

# John-David Koyczan

MARCH 11, 1980 - OCTOBER 27, 2018

*"The loss of a friend is a tragic enough thing,  
aw but the loss of a loved one is insane with pain"*

John-David passed away in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on October 27, 2018. He enjoyed his job being part of the Initial Attack fire-fighting crew at the Yellowknife ENR base. His passion was travelling; he realized at a young age after taking trips to Alaska and Hawaii with his dad. He then started to venture out on his own to the mountains of BC and Alberta to snowboard, visited Europe and Central America, and the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico where he would hang his hammock on the beach and mix with the locals. Eventually he decided to see parts of Southeast Asia; first to Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam many times before falling in love with Cambodia, where he decided to spend his winters. We will remember John-David as an adventurous soul with a big heart, and a young man with an urge to see and experience different parts of the world. In his short 38 years with us he accomplished a lot of what he set out to do.

Our heartfelt thanks go to so many who helped us during this very painful time. Sandra & Colin Bradbury gave emotional support, facilitated donations, and helped in many ways. Special thanks to Jackson Lafferty, the Tłı̨chǫ Band, and the fire crews from Behchokǫ who came to pay their respects. The outpouring of donations from friends and the relatives of the Koyczan family made it possible to bring him home from so far away. Thank you to the Paul family (Peter & Edna, Terry & Mary Rose, John & Janet, Jimmy & Jackie, Kathy & Rick, Clem & Leonie and Eddy Paul), Donny & Gladys Morin and especially their sons for the beautiful cross they made for his grave, Mathew King & Sandra, Millie & Murray Dyck, Gibby Hamilton & Larocque family, Christina Larkin & Jonathan Johnson, Roger & Karen Fraser, Caroline & James Larocque, Marie Coe, Fred Carlson Jr., Narcisse Lockhart & family, Eva & Dennis Dornan, Annette & Jeremy Hopkins, Joyce & Kathy Koyczan, Wanda Steen, GNWT Department of Finance, Tree of Peace, ENR staff and his crewmates who proudly wore their fire-fighting uniforms for the service. Erwin & Stephanie Sumcad for the beautiful singing at the service. Deep sadness has been expressed by his "Cambodian family", as he referred to his friends there. In particular, little Kyle and Mya who called him "Uncle Canadian Johnny" and who he always brought gifts for from Canada.

He will be forever missed and held deep in the hearts of his parents, Caron Lorenzen and John Koyczan, younger brother Casey Koyczan, his sweetheart Panha Phin, numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. John-David was predeceased by his grandparents Dave Lorenzen, Johnny Koyczan and Roseanne Koyczan.

**A service was held at St. Pat's Roman Catholic Church on  
November 13, 2018, and he is laid to rest in Yellowknife Lakeview Cemetery.**

