



Russell Anthony Mathews

October 30, 1967 - August 4, 2025

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It is with profound sorrow that we announce the passing of Russell Anthony Mathews, beloved husband of Ann Marie and devoted father to Brendan and Colin. Russ passed away peacefully at home in Troy, Michigan, on Monday, August 4, 2025, at the age of 57, surrounded by his wife and dear friends, Frankie Mullins and Mike Paterson.

Born in Detroit on October 30, 1967, Russ was the dear son of the late Alfred Mathews and Juanita Polen. He was one of three siblings, alongside Adrienne (Rick) Parks and Adam (Bronwyn) Mathews, and shared bonds with his half-brother, Randy Mathews, and two additional half-siblings. He was a proud and loving uncle to Thomas, Nick, Aaron (Raelynne), Shelby M. (Hayley), Jacob (Kellie), Shelby N. (Crystian), Jared, Amber (Nate) and Brendan. He was deeply loved by many aunts, uncles, cousins, co-workers, and friends.

Russ met his beloved “Sweet Pea” one unforgettable summer in 1988—a meeting that would forever change the course of his life. Together, they dreamed, worked, and grew, always supporting each other’s ambitions. Their love story culminated in marriage in April 1998, a day full of joy and promise. Shortly after, they moved from Southfield to Troy, eager to build a home filled with laughter, love, and the occasional spirited debate.

By 2004, their family was complete, but no Mathews household was truly whole without a four-legged friend. In 2009, Russ welcomed Tyson, his very first dog—a dignified, handsome Boxer who quickly claimed his place as the family’s loyal guardian. Ten years later, Chester arrived, a goofy and playful Boxer whose antics brought endless smiles and occasional mischief. Both dogs adored their Papa, always knowing exactly when a quiet moment or a hearty hug was needed.

Russ worked as a Test Technician at American Axle, where he took pride in ensuring the safety and quality of automotive components. He especially treasured his friendship with colleague Andrew, with whom he shared conversations about family, sports, stocks, and politics.

A passionate sports fan, Russ especially loved college and professional football, golf, and long-distance cycling. Each July, he faithfully followed the Tour de France, and he was a proud supporter of the University of Michigan, often delighting in sharing statistics with Michigan State and Ohio State fans—sometimes just to get a rise out of them.

Russ’s love for music knew no boundaries. From classic rock to blues, country to R&B, pop to grunge—and even classical and hip hop—he embraced it all. The sounds of The Rolling Stones, Buddy Guy, AC/DC, and The Doors always brought him genuine joy and vitality. In recent years, he took great delight in supporting his dear friend Carl Caballero and The Wreckage, whose performances he treasured deeply.

Known affectionately as “The Buddha” among family and friends, Russ faced his Glioblastoma diagnosis with quiet bravery and a remarkable spirit. For 4½ years, he drew deep strength from his Buddhist mindfulness practice—finding calm in the present moment, even on the toughest days, and extending

compassion not only to himself but to everyone around him. Russ's journey was not just one of endurance but of profound spiritual growth. Born into the Catholic faith and baptized as an infant, he experienced a powerful spiritual awakening later in life. Choosing to be baptized again, Russ publicly embraced his renewed faith in Christ, a reflection of his wholehearted commitment to living by the teachings of Jesus.

Russ had a remarkable memory for history, religion, music, politics, sports stats, and cars—though punctuality was never his strong suit. True to form, when told he had only hours or days to live, he stubbornly lingered until his final goodbyes were complete. His gentle nature could quickly give way to lively debate, often leaving others frustrated while he quietly smiled, fully aware he had playfully gotten under their skin.

Russ's kindness was legendary, but it was his sharp wit and quick humor that often-caught people off guard—in the best way. He had a way of lighting up a room with a perfectly timed joke or a sly, sarcastic comment, always leaving those around him smiling, even in difficult times. Whether you knew him as a devoted family man, a steadfast friend, a trusted co-worker, or a cycling buddy, you knew Russ's heart was boundless. He was also “that guy who gave the best hugs”—warm, genuine embraces that made everything feel a little bit better.

Of all life's greatest blessings and proudest accomplishments, being a dad to Brendan and Colin meant the world to Russ. Though a man of few words when it came to his boys, his love for them was boundless. He was their biggest supporter, always there to cheer them on through every milestone and achievement.

Among his closest companions was the Gatesford Circle Gang—a unique and

cherished circle of four families (Burns [now Husken], Mathews, Musto, and Russell) who raised their ten children together, sharing milestones, celebrations, and everyday moments from birth through college and beyond. These lifelong bonds created a village of love and support that Russ valued deeply.

Russ leaves behind a legacy of love, laughter, resilience, and faith that will forever inspire those lucky enough to have known him.

In lieu of flowers, the family invites you to honor Russ in one of these meaningful ways: · Donate to Kim's Hope at <https://kimshope.org/>, the Glioblastoma nonprofit that supported his family.

· Contribute to a memorial bench along the Paint Creek Trail, one of Russ's favorite cycling routes. Venmo: @AnnMarie-Mathews-4.

· Donate running shoes to your local school's cross country or track team—continuing a tradition dear to Russ that helped young runners chase their dreams.

Russ has been cremated, and a private "Riding Home Celebration" will be held in September.

Share memories with the family at their "On-Line Guest Book" @ WujekCalcaterra.com