



## Major Mathew Blaze Wharton

October 21, 1980 - March 31, 2021

Major Mathew Blaze Wharton, age 40, passed away on March 31, 2021 in Kingsland Georgia. Born October 21, 1980 in Salt Lake City, Utah and raised by mother, Tamara Brune Wharton; along with father, Blaze D Wharton; and step-mother, Lisa Wharton.

Matt lived a life of service, dedication, world travel, and adventure.

As a youth Matt loved his friends and family, sports (one of the first Salt Lake Buzz batboys), break-dancing, politics, and hip-hop music. He also served as an altar boy for the Cathedral of the Madeleine in Salt Lake City. A natural entrepreneur, he loved to campaign with his dad, fix up old houses, uplift and motivate everyone he met, and personally change the world. He attended Salt Lake Community College and earned a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice at Weber State University. He loved his canine companion, Drake with a warmth that was touching to see. Whether he was busting out the worm at a dance party, or maintaining a top spot on the leaderboard at Orange Theory, Matt's high energy followed him wherever he went, fueling his accomplishments.

Mathew proudly served over 13 years in the United States Army with tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. His units included the 789th Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD), 20th CBRNE, and command of the 720th EOD. During this time he often acted as a military instructor helping soldiers learn how to detect and avoid Improvised Explosive Devices. He also participated in humanitarian missions around the world assisting in conflict zones with the removal of minefields and other ordnance that remained as a danger to civilians. He was awarded a Meritorious Service Medal, 3 Army Commendation Medals, an Army Achievement Medal, 2 Iraqi Campaign Medals, an Afghanistan Campaign Medal, and a Bronze Star during his service.

He is survived by his parents, brothers Joseph Green (Jessica (Lopez) Green), Benjamin Green, Nathaniel Wharton, Cole Wharton, sister Kennedy Bottoms (Brian Bottoms), and

his beloved nephews Joseph "Joey" Lopez-Green, Marcus Lopez-Green, Andre Lopez-Green, and Avery Lopez-Green.

Mathew's family invites you to celebrate him at his Funeral Service; set for 1 pm on Tuesday, April 20th, 2021, at Neil O'Donnell Funeral Home, 372 East 100 South, Salt Lake City. The Service will be preceded by Open Visitation at 11 am and followed by Interment with military honors at the Salt Lake City Cemetery. The service will also be streamed online at <http://www.neilodonnellfuneralhome.com> select Mathew's obituary and then select the "Photos/Videos" tab.

In lieu of flowers you may donate in Mathew's name either to the Be Good Foundation (<https://giddyupchallenge.causevox.com>) to support mine removal in Laos and repurpose the land for recreational use; or to MAG International (<https://www.maginternational.org>) for unexploded ordnance disposal all over the world.

# Cemetery

---

# Events

---

## Salt Lake City Cemetery

200 N Street

Salt Lake City, UT, 84103

**APR** **Visitation** 11:00AM - 12:45PM

**20**

---

Neil O'Donnell Funeral Home

372 E 100 S, Salt Lake City, Salt Lake City, UT, US,  
84111

**APR** **Funeral Service** 01:00PM

**20**

---

Neil O'Donnell Funeral Home

372 E 100 S, Salt Lake City, Salt Lake City, UT, US,  
84111

# Comments

---



“ A webcast video has been added.



Neil O'Donnell Funeral Home - April 19 at 08:31 PM



“  
**Monika Szymanska** - April 20 at 11:59 PM



“  
**Tamara** - April 23 at 10:14 PM

---



“ An external video has been added.



