



# Matt Holland

JAN 5, 1973 - DEC 8, 2025



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## **Matt Holland**

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**M**att Holland was born on January 5, 1973, in Fayetteville, Arkansas, and entered his heavenly home on December 8, 2025. He was the son of John Wilson Holland, Jr., and Marilyn Elizabeth Spurlin Holland.

From the day of his birth, which was an icy January day that entailed a thrilling and somewhat treacherous drive from Rogers to Washington Regional Medical Center in Fayetteville, Matt enjoyed a life of adventure.

Not long after he was able to ride a bike as a child, he was joyously freewheeling all over town. One of his happiest Christmases was when Santa left him a Diamondback BMX bicycle. Matt loved his Diamondback! He rode it all over Rogers; and he also won several awards in local bike competitions for his racing skills. Then, after he turned sixteen, Matt traded in his bike for his dad's bright red Chevy truck.

Matt graduated with honors from Rogers High School in 1991, where he participated in the REACH gifted and talented program and in sports. He then graduated from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville with a Bachelor of Arts in Architecture in 1997. He loved aesthetics, design, and drawing, which was evidenced by his meticulous penmanship, renderings, and artwork.

After graduation, Matt worked for a number of local architectural firms, and also spent a brief period working in Phoenix, Arizona. More recently, he dedicated his time and focus on home renovation projects for clients and friends. He was a consummate perfectionist, and always insisted on the highest quality of craftsmanship in his work. He would tackle almost any home remodeling project. Matt could handle a full range of construction work from electrical, to plumbing, tiling, painting, and landscaping. He was a jack of all trades when it came to building. Additionally, Matt was very cultured. He enjoyed touring other parts of the United States and spent a brief period of time studying architecture in Latin America and Europe. However, his deepest love was for the state of Arkansas. He enjoyed touring



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state parks, exploring back roads, and discovering areas that were new to him. He was also a skilled photographer and has shared numerous photos of beautiful Arkansas landscapes along his journeys.

Matt was an animal lover and a loving father to his “fur babies”, including Ava von Gott, his short-haired dachshund from Arizona, and Sol, his long-haired dachshund, who you would often see riding in Matt’s lap with his nose pressed against the window. Matt loved and spoiled these pets, who were his beloved friends and companions.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Dr. Robert and Mary Spurlin and John and Betty Holland; his uncles, Robert, John, and Jim; his aunts, Linda and Louise; and his cousins, Sara, Todd and Suzanne.

Matt is survived by his parents; his sister and brother-in-law, Carrie and Tony Dawes; his niece, Lillie Dawes; his brother and sister-in-law, Mark and Erin Holland; his nephew, Sterling Holland; his Aunt Sharon and Aunt Margaret; and his cousins, Laura, John Frank, Libby, Caroline, Lee and Ricky.

Matt was a free spirit, a man with so many skills, a man who had a unique perspective on life...and now he flies with the angels, free and unencumbered. You were deeply loved, “Matt-O”, and you will be missed every single day.

In Matt’s memory...hug your loved ones whenever you can; plant a tree or shrub; or cultivate a flower garden so that you can be attuned to the peace which Mother Earth gives so freely; love your fur babies and if you don’t have one, adopt one and give it a caring home; freely explore the byways and waterways of our beautiful state, as he did, so that you can appreciate your good fortune to live in the Natural State.

The family thanks all those who loved, supported, and shared friendships with Matt and especially those who recognized what a unique treasure he was. Most of all, he had a good heart and empathy for those who were considered “less than”.

Matt will be remembered by his family in a private service. Memorials may be made to First United Methodist Church, Memo: Landscaping Fund, 307 W. Elm, Rogers, AR 72756. If you have a special memory of Matt that you would like to share, cards may be sent to his family in care of Nelson-Berna Funeral Home, Rogers.

<https://www.bernafuneralhomes.com>



## Tribute Wall

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FW

**Fred Wanger** posted:

John, Marilyn, Mark and Family, We extend our deep, sincere condolences for your loss. We knew "of Matt" more than actually knowing him personally, but being a Holland we would expect him to be the bright, talented person he was. We are saddened by your loss, but uplifted by the life he lived -- fulfilling career objectives in the demanding field of architecture, exploring fully his love of nature, and having friends and family who recognized his essence as an independent spirit and a special human being. The Wangers Fred, Brenda, Ben and Ann

December 17 at 11:13 AM

M

**Marilyn Holland** December 21 at 5:00 PM

Fred and Family, we thank you for your sweet and kind comments. Matt was indeed a special young man who added a special light to this world and whose light will continue on as his Spirit moves among us. The kind words of friends have helped ease our sorrow and move us along our journey of healing. Best wishes to you and all of your family.

DL

**Deborah L M.** planted a grove of 5 Memorial Trees in honor of Matt.



December 15 at 6:30 PM

M

**Marilyn Holland** December 21 at 5:11 PM

Deborah, our family appreciates your having trees planted in Matt's memory. He was one who loved Mother Nature and spending time exploring the back roads and waterways of our beautiful state. He was an excellent photographer and leaves behind a treasure trove of wonderful photos of our Natural State. He would love having trees planted in his memory...trees to grow tall and strong and change with the seasons...always renewing themselves in the spring. Thank you again for your thoughtfulness in remembering our son.



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**Suzanne Richards** posted:

Matt wasn't just a childhood friend from Rogers. He was one of my absolute favorites, and calling him a "friend" never felt like enough. I loved him deeply, and he's always held a special place in my heart. Even as the years passed and life pulled us in different directions, we still checked in on each other from time to time. He was one of the kindest, most talented, brilliant, and genuinely loving people I've ever known. My heart hurts for his family and everyone who loved him. Matt was a bright light in a complicated world, and I know that light will continue to shine through the lives he touched. He will be missed dearly. Sending prayers and peace to his family during this heartbreaking time. 🙏❤️

December 12 at 11:09 AM



**Becky M.** planted a grove of 3 Memorial Trees in honor of Matt.



December 11 at 8:51 AM



**Marilyn Holland** December 21 at 5:25 PM

Becky, Matt's family wants to thank you for planting trees in his memory. As I said in another post, he loved spending time with Mother Nature and the thought of trees being planted in his memory would please him so much. He has planted numerous trees himself for friends and family and loved anything that related to the earth, growth, and renewal. We are so appreciative of your thoughtful gift.



**Nathan H.** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Matt.



December 10 at 11:09 PM



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**Nathan Huber** posted:

I'm saddened to hear the news of Matt's passing. Matt was one of my best friends growing up. I was with him a majority of the time he was riding his Diamondback bike. Those were very memorable times and I loved every minute of it. He and I shared a January birthday. I reached out to him on his 50th birthday a couple of years ago. He wished me a happy 50th birthday as well stating that my birthday was one he had never forgotten. I wish he and I were still building ramps and jumping our bikes. I pray for peace and comfort for his family who always treated me as one of their own. Rest in peace my friend.~Nathan Huber

December 10 at 11:07 PM



**Marilyn Holland** December 21 at 4:54 PM

Nathan, this is Marilyn here and I hope that this message reaches you...I am not very savvy with technology. I have a gazillion memories of the times you and Matt rode your bikes around town and all the things you two bright, creative young men could think of to entertain yourselves. All of my family appreciates your sweet, kind comments, which have lightened our sorrow. So many responded on the fb post about Matt's passing, and, again, the sweet and kind words of those who knew Matt have helped us in our journey of healing. We hope that all is well in your world and that of your family. Thank you again for your words and for placing a memorial tree that will someday stand tall in Matt's memory.



## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Matt by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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