



Hilary G. Hamilton

NOV 2, 1970 - JAN 30, 2023



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Hilary Blake Hamilton, 52, of Cornelius, NC died January 29, 2023, at her home, surrounded by loved ones. She was born on November 2, 1970, in Spokane, WA to Wilson Blake and Julie Anne Smith Blake.

Hilary's sense of adventure, a trait that she shared with Bryce Hamilton, her devoted husband of almost nineteen years, seemed innate at an early age. She spent her early childhood years in what was then known as Zaire (1972-1974), where she curiously explored the burgeoning city and magical African topography. Her tenacity became evident as she once insisted on accompanying her older sister to preschool where she was originally deemed too young. Her passion for nature continued to flourish, when her family eventually settled in Hayden Lake, ID. Throughout the next decade, Hilary enthusiastically explored the natural playground that the mesmerizing Idaho landscape offered.

During her childhood, Hilary developed a passion and talent for running, which continued throughout her life. While earning her undergraduate degree at the University of Washington and her Masters from Auburn, she was named an all-conference middle-distance runner. Her dedication to the sport and relentless devotion to smashing goals with unbridled optimism garnered Hilary the endearing nickname "Bulldog" from her teammates. She wore it with pride. As a powerful adult athlete, Hilary competed in the famed Iron Man and Alcatraz triathlons as well as the New York City Marathon and she carried that intensity into her remarkable career.

From serving on the team that built the first e-commerce platform for the venerable Levi's brand to owning her own communications firm for 20+ years, consulting with brands such as Expedia, Hilary's fervor remained contagious. She made anyone she encountered believe they too could smash goals, be they personal or professional. And that they could do it with a glowing smile, just as she did.

It was that smile, relentless optimism, competitive spirit, and true grit that drew her husband in when they met one afternoon in New York City. Following a bi-coastal courtship, the pair and



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their family eventually planted roots in Carmel, CA where they could enjoy the mountainous landscape, ocean air, and familial kindness of their neighbors. For the following eight years, Hilary embraced those neighbors as a family with her hallmark light, laughter, and love.

Last year, the family moved to Cornelius, NC, where Hilary continued her years-long fight with metastatic breast cancer. In the face of that battle, she never gave up, she never lost her optimism, and she never relented to the brutality of the disease. She laughed, persisted, nurtured, embraced, and appreciated all that life had to offer through to the end. It should be noted that Hilary Blake Hamilton did not lose her fight against cancer. Because Hilary never lost anything to which she dedicated herself. It is those she leaves behind that have lost, as there will never be another uniquely beautiful source of sunshine, grace, grit, and love as Hilary Blake Hamilton.

Survivors are bountiful, but notably include her husband, Bryce as well as their son, Sawyer and daughters, Rafferty and Hadley, her parents Wilson and Julie Ann, and her siblings, Kira Bird, Reyla Zumhofe and Tesa Gagliardi as well as numerous beloved in-laws, nieces and nephews, cousins and friends. Her brother Christopher Blake, who she loved fiercely, preceded her in death.

A private Celebration of Life service will be held later this summer in Carmel, CA.

James Funeral Home of Huntersville is serving the family.



Tribute Wall

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Lora Maes shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Hilary was a beautiful, caring human being. I ran track and cross country with her at the University of Washington. I am so saddened to learn of the passing of her life and her long battle with breast cancer. She was the nicest, most accepting person. No matter what your background or who you were, she accepted everyone and never had anything a bad to say about anybody. She was a fierce competitor on the track and I thoroughly enjoyed being her teammate. We reconnected briefly in the early 2000's when she was living Kentfield and went for a run in Golden Gate park. It was like the time never passed, she was still the same Hilary. We lost touch but I always thought about her. My heart goes out to her family for your loss, she was a wonderful person. Attached is a picture of the University of Washington 1993 Spring Sports calendar. Hilary and I (along with Amy Kriz) are pictured on it, it was pretty cool to be in it.



February 20 at 7:52 AM



Lora Maes shared a photo to the Tribute Wall album.

February 20 at 7:52 AM

Y OF WASHINGTON™
ING ATHLETICS

CREW

MAR. 27 CLASS DAY REGATTA 10am Sun
APR. 3 HISTORY INSTITUTIONAL Sun
OREGON STATE Sun

MAY 1 WINDERMERE CUP 10:30am Sun
OPENING DAY REGATTA
MONTLAK CUP, SATELLITE, WA

CALIFORNIA 10am

BASEBALL

MAR. 4 @ Nevada State 7pm
5 @ Kansas State 7:30a
8 @ Kansas State (2) 7pm
9 @ Puget Sound 7pm
10 PACIFIC LUTHERAN 7pm
11 @ Central Washington (2) NOON
12 @ San Bernardino Tournament
23 27 PORTLAND STATE 7pm
APR. 2 PORTLAND (2) NOON
4 PORTLAND STATE 7pm
7 PORTLAND STATE 7pm
10 @ Gonzaga (2) NOON
13 @ Gonzaga 7pm
14 PORTLAND STATE 7pm
APR. 18-19 OREGON BOATING CUP, ASTORIA, OR
21 @ Portland State 8pm
24 WASHINGTON STATE (2) NOON
25 WASHINGTON STATE 7pm
MAY 1 @ Portland (2) 4pm
2 NOON
3 PORTLAND STATE 7pm
4 @ Washington State (2) 4pm
8 @ Washington State 7pm
10 @ Portland State 7pm
12 @ Oregon State (2) NOON
18 @ Oregon State 7pm
20 SONOMA 7pm
21 SONOMA 7pm
21-26 NCAA Regionals
AUG. 4-13 College World Series

SOFTBALL

MAR. 2 @ ADU 8pm
3 @ Arizona 7pm
4-7 @ Arizona Classic 7:30a
12-14 @ Team USA Tournament
20 @ St. Mary's 7pm
21 @ Santa Clara 7:30a
22 @ Stanford 7pm
23 @ California 7pm
25-28 @ Perry Tournament 7:30a
30 @ UCLA 7pm
APR. 1 SAKON FRASER 5:00pm
2 OREGON 7pm
4 PORTLAND STATE 7pm
9 ANKONAS STATE 1:00pm
18 UCLA 7pm
18 WILLAMETTE 7pm
22 @ Portland State 7pm
24 @ Oregon 7pm
25 @ Oregon State 7pm
30 STANFORD 7pm
MAY 1 PACIFIC LUTHERAN 7pm
4 ARIZONA 7pm
6 OREGON STATE 7pm
7 CALIFORNIA 7pm
21-22 NCAA Regionals
27-27 NCAA College World Series

TRACK

MAR. 18 HAWAIIAN CUP
MAY 6 TRACK CLASSIC
25 @ Stanford Invitational
APR. 2 @ Oregon
10 GORVICTOWN, OHIO
17 @ Nevada State
23-24 (M) @ Drake Relays
23-24 (W) @ Penn Relays
MAY 1 CAL. SP. PORTLAND INVITATIONAL
9 WASHINGTON STATE
18-19 Pac-12 Multi-Events
19 Athletics Relays
19 PACIFIC COAST CONFERENCE
21-22 Pac-12 Championships
26 TROUSERS MEET
JUNE 2-5 NCAA National Championships

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Memories only last if you share them

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



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