Neil O'Donnell Funeral Home - April 19 at 08:20 PM



“ Te voy a extrañar Mateo°, como no imaginas!!! ❤️  
**Sissy** - April 20 at 03:40 PM



“ Thank you for remembering our Extraordinary Mateo.  
The Brune-Green-Wharton Family  
**Tamara** - April 23 at 09:32 PM

---



“ Even though I haven't seen or spoken to Matt in about 15 years, he enters my mind and memories often. We had the pleasure of having Matt be a part of our family for a short while. He definitely left an impression. I remember him being kind, funny, handsome, interested as well as interesting, smart, polite and of course I remember that beautiful smile. Over the years I've gone through old photos and a couple of Matt will pop up with that smiling face. I remember that he loved 90's rock music. Especially "Here we go again" by Whitesnake. We all sang it at the top of our lungs one day while driving up Payson Canyon. Matt was a great person and will be so missed. My love goes out to all of his family and hope that you will find comfort and peace. I so hope that Matt has found his.  
Sincerely, Jil Price

Jil Price - May 06 at 09:41 PM

---



“ Dear New & Old Friends & Loved Ones;  
Our hearts are filled to over-flowing for the love, kindness and thoughtfulness we have received from you! There are so many to thank for participating in Mathew's services, so it is impossible to thank you all individually. Yet, please know we appreciate each and every one of you in remembering and honoring Mathew. We are grateful for all the kind words, open arms, beautiful flowers, extended travels, in memoriam donations, special posts and cards, lovely photos, humorous stories, and tender tears shared with us.  
Special thanks to the US Army and Joint Forces, as well as the program participants, volunteers and Neil McDonnell Funeral Home for making Mathew's Day of Celebration and Funeral Services both memorable and inspiring. We are forever grateful to all and thank you on Mathew's behalf.  
Love, Light and Many Blessings in Return!  
The Brune-Green-Wharton Family



Tamara - April 23 at 10:37 PM

---



“ I remember as if it were yesterday the day we met in that bar on one of your visits to my country ... How to forget your singular "Hola, soy Mateo" with your little Spanish that "hola" became a friend of the last 5 years with your sudden and short visits ... (this pic was the second time, love it) But nothing that the messages will not solve to keep in touch! Even so, I think I met that great person Mateo, that great man who leaves me very sad with this news ... I never met someone so great, I'm not lying I told you! I hope that wherever you are you make them laugh with your unique jokes and that unforgettable laugh ...  
Te voy a extrañar mucho Mateo° Abrazos hasta el cielo !!!



**Sissy** - April 20 at 03:43 PM



“ Thank you for remembering our Extraordinary Mateo!  
The Brune-Green-Wharton Family

**Tamara** - April 23 at 10:10 PM



“ We enjoyed talking all the time for these last 5 years about the day by day and things to complete, he made my days happy... And I know that I his too ... I can't imagine the pain of his family , because this It hurts me a lot ... My sincere condolences to you, I hug you from a distance...

**Sissy Jarëro** - April 24 at 01:23 PM



“ Tamara, Joseph, Benjamin, Blaze and other family members, I was saddened to hear of Mathew's passing. I didn't know him well but when I was around him he always treated me respectfully and seemed like a very nice person. I hope you can all find peace in this time of sorrow.

Christian E. Green

**christian green** - April 20 at 03:02 PM



“ Thank you for your kind condolences and kind words The Brune-Green-Wharton Family

**Tamara** - April 23 at 09:29 PM



“ Dear Blaze & Family. Evan & I are so so sorry for your loss. My heart goes out to you at this time. You & your family are in my prayers. He was a beautiful son & his loss will be felt deeply. Thanks for sharing all the beautiful pictures of you, his Mom & all the kids. Love, Diane

**Diane Young** - April 20 at 02:39 PM



“ Thank you, Aunt Diane, Uncle Evan and Family. Though states away, you were always so loving and supportive. Thank you, kindly, for your prayers.

The Brune-Green-Wharton-Family

**Tamara** - April 23 at 09:36 PM

---



“ Mathew Blaze Wharton!

Here are a couple pictures of the path we shared! He was so genuine, gentle and humble. I've truly never met a man like him!!

The first picture is from the day we met and He had my glitter all over the Place lol Since then we were a team and couple for almost 2 years and im happy for every second of it!

My heart is heavy today and I'm sorry for all the people who are left with a hole in their heart.

