



## Matthew Joseph Maienza

March 5, 1979 - April 16, 2020

Matthew Joseph Maienza March 5, 1979- April 16, 2020

Matthew Joseph Maienza (Matt)--beloved son, brother, uncle and friend--passed away unexpectedly April 16, 2020 in Ashville, NC.

As a certified master mechanic in the professional bike racing community, Matt contributed his expert maintenance skills and high-performance bike knowledge to the professional bike racing community. He contributed to national and international World Cup racing events in New York, Canada, Portugal, Italy, and Andorra.

Providing a foundation for his career, Matt started his training at Barnett Bicycle Institute and gained further experience from Sram Technical University in Colorado Springs, CO; Marzocchi, and Manitou, in Valencia, CA; Campagnolo and Fulcrum, Vicenza, Italy; Magura in Santa Fe, NM, Shimano in Irvine, CA; Campagnolo North America in San Diego, CA; Cane Creek in Fletcher, NC and DT-Swiss in Grand Junction, CO.

Matt was born in Melrose, MA and lived in Westford MA until graduating from Westford Academy in 1997. Matt was an avid mountain biker, participating in numerous events at a competitive level. Before his career with the professional biking community, Matt led white water rafting tours for the Santa Fe Rafting Company and staffed bike shops in Colorado and New Mexico (Santa Fe Mountain Sports; University Bicycles, Boulder, CO; Wheat Ridge Cyclery, Wheat Ridge, CO). Eventually, he became a suspension technician at Bicycle Technologies International (BTI) in Santa Fe, NM; and

then Fox in Fletcher, NC.

Matt's singular, passionate, and limitless spirit was manifest in his reverence for and celebration of the great outdoors (especially the mountains of Colorado, New Mexico and the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina), his commitment to excellence in his craft, his inability to suffer fools lightly, and friendships far and wide he made around the world.

We pay tribute to Matt's unforgettable character--his spontaneous kindnesses, being an unforgettable soulmate, finding humor in the everyday and his ability to make a significant, resolute impact on anyone he met.

For those of us who were privileged to know and love Matt, his legacy lives on when we show steadfast, unbridled devotion to family, joy in friendship, reverence for nature and champion humanity as he did, which illuminated as a bright light.

Matt is survived by his parents, Janice and Joseph Maienza, of Westford, MA, his brother, Scott, and his family (wife, Elizabeth, and children, Nathan and Hannah) of Hudson, MA; his aunt, Johanne Cragin and her family (husband, Jim, and cousins, Michael, Kevin and Christopher (predeceased)) of Wallingford, Ct; his uncle, Paul Maienza, of Winthrop, MA; his partner for 10 years, Coy Maienza, of Santa Fe, NM; his significant other, Anna Digges, of Ashville, NC; his faithful dog, Tito, and numerous extended family members and fortunate friends.

Here are tributes to Matt:

I grew up two houses away from Matt and we were friends our entire lives. Incredibly gifted, Matt was a renowned skater, snowboarder, and lead vocalist. He was also the funniest person I've ever met. In high school, it was impossible to hang out with him for the night and not come away with some memory that would put a smile on your face for years to come.

Even when he moved out west, he'd still call frequently out of the blue and make me belly laugh for 10 to 15 minutes straight. A short conversation with him could pull me out of my worst day.

But his real gift was that he was an amazing friend (no one brought me more

comfort after losing my son). He was always there when I needed him most, and I wish I could have done the same for him. I considered him my brother, and I will forever treasure the moments we spent together. (Patrick, Westford)

Matt was incredibly generous to me and so many others. He was incredibly intelligent but never seemed to understand the level that he was, in spite of hearing this from so many people. He was an intense researcher—if he was going to make a purchase, there would be days and days of research. Matt would more often than not know more than the salesperson and other alleged experts. He made me lazy because I knew I could just ask him instead of looking for something myself. I always knew that Matt cared for me, even in turbulent times he wanted to be sure I was okay. He seemed incapable of saying my name without exclamation; I already miss that.

