



Brian James Grainer

September 1, 1955 - October 27, 2025

Brian James Grainer, 70, of Centreville, Virginia, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by his devoted family on October 27, 2025, after battling Lewy Body Dementia.

Brian was born on September 1, 1955, in New Rochelle, New York. He was the third of eight children of the late Stephen and Muriel Grainer. The family moved to Annandale, Virginia in 1964 where Brian developed a passion for sports. At Annandale High School he threw discus, won District Champion honors in Wrestling, and he was notably the center and place kicker for the Atoms football team during some of their glory years. They won their District in 1971 and 1972, were Regional and AAA Virginia State Champions in 1972, and this team was inducted into the Annandale Hall of Fame in 2024.

Brian attended Madison College (now James Madison University) where he completed his degree in Bachelor of Arts in Social Studies and Education in 1977. His love of sports also continued through college and helped lead him on his lifetime career path. In wrestling, he was a 2-year letterman, state runner up, and member of the 1975 Virginia College Athletic Association (VCAA) State Championship team. He was a 4-year starting center on the football team where he earned VCAA All Conference Honors 3 times. The 1975 team earned the VCAA State Football Championship and are still the only undefeated JMU team to date. He was a team leader who was

universally respected by teammates, coaches, and athletic department staff alike.

After graduating college, Brian moved to Charlottesville, Virginia to teach and coach at Albemarle High School from 1977-1986. He taught Social Studies and coached Football, Lacrosse, and Indoor Track. He also established the local Wrestling Officials Association and became their first Commissioner. It was here that Brian and Pam first met while she was student teaching. They married in 1980 and continued to teach and coach together for several years where they formed many lifelong friendships that are still strong today.

The Grainers returned to Fairfax County, Virginia in 1986 where they settled in Centreville. Throughout his 25 years with Fairfax County Public Schools, Brian taught social studies at Mount Vernon High School, Fairfax High School, Lanier Middle School and Chantilly High School. During this time, he also coached football, lacrosse, and softball. After earning a Master Degree in Educational Leadership from George Mason University in 1995, he became Assistant Director then Director of Student Activities at Marshall High School through 2004. Brian then spent the remainder of his career at Westfield High School as an Assistant Principal until he retired in 2011.

Brian is remembered as someone who had a calm teaching, coaching, and leadership approach; always exemplified integrity; and cared deeply for the students, athletes, staff and communities he served. With his strong dedication over his 34 year career he was a well-respected coach, mentor, colleague, and friend. Many also remember his dry sense of humor and an occasional fondness for mischief.

Brian's wife Pam and their three girls Ashlie, Brittany, and Kelsey were his world. As busy as he was, he was always present for his family. He enjoyed watching his daughters play sports and taking family vacations, especially to

the Outer Banks. He welcomed 2 sons-in-law and 4 grandsons to the mix with love and open arms. His dedication to creating memories while pushing them to always better themselves has served as a cornerstone for who they all are today. His numerous beloved dogs over the years were also a huge part of his family life. Brian was considered somewhat of a “dog whisperer” and known to be very generous with peanut butter pretzel treats. Brian also enjoyed hunting and fishing when time allowed. After retirement, Brian and Pam enjoyed many trips traveling about the country and world.

Recent reconnections and gatherings the last few years with former high school and college teammates and coaches, along with decades of JMU football season tickets enjoyed with his family, brought many cherished memories and much joy to his life.

Those who knew Brian will remember him for his infectious smile, overwhelming laughter, his faith in God, and his unwavering commitment to spreading love and kindness to everyone he encountered. He had a gift for making others feel heard and respected, leaving a lasting impact on all who crossed his path.

Although Brian’s physical presence may no longer grace our lives, his spirit will continue to inspire and uplift us. May his memory be a blessing, and may we carry forth his legacy of love and compassion in all that we do. As you continue to watch over us, Brian, your light will forever shine brightly in our hearts.

Brian is survived by his loving wife of 45 years, Pamela Jillson ; their three daughters, Ashlie Alvarado (Matthew), Brittany Grainer, and Kelsey Feathers (Matthew); four grandsons, Miles and Theoden Alvarado, Jaxon and Finnley Feathers; and four family dogs, Cooper, Ryker, Nugget, and Madison. He is

predeceased by brother Stephen and survived by siblings Michael (Liz), Susan, Karen (Jack), Toni, Peter (Ginny), and Claudia (Phil). He was a proud and loving uncle to numerous nieces and nephews.

