



**Inge Perkins & Hayden Kennedy**

## **HAYDEN KENNEDY 1990-2017**

Having lived for 27 years with the great joy and spirit that was Hayden Kennedy, we share the loss of our son and his partner Inge Perkins as the result of an avalanche in the southern Madison Mountains near Bozeman, Montana, on October 7<sup>th</sup>.

Inge Perkin's body was recovered by the Gallatin County Search & Rescue at the base of Mt. Imp on October 9<sup>th</sup>. Hayden survived the avalanche but not the unbearable loss of his partner in life. He chose to end his life. Myself and his mother Julie sorrowfully respect his decision.

Hayden truly was an uncensored soul whose accomplishments as a mountaineer were always secondary to his deep friendships and mindfulness.

He recently moved to Bozeman to work on his EMT certification while Inge completed her bachelor's degree in mathematics and education at Montana State University.

Julie and I are on our way to Bozeman from Europe, as are Inge's mother and stepfather. Memorial arrangements are still pending.

“Over the last few years, however, as I’ve watched too many friends go to the mountains only to never return, I’ve realized something painful,” wrote Hayden in *Evening Sends* just last month. “It’s not just the memorable summits and crux moves that are fleeting. Friends and climbing partners are fleeting, too. This is the painful reality of our sport, and I’m unsure what to make of it. Climbing is either a beautiful gift or a curse.”

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