You always knew where you stood with Matt. Matt loved his dogs and felt an intense kinship with each of them, claiming he and Bluto, his first dog, shared a brain. Whatever he was doing, he did with intense passion and focus. Matt was fiercely loyal and had more integrity than anyone I've ever met. He was a captivating storyteller, often sharing tales that just seemed unbelievable. Yet there was always someone he could, and often did, call to confirm the story. (Coy, Santa Fe)

Just last month, Matt worked for me as my race mechanic at the Tennessee National. Before the race, as I was warming up and we went to the start line, he was torn between staying calm and collected and going full Boston to hype me up. He wanted me to win the race so bad, he would have done anything to help me. Matt would have taken a bullet for anyone in his inner circle. Friends like that are hard to come by. (Neko, Asheville)

Matt's infectious smile and laugh drew me to him immediately. He was a warrior. He loved hard and fiercely supported his family, friends and me. He embraced life to the fullest and taught me to do the same. When Matt would say, "Babe, let's go somewhere," I'd know that meant an adventure because

he had a way of making even the smallest things BIG. I am incredibly grateful that I was able to share part of my life with him and know his love. He was a gift to my heart and I will carry his light with me forever. (Anna, Asheville)

In keeping with Matt's devotion to life-affirming causes, donations in his name can be sent to the Tessa Foundation, Box 8751, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504  
[www.tessafoundation.org](http://www.tessafoundation.org)

A celebration of Matt's life will be held at a later date.

# Tribute Wall



“ Highlands Cremation & Funeral Care - Maple Springs created a Tribute Video in memory of Matthew Joseph Maienza



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Highlands Cremation and Funeral Care - April 28, 2020 at 05:32 PM



“ Matthew Joseph Maienza

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October 09, 2023 at 01:52 AM



“ Matthew Joseph Maienza

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October 08, 2023 at 10:49 PM



“ Matthew Joseph Maienza

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October 24, 2022 at 11:11 PM

SW

“ It took me a while to come back to reading these posts and visiting this wall. I struggle with the worlds loss after 2 years since Matt's passing. I, like most people on here, met Matt while in the bike industry. We were in Las Vegas for the outdoor demo. I was working for Scott and he was working for Fox. He came over like a whirlwind asking if there was anything we needed from him and Fox. Like all good bromances after several beers we realized that we were heading to the same places on "tour" for our respective brands. Fast forward 6 years and thousands of miles getting to know each other, having each others backs, sleeping in the same hotel rooms I could not have met, became friends with a more honest, funny, hardworking, caring person. As with everyone else on this wall the stories are endless, the humor timeless and the memories still as fresh as they were happening. There was nothing that wasn't solved with "bro, another Heady."

Over the years Matt and I became very close. As we got to know each other over the years we realized that we had very similar lives albeit several states apart. My wife and I got married after 12 years of dating and one of the questions I get asked is "why did you wait so long." Well the answer is now clear. We were waiting to have met Matt and have him and come to the wedding. A lot of friends didn't make the destination wedding, but Matt and Coy having traveled the furthest, were the first ones there.

There isn't a day that goes by where I don't think about Matt, the memories and his unconventional wisdom of the day. The day that we received the call about Matt being gone a little piece of me went that day as well.

My heart goes out to his family, friends and all the people that he has touched through the years.

I love you my friend. Thank you for you.....



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Scott Wilson - March 13, 2022 at 10:48 AM

JS

“ Matt worked for my husband for many years and became a close friend. He was simply one of a kind. Hard-working, honest, talented, and very ethical. On the personal side, he was hysterically funny and lit up a room with his stories. He was a joy to be around and will be forever missed by all that knew him. I will never go rafting without thinking of his bubblegum story.....