Family will be holding a Visitation gathering at Pierce Funeral Home in Manassas, Virginia on Thursday December 4, 2025, 6-8pm. A funeral mass will be held on Friday December 5 at 10:30 am at St. Timothys Catholic Church in Chantilly, Virginia and a Celebration of Life at Piedmont Club in Haymarket, Virginia 12-3 pm. Burial will be at Little Georgetown Cemetery in Broad Run, Virginia on Saturday December 6 at noon for those who choose to attend.

In lieu of flowers please consider donating to the Lewy Body Dementia Association (LBDA.org) or an animal shelter of your choice.

Cemetery Details

Little Georgetown Cemetery

5370 Trapp Branch Road
Broad Run, VA 20137

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 4. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Pierce Funeral Home
9609 Center St.
Manassas, VA 20110
(703) 257-6028
pfh@piercefh.com
<https://www.piercefh.com>

Funeral Mass

DEC 5. 10:30 AM (ET)

St. Timothy Catholic Church
13807 Poplar Tree Rd
Chantilly, VA 20151

Burial

DEC 6. 12:00 PM (ET)

Little Georgetown Cemetery
5370 Trapp Branch Road
Broad Run, VA 20137

Tribute Wall

AH

“ My name is Andy Hutchison, Annandale High School Class of 1972. I played football, wrestled and was on the track team with Brian. I looked him up when JMU made it to the college football playoffs and am so saddened to learn of his passing. He was a wonderful teammate at AHS. My wife Susan (also AHS '72) and I have a son named Brian, in no small part because of my admiration of Brian G. as a teammate. We are so sorry for his loss and extend our condolences to his family. He was dearly loved at Annandale. And what a legacy. God Bless him and his family.

Andy Hutchison - December 07, 2025 at 10:09 PM

PA

Thank you sharing this sweet story Andy. We appreciate your condolences. 🙏

Pam - December 28, 2025 at 03:47 PM

TI

“ Tiara planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Brian James Grainer.

Tiara - December 05, 2025 at 09:53 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Brian James Grainer.



December 05, 2025 at 09:53 AM

DJ

“ I was deeply saddened to hear of the loss of Brian. He was kind, compassionate, and genuinely funny in a way that could brighten even the most challenging days. He had a remarkable ability to see the best in people, and that gift made everyone around him feel valued and supported. It was truly an honor to have worked alongside him. Please know that my thoughts are with you Pam and the girls(and families) during this difficult time.

DAve Jagels - December 04, 2025 at 11:32 AM

PA

Thank you Dave. Thank you for your kind words. Brian felt just as blessed working with you also. 😊

Pam - December 28, 2025 at 03:51 PM

FF

“ From your Stone MS book club friends purchased the *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* for the family of Brian James Grainer.



From your Stone MS book club friends - December 03, 2025 at 07:12 PM

PS

“ Pete and Cathy Salvano purchased the *Lavender Reflections Spray* for the family of Brian James Grainer.



Pete and Cathy Salvano - December 02, 2025 at 10:24 PM

TF

“ Tammy Richards and family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Brian James Grainer.



Tammy Richards and family - December 02, 2025 at 10:45 AM

PT

“ Pat and Terri Towle purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Brian James Grainer.



Pat and Terri Towle - November 23, 2025 at 05:13 PM

BG

“ I am so sorry to hear of Brian's passing. He had such a big heart and gentle spirit. During our time working together at Marshall High School, it was obvious that Brian valued and enjoyed being around people of all ages, but especially the students. He cared about those with whom he came in contact. He listened carefully to their joys and problems sharing in their happy and sad feelings, along with a friendly offer of help as appropriate. It was a pleasure and privilege to have had the opportunity to work with Brian. My condolences to Pam, the girls and his extended family.

Betsy Goodman

Betsy Goodman - November 11, 2025 at 11:25 AM

MS

Brian's subschool was a place I visited when I could to take a break from the circus that was my subschool. He was so chill and calm and welcoming. It is no wonder he has a million friends who love him. I am certainly one of them. Bruce and I send our best hugs to you and your adorable family. He will be missed but I believe smiling down on each of you and guiding the way with his wisdom and high standards. May he rest now. ❤️❤️

Martha Seger - December 05, 2025 at 08:38 AM

PA

Thank you for the kind words Betsy. Brian felt blessed to start his administrative career with you and the others at Marshall. Many fond memories ...😊

Pam - December 28, 2025 at 03:55 PM

PA

Thank you Mitzi. We appreciate your sentiments and especially appreciate your support and friendship as we worked through LBD these past couple of years. 🙏

Pam - December 28, 2025 at 03:58 PM

EG

“ Elizabeth G. purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Brian James Grainer.



