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TUCKER TAFFE



Tucker Evans Taffe Will Be Missed Tucker Evans Taffe, age 33 and a resident of Alta, Utah, died while ascending Mt. Rainier, Washington, on May 10, 2011. He was an experienced and passionate backcountry skier, mountain biker, and climber. Tucker's family, the Alta community, and all who knew him had deep respect for his athleticism, outdoor skill, humor, and loving character. A native of Poughkeepsie, New York, Tucker's love for the outdoors was sparked by his experiences in the skiing program at Dutchess Day School, where he graduated in 1993. He also graduated from Suffield Academy, Connecticut, in 1997, where he was elected to the Torch Society for embodying the values most prized by the school. Tucker trekked the Alaskan wilderness with the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS), an experience that developed his respect for nature and gave him the foundational skills to enjoy the outdoors. Tucker's intention to engage with nature determined his life course and his move to the West where he attended the University of Utah. He began to live, work, and ski in Alta in 1999 and remained an employee of Alta Lodge as a manager until his death. Off-season, Tucker's love of varied experiences and interest in extending hospitality led him to work at various NOLS base camps, an orchid farm in Hawaii, a cattle ranch in Nevada, and a family property in New York's Adirondack Mountains. He graduated from Brian Utting School of Massage in Seattle, Washington, and studied Spanish in Mexico. Tucker loved traveling, most recently in Southeast Asia. Tucker continues to be loved by his parents, Steve and Tina Taffe of Poughkeepsie; brothers and sisters-in-law Patrick and Lisa Taffe of Boston, MA and Stewart Taffe and Heidi Hetzler of Cranston, RI; grandfather, Stewart Laidlaw, of Poughkeepsie; uncles and aunts John and Debbie Taffe of Poughkeepsie, Scott and Christine Laidlaw of San Francisco, Jeff Laidlaw and Liz Mahon- Laidlaw of Granville, NY, Chris and Mary Laidlaw of Rockville, MD; and cousins Brendan, Chris, Jonathan and Andrew Taffe and Ariel, Caitlin, and Peter Laidlaw. A celebration of Tucker's life will be held at Locust Grove, The Samuel Morse Historic Site, 2683 South Road, Poughkeepsie, New York 12601 on Sunday, June 5th at 1:00 pm. Tucker's friends and family will also gather at Alta Lodge in Utah on Sunday, June 26th at 4:00pm. In lieu of flowers, contributions in his name can be made to Friends of Alta, a land trust (www.friendsofalta.org) or Utah Avalanche Center (www.utahavalanchecenter.org).

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