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**Jennifer Stekete** - March 06, 2022 at 07:49 AM

JM

Thank you Jennifer. Matt grew up at BTI and treasured his friendship with Andrew.

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**Janice Maienza** - March 06, 2022 at 05:51 PM

DL

“ Matt was the greatest guy, so intelligent and so very interesting. I love and treasure every single conversation we had. He was extremely witty and had the very best stories of a life so fully loved. He is absolutely missed by me and the rest of my family. What a tragedy. My heart goes out to the Maienza's and to Coy on his birthday today. Godspeed Matt! Until we meet again!

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**dana lee** - March 05, 2022 at 08:11 PM

JM

Thanks Dana .... Yes, we will all see him again and hear some stories. Matt's MOM

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**Janice Maienza** - March 06, 2022 at 05:56 PM

JG

“ Happy heavenly Birthday Matt! I loved that guy. He had an infectious laugh. You couldn't help but be happy when you were around him. He will hold a place in my heart forever. I miss him so much!

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**Jackie Grimes** - March 05, 2022 at 01:40 PM

JM

Knowing Matt, I'm sure he is having quite the party in heaven. Thank you for taking the time .... We miss him terribly. Matt's MOM

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**Janice Maienza** - March 06, 2022 at 05:54 PM

CM

“ Visiting Matt's page today, on what would've been his 43rd birthday, I realize that I hadn't shared anything. I guess it's hard to find the words, even 2 years later. Matt was my ex husband and yet still my best friend. Sometimes relationships need to change in the biggest way in order to save the bst parts. Matt and I were partners for 16 years and great friends for almost 20. He had more integrity than anyone I've ever known. He had character, personality, and forever going unwritten, on-the-fly standup comedy routine. Matt was also a perfectionist, meticulous beyond belief when it came to bikes, tools, and his garage. If there was ever a bicycle problem, Matt was the person to call. If he couldn't fix it, it couldn't be fixed. The last time I saw Matt in person was November 2019. He was visiting Santa Fe after Velo Swap. He stopped by my new house, which he made sure I had a down payment for, and almost immediately grabbed tools out of his van to make some repairs for me. In his very own words, "guy was a SOLID CITIZEN". I miss him so very much and really struggle with accepting he's gone. Always in my heart.

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**Coy Maienza** - March 05, 2022 at 12:09 PM

DE

“ I just learned today that Matt died last year. Jan, Joe, and Scott, I am deeply saddened to know this and send my love, sympathy, and respect to you. Having a daughter the same age as Matt, I can only say I have no idea how you move ahead, while also knowing that moving ahead is the only choice. Reading about Matt's life, it is crystal clear that he was all about life.

--Dave Estep

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**Dave Estep** - September 27, 2021 at 06:58 PM

CF

“ Matt’s passing has certainly taken a while for many to digest... Jan, Joe, Scott & family - condolences & deepest sympathy are sent from countless grieving with you: rafting friends, BTI crew, WRC crew, Fox crew... So many people will continue to have love, admiration and respect for this amazing man! I know, every-time I throw my leg over a bike, Matt is rolls with me.

*Dave Long gave us fantastic insight into Matt’s life growing up! Of course that RAD lead singer/shredder would go on to - travel the globe, live all over ‘merica & make LEGENDARY impressions with everyone he encountered.*

*In my mind, Matt was simply too good for this messed up world. Guess it takes a true LEGEND to live life to the fullest & cram a century of amazing experiences into four decades.*

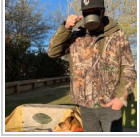
*No detils yet, but in coming months (late summer??) there will be a bike ride & celebration of life out west. Denver, Santa Fe or both?... A more appropriate platform will be set up to soon. For now please send a quick contact email to [mmlegend79@gmail.com](mailto:mmlegend79@gmail.com) to receive info on Matt’s memorial ride/get together out west.*

*For regular people... guess you close with RIP??  
Gotta ramp that up w/ some Maienza energy!*

