

The Memorial Service for Andrew

Officiant: John VanDenBerg

1. Music, Photo video playing
2. John introduced Bruce Bowman for the prayer.
3. John initial comments:

I am Annie's cousin; her mom Ruby and my dad Charles were brother and sister. I am honored to be asked to help today. Also, am honored to come to Canon City. My mom Vivian was born here 100 years ago this week. My grandfather Ira worked in the mines in Victor, and our great-aunt had an apple orchard on the south side of town, that helped keep the family alive during the depression – selling apples on the streets of Denver for a penny each. Aunt Mary, like Andrew, looked out for others.

We are here to honor Andrew Goodwin's life and legacy as seen through his family and friends. His family will join all of you at the park after the service.

4. John said that Aunt Erica wanted to read a favorite poem and play a tribute song for Andy.
5. John said that two of Andrew's best friends, Chase and Leanne, wanted to share a few comments.
6. John's Eulogy (taken from his interviews with family and friends)
 - If there is one word to describe Andy, it is light. He brought a smile to all around him, and he died a hero, trying to protect others. He brought light to all around him, and from a very young age.
 - Andy was born in 2000, to his mother Gigi Goodwin. Gigi and Annie and our late Goody partnered in raising him. It was a non-traditional upbringing, and Andy was loved by all concerned.
 - In chatting with family, I learned about many aspects of his young life. One of the unusual characteristics involved his bathroom habits. For some reason, he felt he had to completely disrobe when he used the facilities, even down to his socks. His parents told him he did not have to do this, but he persisted. One day at school, he was using the restroom, completely naked of course, and the fire alarm went off, and the school emptied out. Andy panicked and grabbed his garments and ran outside in his birthday suit, to the laughter of his classmates. His teacher Janice took off her sweater and covered him up (*Janice, are you here? Thanks, Janice!*) Annie said that was the last time he displayed that particular habit of completely disrobing!

- His family told me that even early on, he looked after others, even as a very young child he was attentive to what those around him needed. He continued this his whole life, giving his light to those around him.
- Andy was bi-racial, and early on took some teasing and bullying due to that. He learned to give it back a bit, and as he became a very large and powerful young man, his tormenters wisely stopped the harassment!
- When he was 6 years old, his mom worked at Hilltop Market and took him to work with her. He loved to come to her work and with the owner's grandson and Andy's friend Cameron (*Cameron, where you at?*), would come into the cooler and hang out. One day, he went in the cooler and right up front hung a huge hog. That scared him so much he never went in the cooler again!
- When he was 7 years old, he first tried karaoke with Goody. Everyone was amazed at his singing voice, but he was not allowed into the bars where the karaoke was done. Aunt Erica had a friend Amanda who called all the karaoke bars and promised he would never have a drink, but that he needed this time with his Grandpa. He was the only 7-year-old in Canon that was allowed in!
- In middle school, Andy kept looking after others. His friend Colin was the smallest person in the school, and he was the biggest. When Colin was bullied due to his size, he put a stop to it. Another friend broke her leg and Andrew never missed a day helping her into the school while she healed. Again, a light to others.
- From a young age, Andrew had a close circle of friends. ("Raise your hands if you are here!) Chase, Colin, Cameron, LeeAnne, Decklin, Blake, Chris, Brandon, many others. His cousins Tim and Jaxon were always there with him.
- His teachers and school staff were highly influential on him. Janice Zeiler; Annette Nimmo; John Gorham; Sheri Moore; Barbara Schouweiler; Kizzy Hearn-Riske; others. They saw something special in him and went out of their way to show him love and attention.
- In these years, a part of Andrew began to emerge – his love of music. He first started playing a trumpet, and even though not reading music, clearly had enormous talent. He learned guitar and later keyboard. He could hear a song, and then play it down to the last notes. His singing voice was incredible and was enjoyed by all who loved him and when he sang, the bar went silent in wonder. He continued to go to karaoke with Grandpa Goody. He sang many of the classics, do-wop, he sang James Brown when he was age 8! Amazing – what 8-year-old even knows what do-wop is! He loved his music.
- His early and continuing relationship with his big poppa Goody truly defined his life. Goody was his hero, Goody trained and coached him, and with Annie and Gigi, helped shape him into a person of light. In older years, Andy would perfectly mimic Goody's voice, and his mannerisms. In his last days, when Big Poppa knew he was terminal and had a series of talks with Andrew about how to live his life and take care of his family – Andrew never forgot those lessons. Like with so many, Goody's death was devastating to Andrew, Goody was always with him. He would frequently use the statement "Would Grandpa be proud of me?" when life events happened.

