

REMEMBERING JEFF THORNTON

By Anne Mourning

Steve and I met Jeff and Joe in approximately 2004 at Tubby's, later called McCarthy's Sports Bar and Grill in Aurora. We lived directly across the street in the Pheasant Run townhomes. Steve probably knew them a couple years before I moved to Aurora in 2003. I may have met Joe first, I'm not sure, but would have met Jeff very close to the same time. We became good friends for the next 15 years with both Jeff and Joe. First, as just our "local sports bar" drinking friends, but became good friends in time. We spent countless evenings playing the Trivial Pursuit games and Texas Hold `Em with a wonderful group of friends and enjoyed watching football almost every Sunday during the football seasons. Jeff always liked to make fun of my favorite team, the San Francisco 49ers, always ribbing me that their players were a 'gay' football team! 😊 At first, I was a bit taken aback with Jeff's wit and sharp sarcasms, but very quickly came to love them. He always made us laugh. We shared our lives and memories with him (and Joe). We enjoyed several birthday parties and other special occasions with Jeff and Joe over the years in Aurora. We attended many of their wonderful Christmas parties at their homes when they had the White Elephant Gift Exchanges. They always had the most beautiful and amazing Christmas trees and were both great cooks.

Over the years we did what we could for them when they were having some set backs and needed a little financial help. In 2014 when we bought our new RAV4, we sold them our 2004 or 2003 Toyota 5-Speed Camry, which we'd had about 8 or 9 years, for a pretty reasonable price. I seem to remember Jeff driving it at least 4 or 5 years until he and Joe had to push it into a dealership when the second clutch went out! It was just before we moved to Grand Junction. I think Jeff got good use of it, and nothing major went wrong until it was ready to be sold for the parts! 😊 Both Jeff and Joe also helped us with moving at least once, but maybe a couple times, which was so great.

Over the years, whenever Steve or I had any difficulties with our lives and our families Jeff was always willing to listen and give any kind of moral support he could, usually by making jokes. But he was always attentive, kind and funny, and more serious when he felt that was needed. A true friend.

Steve and I decided to move to Grand Junction in 2019 to buy a home. I tried to stay in touch through social media as much as possible. We wish we had made it back over to Aurora more often to see both Jeff and Joe, but such is life.

Jeff was truly a wonderful, loving man and a dear friend. Steve and I cherish our memories of both him and Joe. We will miss him and Joe and never forget them.