*Peace BRO!... Now’s time for burnouts it the fox body 5.0*

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Chad Fetterhoff - May 09, 2020 at 01:19 PM



“ There’s so many great memories in my mind of Matt, but one really stands out in my mind. We rode bikes together all over the place, playing guide for one another and trading trail info like baseball cards. Years ago we were due for a trip, Matt had moved back to Santa Fe from Denver and I’d been traveling a bunch for work, had a lot going on that all seemed pretty big in my young mind and I needed a break. We met up in Crested Butte, CO and over a week rode bikes and camped all over the place, driving around in our beat up old pickup trucks, laughing and having the kind of sacred conversations you can only have over a campfire way back in the woods. I’ll never forget him asking me to take this picture of him, I was making fun of him for being a “tourist” on trails where I was a “local”. He was dead serious as I was laughing when he said “BRO, these aren’t trails people get to ride every day, or really ever, this is some bucket list shit bro!” It was awesome how much appreciation he had in that moment and it was a good reminder for me to not take that incredible place we were both getting to enjoy together for granted. It was one of many formative experiences that he was a part of in my life, and I’ll never forget to appreciate everything just a little more because of Matt. I’ll see you soon bro!



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**Nate Espinosa** - May 05, 2020 at 07:11 PM

AU

“ *My nephew is gone from us and we are all so tremendously sad. As we try to understand this loss, we are fortunate to have so many wonderful memories of our lives together. He had such a rich life, filled with friends, family and adventure. We are hanging on the the stories that he loved to tell and finding some comfort that he lived his life with strength and passion.*

*Matthew's approach to life made me proud of him in every way. He worked hard and played hard. He was a man of strong character that brought life and love into our family. You always knew where Matt stood on any issue. His stories at our dinner table were legendary. He always made us laugh. Our new challenge now will be moving on without him because he was such a strong presence in our lives.*

*Thoughtful, caring and generous are how I will always remember him.*

*He was a force in our family, I can still see his smile and his bouncy step as he walked into a room.*

*We loved him and we knew how much he loved us.*

*Matty, I love you and will miss you.*

*You left us too soon.*

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**Auntie** - April 30, 2020 at 01:17 PM

R-

“ There is not much I can say that everyone hasn't already said. Matt's personality and passion was straight-up contagious. He loved to call everyone "Bro," and through high school, college and even to this day I always saw Matt as the little brother I never had. He lived life on his own terms and followed his heart. He inspired and continuously brought out laughter. He pushed you to be better and always kept it "East Coast" real! As we got older and I moved away we lost touch, but always kept in contact here and there. When we would catch-up it was like a day had never passed. This is how you know a special, life-long bond has been formed. Over the past 3-4 years we re-connected and often made plans to meet up in the Alps to surf some powder or get on our bikes when we both made it back to good-old Westford. My condolences go out to Matt's loving family, loved ones and the friends he inspired along the way. I look forward to you finally getting out here to share some turns together in the back-country next season... Bro!



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**Rob Lorenzatto -Pizza-** - April 29, 2020 at 07:01 PM

SR

“ *Matt was fun! His personality was big!  
He was a no bullshit, loyal friend. We worked and rode bikes  
together. He will be missed by so many.  
I am sending healing light to all that loved him and were lucky  
enough to call him a friend. ❤️❤️❤️*



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**Sarah Gilman Rehders** - April 27, 2020 at 05:19 PM



“ Here's a copy of the post I wrote on Facebook in honor of Matt, one of the best friends I've ever had. My heart goes especially out to his family, who I haven't seen in way too many years, but whose faces, hearts and good nature I still clearly remember.

