



# Austin Cameron Bruce

SEP 17, 1992 - MAR 12, 2025



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# Austin Cameron Bruce

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**A**ustin Cameron Bruce passed away unexpectedly on March 12, 2025 at his home in Kansas City, Missouri. He was 32.

Austin was born September 17, 1992 in Carrollton, Texas, to parents Robert and Kelly (Murphy) Bruce. No baby boy was ever more loved or wanted. He was an immediate family favorite and was given nicknames like "Tweety" and "Austin from Dallas". His mother called him "Manny".

His brother, Riley, arrived less than 2 years later, completing the family and ushering in golden times for the Bruces. The family migrated north to Columbia, Missouri, where they lived for a number of years before settling back home near family in western Putnam County.

Austin had a very happy childhood, and enjoyed playing with his brother and his cousin, Morgen Murphy, who was like a second brother. He liked fishing, video games, riding the family go cart and learning Taekwondo. He loved his dog, Chelsea. He spent several years in Boy Scouts.

Austin was blessed with a love of learning and was a voracious reader. From a young age, he was exceptionally curious about a multitude of subjects. As a youth, he won spelling bees and taught himself to play guitar.

Austin accepted Christ as a youth, and the family rests in the assurance that they will see him again. He graduated from Putnam County High School in 2011 and later earned a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology with a Minor in Spanish and International Studies from the University of Missouri.

He married his college sweetheart, Xiaotong Lu (Lulu), on June 16, 2016 in Linyi City, China. The pair lived in China for a year before returning to the States. Austin loved the Chinese people and culture.



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Austin had a stellar work ethic, landing his first job working for the NEMR Help Desk during his high school years. While still in college he began working for the Columbia office of a U.S. Congresswoman. He found great satisfaction in helping constituents, especially veterans, with problem resolution.

After college he worked for Burrell Behavioral Health in Columbia as a case worker and later taught English as a second language online for many years, befriending several of his clients with whom he maintained regular contact.

Upon moving to Kansas City, Austin eventually switched career paths and began working for Fowler, Pickert, Eisenmenger, Norfleet as a Legal Assistant. Austin was blessed with a great sense of empathy. He advocated for anyone marginalized by society and wanted the best for his fellow man.

He had a heart of gold and not a mean bone in his body. He was a passionate debater but would listen to opposing viewpoints with genuine interest. He was very informed about current events and enjoyed lively discussions pertaining to whatever was going on in the world at any given time.

The Bruce family loved to travel, both domestically and abroad, and it is a love Austin carried into adulthood. Together the family hiked, snorkeled and parasailed at some of the most beautiful locations in the world. Austin embraced the opportunity to experience different cultures.

His last trip was a solo journey to South Korea and China in 2024. He was an adventurer and particularly enjoyed exotic culinary experiences when abroad. Austin loved animals, but none more than his rescued white Lab, Bruce. Their relationship and bond was evident to any and all who saw them together.

Bruce comforts Austin's family now. Austin was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents Bill and Barbara Bruce, his maternal grandfather Richard Murphy, Aunt Kristi Murphy, Uncles Kent Murphy and William Bruce, Jr., and cousin Jake Hollon.

Left to mourn his passing are his wife "Lulu", parents, brother Riley, Grandmother Kathy Murphy and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins. Funeral services will be held at the Thomas Funeral Home in Unionville, Missouri, on Tuesday, March 18, 2025, with a visitation beginning at 1:00 p.m., followed by services at 2:00 p.m.



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The family requests donations to the Jake Hollon Memorial Scholarship in lieu of flowers and may be mailed to Thomas Funeral Home, ATTN: Bruce Family, 709 S. 27th St. Unionville, MO 63565. Condolences may be shared online at [www.thomasfh.com](http://www.thomasfh.com) or [www.facebook.com/thomasfuneralhome](https://www.facebook.com/thomasfuneralhome).