Elizabeth G. - November 11, 2025 at 11:23 AM

BF

“ Buffum Family purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Brian James Grainer.



Buffum Family - November 10, 2025 at 03:42 PM

TT

“ So many wonderful things mentioned in these posts. The obituary is a beautiful tribute to Brian and his impact on those who were lucky enough to know him, learn from him, work with him, and/or play for him. He was genuine and sincere as evidenced by the admiration and respect shared by all who knew him. We worked together on the admin. team at Westfield. He was relentless in the care and compassion with which he approached his job and our vision. I am blessed to have known him and to have worked with him. I'm confident that he and Francis are already busy drawing up plays on the big gridiron in the sky. Lastly, I always enjoyed our mutual fondness and appreciation for the word "husky". My condolences to Pam and the girls (and their families).

Tim Thomas - November 09, 2025 at 12:07 PM

PA

Thank you for sharing these kind words Tim. Brian appreciated and enjoyed you and your staff at Westfield. It was home to our family. I can only laugh at the football possibilities in heaven and your reference to "husky" stories... 😊

Pam - December 28, 2025 at 04:03 PM

LG

“ John and I always remember Brian's kind smile and calm demeanor. He was also very positive and had wicked pickleball serve! Our thoughts and prayers are with the Grainer family.

Leigh Grady - November 07, 2025 at 01:24 PM

PA

Thank you Leigh. He did have some sneaky pickleball moves! Those were some fun times... 😊

Pam - December 28, 2025 at 04:04 PM

TF

“ Tony and Sally Vadella and Family purchased the *Divine Peace Bouquet* for the family of Brian James Grainer.



Tony and Sally Vadella and Family - November 07, 2025 at 01:10 PM

BG

“ Bruce and Laura Gordon purchased the *Arrive in Style* for the family of Brian James Grainer.



Bruce and Laura Gordon - November 07, 2025 at 11:49 AM

SF

“ Sarneso Family purchased the *Days of Sunshine Bouquet* for the family of Brian James Grainer.



Sarneso Family - November 07, 2025 at 10:57 AM

BM

“ My payers and thought go out to you Pam, your daughters and entire family.
Brian had a great smile and laugh to go with his wonderful personality. I believe it was his mission to bring a smile to everyone's face he met. The perfect example of a warm and kindhearted individual it is honor for anyone who had the pleasure to call him a friend. I'm sure he leaves a positive impact for the many lives he touched. he will be missed but will always be in our hearts.

Ben Mancarella - November 07, 2025 at 10:32 AM

PA

Thank you Ben. Such perfect words describing Brian. We appreciate all of your help over the years. 🙏

Pam - December 28, 2025 at 04:06 PM

KR

“ Mr. Grainer was one of the kindest dads I have ever had the privilege of knowing in the earlier formative years of childhood. I don't think there was ever a moment where he wasn't present or actively involved with whatever was going on. When I hear the word "Dad" Mr. Grainer would be a prime example of just that . I have fond memories of pizza, and tagging along to cheerleading competitions among other athletic events at Marshall High school with my best friend Brittany. We were always up to something mischievous but he always had a smile and the patience to keep up with the antics . Mr. Grainer always had a dog by his side , and that just means you are a good soul. I know that his presence will be beyond missed by his whole family, his friends and colleagues. My heart goes out to all his loved ones, may they have the strength to navigate the turbulence . May he rest in peace.



Katie Retson - November 07, 2025 at 09:58 AM

PA

What sweet sentiment Katie. Thank you for sharing this. He loved being a girl dad... and a girlfriend dad. 😊

Pam - December 28, 2025 at 04:09 PM

RS

“ *Will never forget our trip to Atlanta with friends for the UVA Peach Bowl. May you rest in peace and may God bless .*

Roger Shifflett - November 06, 2025 at 05:02 PM

PA

Thank you Roger. That was awhile ago and definitely some fond memories! 😊

Pam - December 28, 2025 at 04:10 PM