*On Thursday, a man of rare charisma and pure heart was taken from us much too soon and I lost one of the best friends I've ever had.*

*Matt Maienza was a best friend at the right time and my true partner in crime (mostly just figuratively). We forged our identities together, learned how the world works, laughed our asses off, made some great music, shared stages, built ramps, ollied huge gaps (Matt always bigger and faster than everyone else), trusted each other, fell out of touch for too many years but then recently got connected when he reached out to me while we were both going through a tough time and had kept in touch ever since.*

*I'd like to think that right now he's catching the attention of folks like Jimi Hendrix, Jeff Grosso, Jake Burton and everyone else who lived life like it was the first day of fresh powder. I'm sure he'll be entertaining them with his countless amazing stories told with that intensity that only Matt could bring.*

*My heart goes out to his family and to all of his friends whose hearts I know he's touched over the years.*

*Legend.*

*Though it never feels like enough, here's a short video made from the available footage in an effort to keep the memories alive of this uniquely charismatic person. Keep rocking Matt, I know that we will all keep cheering for you! 🙌👉*



**Dave Long** - April 24, 2020 at 08:15 AM

IM

*Thanks for sharing his talents.*

**Ismael Mena** - April 25, 2020 at 11:36 AM

JE

“*Matt gave those he cared for his time and support. I was fortunate enough to share a short period of life with him. He always did his best to encourage me and lift me up, even when he was struggling himself. I will always remember his big bear hugs and how he had a nickname for everyone. His storytelling was epic and his laughter ignited laughter in others. He was one of the most genuine people I've known. My heart goes out to all who mourn his loss, especially the Maienza family and those closest to him. Peace and love be with you.*”

**Jennifer** - April 23, 2020 at 11:02 PM

IM

“*1 file added to the tribute wall*”



**Ismael Mena** - April 23, 2020 at 07:44 PM

PM

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Pedro Murga - April 23, 2020 at 05:44 PM

JK

*Awesome, excellent, says it all*

Jeff Kaplan - April 23, 2020 at 06:17 PM

MM

*Such a wonderful tribute! Thank you so much.*

Matt's Mom - April 23, 2020 at 09:48 PM

IM

*I'm missing him! I can't imagine what your family is going through.*

Ismael Mena - April 24, 2020 at 12:46 PM

MJ

*Thank you for this. This was exciting and heartbreaking to watch at the same time. Losing Matt leaves a huge hole in the fabric of our family. This was beautifully done and totally captures him in his element. I am so grateful that you shared this video.*

Matt's Aunt Johanne - April 24, 2020 at 02:33 PM

AE

*Love the video. Matt was a serious athlete, and an especially gnarly one on two wheels. My last ride with Matt was a few years ago in Chelmsford, MA - after about an hour and a half of riding singletrack we ended up utterly lost in the maze of a huge salvage yard. Couldn't find an exit to the woods. Classic Maienza, funny as hell, somehow turned our plight and retreat to the road into the highlight of the whole ride. What a spirit he had. My thoughts and love go to his good family. I will miss you buddy..*

Andrew Eckel - April 26, 2020 at 10:48 PM

JK

“ *Jeff Kaplan lit a candle in memory of Matthew Joseph Maienza*



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**Jeff Kaplan** - April 23, 2020 at 03:59 PM

JK

*My heart goes out to the Maienza family for their loss. I have known Matt since the day he was born, as Joe and I are life long friends. I met Jan when she and Joe got together in college. Matty flourished when he headed out west and got involved with all types of outdoors adventures, eventually becoming a master extreme bicycle mechanic and helped in the development of racing shocks for renound downhill racers. My wife and I went to Santa Fe to participate in his wedding. He made Joe and Jan so proud. His loss is devastating, but his memory will live on in our hearts. RIP Matty*

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**Jeff Kaplan** - April 23, 2020 at 04:19 PM



“ There are no words for the grief we felt when we learned of Matthew’s passing. Our hearts and prayers go out to the entire Maienza family, and we hope that the wonderful stories so many have shared here - stories of Matthew and how special he was, and how he has touched their lives, will bring you comfort.