## Tribute Wall

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PB

**Pam Blackburn** posted:

I'm so sorry about Austin. I found a scripture on JW.org that I like to share, Acts 24:15, "there is going to be a resurrection," I wish your family the very best for the future.

March 17 at 7:00 PM

AD

**Adam** posted:

Austin, or "Jeff" as he was known to a great group of people online, was as quality a person as one could hope to ever get to know. Funny, warm, clear-minded in his convictions, exceedingly decent. He helped in any way he could anyone he could. The world is a better place for his presence, cut far too short. All my best wishes and condolences to his survivors.

March 17 at 7:00 PM

LF

**Love, The Duane Snyder Family** posted:

Our deepest sympathies to you all!

March 16 at 7:00 PM

OW

**Owen** lit a candle in honor of Austin.

I talked to Austin every day for years. He was one of the best people I have ever known, with a clear sense of justice that will be an inspiration for us all. We had always hoped we could meet in person, and I will always regret that now we never will. That does not make our friendship any less real, and I will carry his memory with me always. Goodbye, my friend.

March 16 at 7:00 PM



HP

**Hp** lit a candle in honor of Austin.

I'm beyond heartbroken to learn of Austin's passing. Like others, I knew him online as "Jeff" and he was one of the most genuine and thoughtful people I've had the privilege of getting to know. He was funny and insightful and cared deeply about others. I'll miss him terribly. RIP, comrade

March 15 at 7:00 PM





## Tribute Wall

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AB

**A Memorial Tree Was Planted For Austin Cameron Bruce** posted:

We are deeply sorry for your loss ~ Thomas Funeral Home - Unionville

March 15 at 7:00 PM

CW

**Carolyn Webber** posted:

I am so sorry for your loss. I know how much you loved him and how much Kelly loved being his mother. Many prayers sent to your family.

March 15 at 7:00 PM

SC

**Sg Chat** posted:

We are so terribly sorry to hear about the passing of our dear friend. We cracked jokes, played games, and shared our lives every day on twitter.

March 15 at 7:00 PM

SL

**Slg** lit a candle in honor of Austin.

I knew him as Jeff online but I always had a blast playing games with him, he introduced to me so many fun games like the finals and just wanted everyone to have a good time. Always was fun talking politics with him even when we didn't agree. Very smart and kind man, I will really miss him. My deepest sympathies with the family.

March 15 at 7:00 PM



AL

**Alex** lit a candle in honor of Austin.

I feel so blessed to have gotten to know Austin, though we call him Jeff online. Thank you so much for being such a kind, genuine person. You were so giving and unbelievably empathetic. I pray your soul rests easy and my deepest condolences are with your family. You will be incredibly missed by so many.

March 15 at 7:00 PM





## Tribute Wall

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RC

**Rcr** lit a candle in honor of Austin.

I knew him as 'Jeff' online. He touched so many people and did so much for others. We spent hours playing video games and chatting with our mutual friends. This has come as a shock to all of us and his presence is going to be very sorely missed for some time. Rest easy, Austin.

March 15 at 7:00 PM



WA

**Wade** lit a candle in honor of Austin.

I knew him, as many did, online as "Jeff". Jeff helped organize a community of friends for years, working tirelessly to spread the love he had for human connection. That community helped me through dark times, and I will never have the words to express the blessings in my life that Austin and his friendship gave me. I'm sorry we didn't get a chance to play just one more game Austin, but just know you are loved by so many.

March 15 at 7:00 PM



NO

**Noah** lit a candle in honor of Austin.

I knew him as "Jeff" online. He became a fast friend. He was kind, sweet, funny and very smart. My heart goes out to all the people around the world who loved Austin. Rest in peace Jeff

March 15 at 7:00 PM



MN

**Mitch & Nico** posted:

We will meet again, Austin.

March 15 at 7:00 PM

CJ

**Christopher Jordan** posted:

With a heavy heart and deepest sympathy for the family of such a sweet soul.

March 15 at 7:00 PM



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

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



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