Let's celebrate all the good memories, all the laughter we shared with him , all of his good and stupid ideas and all the lessons we learned from him!

He made this world a better place!

Lots of love to everyone here 🦋

Anna



**Anna Lena** - April 20 at 02:58 AM



“ Thank you for your sweet memories of Mathew. He enjoyed traveling and knowing you. Thank you for your optimism and encouragement in keeping his memory close with us.

The Brune-Green-Wharton Family

**Tamara** - April 23 at 09:40 PM

---



“ Circa 1998-1999



**Andrea Burrough** - April 19 at 11:35 PM

---



“ I first met Matt when I went to St. Ann's in 7th grade. I was an outsider and felt like one. With so few students we all quickly became close friends. After 8th grade we fractured as a group. And two years later in 10th grade I was so shocked to see Matt at Murray High. It was the absolute last place either of us imagined seeing each other. We spent the next 3 years on the debate team together. After high school there was a period of time when we met to go drinking and dancing and we'd have a ball staying out all night laughing. (Fortunately no photos of that time exist! Haha) The photos I've included - group photo from our Confirmation from March 1995 and one of me and Matt in Tempe, Arizona from January 1998 at one of the many debate competitions.

Sending all of Matt's family and friends love and light right now. My heart breaks as I think about a life cut too short. Everywhere he went and everyone who knew him remembers his humor, laugh, kindness.

With love -

Kate Rubalcava



**kate rubalcava** - April 19 at 09:57 PM



“ Thank you for your Tribute to Mathew and attending his Services. We appreciate your sweet message of love and light to us and wish you many returns.

The Brune-Green-Wharton Family

**Tamara** - April 23 at 09:43 PM

---



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Major Mathew Blaze Wharton.



April 19 at 06:06 PM

---



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Major Mathew Blaze Wharton.



April 19 at 05:05 PM

---



“ Dear Blaze and Family,

I am so sorry to hear of your loss of Mathew. I did not have the pleasure of knowing him, but from the writings of those who did, it is clear that he was a wonderful young man.

His willingness to not only serve his country but to do so in the extremely dangerous field of CBRNE is a testament to his courage and selflessness.

I know the heartbreak of losing a son. I know my words cannot ease your pain but, I pray that with time Mathew's memory will become a blessing.

Deven Johnson

**Deven Johnson** - April 19 at 03:48 PM



“ Thank you, most kindly, for your thoughts and prayers, Mr. Johnson.  
The Brune-Green-Wharton Family

**Tamara** - April 23 at 09:45 PM

---



“ Dear Wharton Family,

I would like to express my condolences to you during this difficult time. I constantly think about Matt and empathize with you, from the bottom of my heart. Hopefully all of you can keep the strenght needed to recover from these difficult hours. Matt was like a brother to me, we have spent a lot of time together when he was stationed here in Germany. My parents who also had the honor meeting him said that Matt was the nicest, smartest and the most joyful person they have ever met. It's really sad that he left us so early, but I will keep him in memory forever. Thank you for everything Matt, my dearest brother.



**Christopher Dickmann** - April 19 at 02:37 PM



“ Dear Christopher; Thank you for befriending Mathew and for your family's warm hospitality. We appreciate your thoughtful condolences and kind remeberences.

The Brune-Green-Wharton Family

**Tamara** - April 23 at 09:49 PM

---



“ I remember when Matt was a bat boy; it was a really big deal. I also remember how he turned his father's hair gray (metaphorically) with his antics at St. Ann's parochial school. Sister Alice only had to call Blaze about some trouble that Matt was in, didn't matter if Blaze was meeting with the governor, he would take that call.

**Wenlyn J Walters** - April 19 at 01:10 PM



“ Thank you, Wenlyn; It's been so many years. Yet, your words and recollections bring back such fond memories of yesteryear.

The Brune-Green-Wharton Family

**Tamara** - April 23 at 09:51 PM

---



“ My deepest condolences to Mat Wharton's Friends, Family Members and Battle Buddies from across the Joint Services.