*The first time we “met” Matthew was when he was 5 months old, almost 41 years ago. We had just moved into the house next door, and Jan was carrying him in a baby backpack. We had the great joy of watching Matthew and Scott grow up, and we were lucky to be a part of so many of their special moments.*

*We have so many memories of Matthew, but here are some of our favorites from his childhood:*

*Matthew loved to play in the swamp behind our houses, often with Casey, the family dog. One day when he was about 6 years old, he got stuck in the mud and we managed to pull him out, although as I recall a shoe or boot was left behind. And Casey came out as a two-tone dog, light on top, brown on the bottom. But they were both fine, and we still laugh about it today.*

*Matt loved to play with toy figurines – he called them his men. One day he couldn’t find one of them, and in a very agitated voice, he said “Mom, I think we had a robbery. One of my men is missing.”*

*When Matt was about 11, we were planting a lilac hedge along the property line between our homes. Matt seemed very distressed and he asked me if it meant he couldn’t come into our yard anymore. I put my arm around him and reassured him that he was always welcome in our yard – the hedge was just to give both families a little more privacy.*

*Matthew will always have a special place in our hearts, and please know that we are always here for you.*

*Love, Anita and Rick*

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**Anita Pollak** - April 23, 2020 at 03:15 PM

KF

“ I met Matt in Santa Fe, NM and just loved him from the start. His infectious personality, his love of adventure, and his willingness to just go for it drew me in. We had many biking adventures together, including a downhill race in Moab where he broke his collarbone on a practice run. I was done with racing after that, but not Matt. He stayed beautifully connected to the bike world.

Matt had this way of mirroring back parts of other's personality in a hilarious way. When my dad passed away, I thought of the way Matt would imitate my dad's laugh and it brought a smile to my face. He did it so perfectly! I can't think of a memory of Matt that doesn't involve laughter at some point.

Although we lost touch over the years, I am grateful for the time we shared in friendship. Sending so much love to Matt's family and friends.

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**Kris Ferachi** - April 23, 2020 at 09:51 AM

MS

“ I met Matt several years ago out on the demo bike traveling circus. His captivating stories made him the most memorable person I knew...i will miss you, but trust me, your stories will live on with your demo/ racing family.

Ride in Peace Matt... you will be miss!

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**Mike Stanley** - April 23, 2020 at 08:17 AM

AF

“ To the entire Maienza Family, I am so very sorry to hear about Matt. This really broke my heart. I can't imagine what you all are going through. We grew up as neighbors, did a lot together as kids. I saw him a few years ago at his house working on his truck. So glad I stopped by to say hi. Matt really was an awesome guy. People have said so many wonderful things and they are a true testament of the man he was. He lived life to the fullest and his memory will always be with all of us. If you guys need anything please reach out to us. We are right around the corner. My thoughts and prayers are with you all. Amy Coyne Fontaine

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**Amy Fontaine** - April 23, 2020 at 08:03 AM

KG

“ I never met Matt, but I saw Anna beam when she talked about him and how natural he was with everyone, including her kids. I loved seeing her feel so connected to and safe with him. I love that he made her laugh. I wish I could have known him. Anna proudly posts photos of them on their quick getaways or simply being with and loving each other. This is an enormous loss for her and her kids. I'm sending all those who knew and loved him my deepest sympathies. Anna, darlin', his love will sustain you. I know he was your true love. Those of us who love you want to help you in your grief. We are here for you any time. Love and healing light and energy to you all. 💔

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**kit gruella** - April 23, 2020 at 12:07 AM

JG

“ 1 file added to the album Matt's Photos



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**John Galicia** - April 22, 2020 at 10:43 PM

JM

“ Came to know Matt in 8th grade, when we sat next to each other in English class and shared a love of biking. We brought road maps into class and under the guise of doing “school work” plotted out a 64-mile bike ride to Westminster and back. We did the ride, stopping only to split a pizza in Fitchburg. A memory that will always stick with me. My deepest sympathy to Matt’s family.