- Annie had a huge influence on Andrew's life. Most importantly, she showed him unconditional love, gave him huge amounts of time, attention, and modeled how to love others. One of my favorite memories of her and Andy was after the funeral of our cousin Eddie. I had suffered a life-threatening injury and was quite disabled. Annie and Andrew walked toward me, and without words, just wrapped their arms around me, gave me huge hugs, and showed their gratitude that I had lived. Annie and I, even though getting toward serious senior citizen zones, still love each other and provide support to each other. She showed Andrew compassion and constant regard for others.
- Andy loved his mom, Gigi. To the end, he would only allow Gigi to cut his hair at her salon! Gigi shared with me that on his 21st birthday, she took him to Las Vegas! They had a great time. Did anyone else's parents take them to Vegas for their 21st? Way to go Gigi! Very cool!
- Andy grew up supported by and loving his Aunts Erin, Erica, and his mom Gigi. Erica is our family queen of karaoke, and early on saw his talents. Erin told me that she saw Andrew as a great big ball of fun and joy.
- Andrew loved not only music, but cars – having over a half dozen in his short years. I shared old car magazines with him, and he always dreamed about that perfect old Buick Rivera!
- Andrew learned BBQ grilling from his grandpa Goody and with his uncle Gary loved to use his Uncle Gary's special rubs (*Hey Gary!*)
- Andrew did not want any favors. He worked for what he had. He was worked very hard. Bunkhouse burgers, Rick's processing, Walmart, Sherwin Williams, and where he worked loved him. He had a goal of going into law enforcement which came out of deep sense of justice.
- One of the remarkable aspects of Andrew is his ability to take care of himself. Often, when people live this much for others, they may not take care of themselves. You may have heard the expression "Our best quality is also our worst quality". I have spent my life as a child psychologist working to improve the lives of children with mental illness but did not always take good care of myself... too much work, got too fat, neglected my own needs. But Andrew had ways of keeping himself straight... Annie told me that when he needed to, he would drive up on Skyline Drive and "talk to Papa" getting support from Goody even though Goody had passed. He would play his keyboard, he would talk to Annie, talk to his aunts and his mom, he would go to Westcliffe and surround himself with your incredible scenery.
- Andrew also "looked in the mirror" – checking in on his own behavior. His family shared his story of working late at Sherwin Williams when an African American man came in at the last minute. He said his initial instincts were fear of being robbed, but later he self-realized that he had made unfair assumptions, and wanted to avoid those behaviors, especially since he himself was half-black. He shared this with Annie, and she reassured him by saying that was the half Cracker side of him coming out! Ha! Humor was such a big part of Andy's life and his family.
- I want to point out that there is a sheet of paper with local crisis and support resources on the back table, if anyone needs them.

- I want to go off my prepared remarks for a minute and share a concern. I spent my career as a child psychologist working to help children with mental illness and was privileged to lecture to hundreds of thousands of people around the world. I learned to read a crowd, and I need to tell you that you, as those attending this service, you are hurting. And, what else could you do? This is a small, tight town and Andrew was a key part of all of you here. What you have gone through is truly trauma. The definition of trauma is: A deeply disturbing experience that is not your fault and that you can't control. We know that trauma does not just go away. I remember the trauma when I learned that one of my friends was killed in Vietnam. But, we can do things to better live with trauma. Here are four top things, from the research on trauma. 1. Lean on your loved ones, get with others, share, talk, cry, get support. 2. Face your feelings, avoid denial. 3. Prioritize self care – exercise, good eating, sleep. 4. Get involved with your community. Like our Andy, reach out and help others.
- Andrew's death was a tragic occurrence, as we all know. But what you need to remember is that he died a hero, helping others, reaching out with risks to protect, to show his love. THAT is a legacy.
- In closing, Andrew's family has a special request for all of you. Andrew had a bucket list of things he wanted to do. Buy a first home; go see the redwoods; visit Machu Pichu; see the ocean.... The request is that as you do any of these things, take Andrew with you. Think of him, and remember him, what a wonderful person he was.
- On behalf of the family, thank you all.

Ending video and music.