Mat Wharton was a Great American, a Great Patriot, a Great Soldier and Leader. Blessed with a tireless sense of humor, matched only by his dedication to duty, his commitment to his craft, and his creed to do the right thing, the right way, for the right reasons.

Mat was my Aide-de-Camp at 20th CBRNE Command, during a time where we were busily operationalizing the Command to respond globally to a broad range of emerging threats. His professional and technical expertise were instrumental in helping to create a broader understanding of how best to organize and operate across a very challenging strategic landscape.

While professional in every action, Mat's undying curiosity and zest for life was unmatched. Always bringing a laugh, seeking the thrill and the edgy in every passing hour, Mat Wharton lived his life to the fullest, and made this world a better place to be.

It is with tremendous sadness that I learned of Mat's passing from our ranks, but I remain personally and professionally thankful for the tremendous service that Mat provided our Nation.

Rest In Peace Brother.

**JB Burton** - April 19 at 12:38 PM



“ Dear Sir; We are honored with your expressive tribute to Mathew. If he could respond, it is certain he would give glowing reports of you, as well as expressing his gratitude for your leadership and wisdom.

We believe we will all reunite in the Great Beyond one day, along with his many friends and loved-ones, and look forward until then.

Thank you, Sir, for your service to our country and our son and brother.

The Brune-Green-Wharton Family

**Tamara** - April 23 at 10:00 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Major Mathew Blaze Wharton.



April 19 at 10:32 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Major Mathew Blaze Wharton.



April 19 at 09:36 AM

---



“ You have always been the most devoted person I’ve known. Devoted to the person that you loved. Devoted to your family. Devoted to rising above. Devoted to building your life. Devoted to being the best. Devoted to getting the party started. Devoted to getting a good laugh at a seemingly silly joke.

After all this time and words we should have said, it appears as if you became the man that we all knew that you could become. I’m so proud to have shared a chapter in your life. The stories of Matt Wharton will be legendary.

Rest in paradise.

Love, Dre



**Andrea Burrough** - April 18 at 03:13 PM



“ Thank you for sharing Dre, I am Blaze, Matt’s dad.  
I’ve never met you but it was a beautiful, accurate account, of Matt’s life.  
He always was the life of any party.

**Blaze Wharton** - April 19 at 03:22 AM



“ Blaze, I have so many hilarious and heart warming stories of your son. We were together from 16-20 until we ended our engagement. If you ever need a good chuckle, I have plenty to share. My email is aburroughor@yahoo.com. My sincerest condolences.

**Andrea Burrough** - April 19 at 10:21 AM



“ Thank you, as well, Dre; Your photos and upbeat words are refreshing during this time of sorrow. Yet, we will all one day reunite and see his beautiful smile once more. Peace to you.

The Brune-Green-Wharton Family

**Tamara** - April 23 at 10:04 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Major Mathew Blaze Wharton.



April 17 at 07:40 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Major Mathew Blaze Wharton.



April 17 at 05:21 PM

---



“ Veterans of the 789th OD CO (EOD) purchased the Distinguished Service Casket Spray for the family of Major Mathew Blaze Wharton.



**Veterans of the 789th OD CO (EOD)** - April 17 at 03:38 PM

---



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Major Mathew Blaze Wharton.



April 16 at 06:15 PM

---



“ Our family would like to send our deepest condolences to the Green Family & Wharton Family. Losing a brother, son and friend is a very painful time. Our hearts & prayers will be with you during this difficult & painful time. May God be with all of you. We are so sorry please except our deepest condolences. Love Jesse Salas & Family & Lucy Santistevan may your son, brother and friend rest in peace.

**Lucy Santistevan** - April 16 at 03:02 PM



“ Dearest Lucy; Thank you for your ever faithful and prayerful spirit. We love and appreciate the long journey you have traveled with us. Thank you for your condolences, and may Love and peace be with you and yours, as well. Blessings to all!

The Brune-Green-Wharton Family

**Tamara** - April 23 at 10:08 PM