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**Jeff Morse** - April 22, 2020 at 08:43 PM

VD

“ We are so sorry to hear about Matt’s passing. Matt was a truly genuine soul and nice to everyone he met, no matter what, he was just genuine and kind. That is hard to find. My family prays for your family and thinking of you all at this time.

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**valerie Devanna** - April 22, 2020 at 08:43 PM

BJ

“ To the whole Mienza family,  
My entire family sends our deepest condolences on the loss of Matt.  
This is heartbreaking. He was a one of a kind soul, who deeply  
touched my life. Growing up, some of my most treasured memories  
are with him. I was blessed to call Matt and the entire family my  
friend. I spent more time on a skateboard riding the streets of Nab  
and Boston (when we got older) than I can even count. His sense of  
humor, and his amazing laugh will make me smile for the rest of my  
life. The amount of injuries we both sustained while having an  
absolute blast is breathtaking. I wouldn't change it for the world. I'll  
miss you buddy.  
Bob Nolet Jr. And family

Bob Nolet Jr - April 22, 2020 at 08:19 PM

RS

“ Matt I was honored being your friend and I will miss you. Your dad  
was a great science teacher to me.

Richard Sturtevant - April 22, 2020 at 05:43 PM



“ 56 files added to the album Matt's Photos



Highlands Cremation and Funeral Care - April 22, 2020 at 04:23 PM

MR

*What a wonderful life! My husband and I only met Matt twice and were taken w him. Our hearts ache for your loss.*

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**Martha Reynolds** - April 22, 2020 at 05:28 PM

PM

*I shared an apartment in Boston with Matt, 1520 Tremont St, around 2000 I think. We knew each other from Westford but hadn't hung out that much before. But man, let me tell you I loved hanging with my roomie Matt. We laughed so much and just had so much fun. It was such a reward to get him to chuckle at something because it was so genuine. And he wouldn't just give you a laugh to be nice, he was sincere all the time. My time hanging with Matt wasn't long but I'll never forget it and I feel so lucky for it. My heart goes out to Scott and the whole family. Matt was a very special guy.*

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**Patrick McElroy** - April 22, 2020 at 05:55 PM

JC

*I just wanted to share a memory that I really hadn't thought of since it happened in 8th grade. We were on a multi-night backpacking trip with a school group (the White Mts, I think). Our middle schools had just merged and I didn't really know Matt. Before we were at our first summit, it was dark and I was tired. I was totally out of my comfort zone on a long hike, let alone with a giant backpack. I think I started to panic that I wouldn't make it and I was afraid my classmates would see me fail. Matt was so nice to me. He calmly sat with me and told me something like we were close and I totally could do it. It strikes me now that it was a time in our life when kids weren't nice...at all. You relished in making fun of anyone you could in 8th grade! I'm so grateful for his kind heart at that moment - and lots of other fun memories years down the road. Thanks, Matt*

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**Jen Corbett** - April 22, 2020 at 11:28 PM

CM

*My heart goes out to you during this heartbreaking time. I am so deeply sorry for your loss. Matt was a friend to all.*

*Carol Morse*

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**Carol Morse** - April 23, 2020 at 08:03 AM

EM

*My heart breaks for you Janice & Joe; the pictures show such an adventurous spirit that seems to embody all the Maienza family. I am sorry I never met Matthew, however through the stories you have shared, and the tribute comments, shows that Matthew was a very special human, and he will be missed by all who knew him. Holding you in my heart,  
Ellen*

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**Ellen Martins** - April 23, 2020 at 09:59 AM

EE

*Matt, a voice from your past: your high school English teacher has not forgotten you and your buddy Dave, and never will, though it was so long ago! Thanks for being interested in so many things and people, thereby adding color to so many lives.*

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**Elizabeth Elliott** - April 26, 2020 at 05:56 PM