. He also appreciated a good joke and loved a good laugh. He enjoyed spending time with family, his pets and friends, he loved playing all sports, being outdoors, and playing cards and cribbage. He also enjoyed traveling and learning as he went, always up to try something new. Emmitt acknowledged loyalty and appreciated the genuine relationships that were made throughout his life. He respected all competition, accepted constructive criticism and was up for any challenge. This defined his character and made him an even greater young man.

Throughout Emmitts' whole life he continued to proudly represent who he was and also at a young age found he had an extraordinary ability to play baseball. The boy loved hard and could play ball even harder. Emmitt began playing select baseball with the Columbia Basin River Sharks in 2012 for two

seasons, then joined the River Dogs for the following three seasons after. During those times he made unforgettable memories while traveling all over the country with his family, his teammates and with his baseball family. Emmitt then went on to play varsity baseball for the Moses Lake Chiefs and earned himself the Title as a Baseball State Champion his senior year in 2019. He then hung up his glove feeling satisfied in accomplishing exactly what he started out to do. He always knew he was a Champion and worked hard to prove it.

Emmitt then went on to attend Big Bend Community College, enrolled in the Electrical program- until the whole country paused when Covid-19 hit. Shortly after in July of 2021, Emmitt, was diagnosed with the devastating news that he had terminal brain cancer. At the young age of 20 Emmitt then started a new battle, one he wasn't sure he could win. He then joined a team of elite neurologists and surgeons at the University of Washington (TheGreenTeam) and later at Seattle Children's Hospital. After his diagnosis he underwent a craniotomy, chemo therapy and proton therapy. Emmitt had an amazing recovery, and went on living his life to the fullest and continuing to do the things he loved. Shortly after returning home in 2022 he started work at Polhamus Heating and Air. He enjoyed working and took pride in everything he did as a young adult. In or around that same time a sweet girl named Zoe, came into his life. From then on they fell in love and began building a life together, they married in 2025. But if there was any other place he'd like to be besides at home snuggling up with Zoe and their dogs, watching ball or just chillin' with family and friends, Emmitt wanted to be on the golf course with his grandfather, Doug.

Sadly this last year Emmitts' cancer began growing again, much more rapidly and was non responsive to any of the treatments there were. He fought his fight and played the course all the way through, with strength and honor. Emmitt passed away peacefully surrounded by family and loved ones. He was a loving son, brother, grandson, husband, nephew, cousin, uncle and loyal friend. A limb has fallen off our family tree, but we as Emmitts' family and

friends will honor, and carry a piece of him with us for eternity. He will be forever cherished and dearly missed.

The Celebration of Life for Emmitt Jay Tatum will be held at Pillar Rock, Saturday, May 23rd at 2pm in Moses Lake. Please join us to share the love and memories we have with him.

In lieu of flowers the family kindly requests that donations be made in his name to be given to the Columbia Basin Cancer Foundation, 1022 S. Pioneer Way, Suite A, Moses Lake, WA 98837.

Arrangements are under the care of Kayser's Chapel of Memories.

Cemetery Details

Pioneer Memorial Gardens

14403 Rd. 2 Ne
Moses Lake, WA

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAY **23**. 2:00 PM (PT)

Pillar Rock Grill/Moses Lake Golf and Country Club
1373 Rd F.2 NE
Moses Lake, WA

Tribute Wall

CT

“ My heart goes out to you Amber! I did not know Emmett well but when I met him, I thought he was a really wonderful young man with a great spirit 🥰

Camilla Tracy - May 13 at 04:07 PM

TB

“ So very sorry to hear this terrible news. He was such a sweet young man. May God ease all your worries and pain. Much love to all 🙏❤️

Thad Bowman - May 13 at 03:32 PM

RD

“ Thoughts and prayers for you and your family, young man. Godspeed.

Ryan Demmer - May 11 at 02:02 PM

MB

I am so sorry for your loss.

Michelle Bennett - May 13 at 03:28 PM

BG

My condolences to the family. Sending prayers 🙏

Brenda Guzman - May 13 at 05:10 PM

CL

Godspeed sending love and condolences ❤️

Corina C Lybbert - May 13 at 07:19 PM

JH

I am so sorry to hear this!

Joey Hansen - May 13 at 09:50 PM

AB

I was so very saddened to learn of Emmitt's passing. I was honored to have him in my 2nd grade class at Limestone Creek Elementary. Always respectful, he had such a huge positive personality and was well liked by all. Prayers for all his family and friends missing him today. Know he is with his loved ones in Heaven and we will see him again.

Ann Bass - May 19 at 05:48 PM