



Aaron Bernard Branson

August 18, 1972 - September 23, 2025

Aaron Bernard Branson, affectionately known as Bernard, was born on August 18, 1972, in Los Angeles, California, to the late Aaron and Vessia Branson. He peacefully departed this life on September 23, 2025.

Aaron attended elementary and high school in Los Angeles before moving to Moreno Valley, where he graduated from Canyon Springs High School in 1991. He continued his education at Riverside Community College-Moreno Valley, majoring in film studies.

The greatest adventure of Aaron's life was his love story with Lupe Ilac. The two first met in November 2001 in a Lakers fan group chat, where their shared love for the team sparked

countless conversations and, eventually, a lifelong connection. They were married on Valentine's Day, February 14, 2004, in Las Vegas. Their marriage was filled with joy, laughter, and friendly rivalry (a house divided between the Raiders and the 49ers), and a shared passion for all things Disney. True "Disnerds" at heart, Aaron and Lupe delighted in every bit of Disney magic. They built a life together in Rancho Mirage and Palm Springs, where Aaron worked as a cameraman for KESQ in Palm Springs. In January 2021, they moved to their current home in Hemet, California.

Aaron was charismatic and an entertainer at heart. He was part of a dance team and played music at school functions. His love for music and film grew into a lifelong passion. He developed an interest in becoming a deejay and began mixing music under the name DJ Mad8. He was a film enthusiast and

aspired to work in the industry, getting a brief stint in Hollywood as part of the production crew.

Aaron found joy in life's simple pleasures. He enjoyed gaming on his Xbox, collecting movie and music memorabilia, and creating CDs and DVDs to share with friends and family. A fan of all things animation, he also loved drawing his own caricatures. His favorite sports teams were the San Francisco 49ers and the Los Angeles Dodgers, but his heart belonged to the L.A.

Lakers. He proudly attended games and championship parades, especially during the unforgettable Kobe Bryant era. Aaron also cherished adventures with Lupe, from movie dates, beach getaways and special events to dressing up for Halloween and amusement park trips.

Beyond his personal passions, Aaron made a lasting impact on his community. He volunteered for various events at the Boys & Girls Club of Palm Springs, where he produced sound and lighting for the annual Haunted House, served as the house DJ for youth basketball games, and chaperoned teen field trips. Most memorably, he created the Deejay Academy, a program where he taught teens how to DJ, sharing his love of music and inspiring the next generation.

Aaron's final wish was to have his ashes spread in Hawaii. He told Lupe it was one of the most beautiful places they had visited and that, when the time came, he wanted to become part of

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

OCT **21**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (Pst)

Preston and Simons Mortuary

3358 Mission Inn Ave

Riverside, CA 92501

(951) 683-7410

<https://www.preston-simonsmortuary.com/>

Tribute Wall

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“ My dear friend Lupita ; unfortunately ,I never got the opportunity to meet your dear love in person, but it was such a pleasure watching your love story . I loved the way you smiled in the first picture that you posted of the two of you. He was truly handsome picked by God just for you! I pray that you will trust the Lord through this difficult journey of grief, and just know that the Lord is with you each and every day to carry you through this journey. Not everyone has the opportunity to be blessed with a special love the kind that Bernard, and you shared. I love you my forever childhood friend.
Marlene Molly Lavender-Swanegan



Marlene Swanegan - October 14, 2025 at 02:16 PM