



## Derek William O'Brien

April 26, 1972 - March 3, 2021

Derek W. O'Brien, 48, of Westfield, passed away on Wednesday, March 3, 2021 at Baystate Medical Center. He was born in Northampton on April 26, 1972 to the late Danny Boyer and Joelle (O'Brien) Thibodo of Westfield. Derek attended Northampton schools and was a graduate of Northampton High School class of 1992.

He had various jobs, most recently he was a retail store manager at Dollar General. When he moved to Illinois, he met and fell in love with his one true love, Mary (Smith) O'Brien. They married and together they raised her three beautiful daughters. He always treated them as his own and would always take care of them, even after Mary had passed away in 2014. Reluctantly, he decided he had to move back to Massachusetts, but he would always stay in touch with three girls: Arabella, Evangelina, and Aryanna and would always share his memories of their beautiful mother.

Derek was a kind, strong, gentle giant, who would gladly take the shirt of his back for you, a true gentleman at heart. His presence, his vigorous smile and laugh will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

Derek is survived by his loving and devoted mother, and best friend, Joelle (O'Brien) Thibodo of Westfield, his girls, Arabella, Evangelina, and Aryanna Adams all of Morrison, Ill., his sisters, Rae Ann Frenette of Florence, Dani Boyer of Fl., several, nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins, and dear friends.

Besides his wife Mary, he was predeceased by his father, Danny Boyer, and

his Dad, Ray Thibodo.

All services will be private and at the convenience of the family. DROZDAL FUNERAL HOME of Northampton has been entrusted with his care and services.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Derek's memory to Shriners Hospital for Children, 516 Carew St., Springfield, MA 01104.

For more information, or to leave a message of personal condolence to the family, please visit [Drozdalfuneralhome.com](http://Drozdalfuneralhome.com)

# Tribute Wall

AA

“ *Aryanna Adams lit a candle in memory of Derek William O'Brien* ”



Aryanna Adams - April 12, 2024 at 12:57 PM

AA

“ *Aryanna Adams lit a candle in memory of Derek William O'Brien* ”



Aryanna Adams - September 29, 2023 at 10:03 AM

AA

“ *Hi I'm Aryanna and I miss my dad so much, he was like my best friend!* ”

Aryanna Adams - March 17, 2023 at 09:09 AM

NC

“ *Sending my Condolences to the whole family. Gone too soon 🌸🌸🌸🌸* ”



Nina C - March 05, 2021 at 07:15 PM

TL

“ I am so very sorry to hear about Derek's passing...my heart goes out to his family and friends

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**Teri LaCoy** - March 05, 2021 at 06:29 PM

NO

“ This so very hard, I still can't believe it. All my nephews, and nieces shared many great experiences with him. To say he will be missed is a gross understatement. Derek I miss you already. Even though we didn't see each other everyday. When you saw him it was like you did. Jo I feel so sad for you, but also jealous that you were able to see him everyday. You raised a very good kid. You should be very proud of him.

Neil

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**Neil Obrien** - March 05, 2021 at 05:46 PM

JH

No words can Express how sorry I am. Love Judy

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**Judy Helems** - March 05, 2021 at 10:40 PM

IB

Words cannot express how very sorry I am for your loss. My heart goes out to you Joelle. I keep you and your family in prayer during this most difficult time. Love Irene

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**Irene Breton** - March 06, 2021 at 05:48 AM

JK

Joelle I am so deeply sorry for your loss. Know there are so many who love you and are here for you in your time of need. Though he will never be replaced he is always with you in your heart. Prayers to you and your family. Love, Judi, Rob & August Kuhn

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**Judi Kuhn** - March 06, 2021 at 09:02 AM

JT

“ Family meant so much to my son. Derek loved his family and all his friends were his family. He had so many good friends and family. Thank you for loving my son.  
Derek's name meant " Tower of strength." and Derek was just that. Derek was my gentle giant, my tower of strength and my brat. I will miss him always.  
You left me too early. I luv ya forever and always. Mom

Joelle Thibodo - March 05, 2021 at 03:03 PM

CO

Derek was my nephew. He was my sister Jo's son and the rock she leaned on. She id devastated by the loss, as we are. Derek loved his extended family and spent his time off with them.He was a "gentle giant" of a man with a sense of humor as tall as himself. He loved the playful teasing of his aunts and uncles. Donna and I spoke with him often about his life and times. He will be missed by our whole family. He is loved.

Chip O'Brien - March 05, 2021 at 04:04 PM

TA

Derek was my sister Mary's husband I've only met him once right before my sister passed and when I did he was such a gentleman and I could just see how much love ❤️ he had for her and their children that it just melted my heart. I knew at that time I would always be proud to call him my brother! You were a great man and you will be missed by many. You are now back in my sisters arms. Rest easy mister and fly high with the eagles 🦅...

tammysmithalbertson - March 05, 2021 at 04:27 PM

AA

Daddy Derek was my step dad but to be honest he was more like my best friend I miss him so much and I know my sisters, Arabella and Evangelina does too and I wish my grandma Joe the best too.

Aryanna Adams - March 17, 2023 at 09:15 AM

ES

“ Dear Joelle, Family & Friends,  
Derek was truly a GREAT guy! He could light  
up the room with his smile! He was a true  
friend, hard worker and a caring person.  
Everyone I have talked to say he was a  
gentleman and a good guy! He will be missed by many!! I know that  
he has made Joelle & Ray proud! Our thoughts and prayers are with  
all of you. With Love, John & Ella Lee Smolenski



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Ella Lee Smolenski - March 05, 2021 at 11:40 AM