



# Celebrating Russell Troy Franklin

**May 16, 1962 – September 13, 2018**

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Russell Franklin passed away on September 13, 2018 from a severe brain stem injury after he was hit by a car while riding his beloved bicycle in a crosswalk at S Van Ness and Howard St. He was a quietly fierce warrior who was dedicated to his community— hosting friends for several months while they looked for housing, helping settle arguments by passing around joints, and providing clean needles to those in need.

He was born in Modesto and attended [Beyer High School](#). After visiting San Francisco on and off for many years, Russell moved to the city in 2008 and completed [Walden House](#) rehab, where he met the love of his life and best friend, Daniel A. Amaral, Jr (aka: Dan the Blind Man).

Russell loved the feeling of freedom while cycling around the city and was proud of his Native American heritage. He also loved Folsom Street, frequenting [Hole in the Wall Saloon](#) where he wore a tie-dye shirt, drank PBR, and played pool with friends.

To honor Russell, [SF Bicycle Coalition](#) members successfully lobbied the [SFMTA to upgrade](#) Russell's crosswalk to prevent the next tragedy and [Mayor Breed announced](#) acceleration of [Vision Zero](#) safety upgrades in San Francisco to stop needless cycling and pedestrian deaths by cars.

Russell is survived by his cat Othello, many of his great friends including Dan the Blind Man, and his sister Kimberly T. McCarthy. He is predeceased by his parents and his brother Christopher D. Franklin. In lieu of flowers, his friends ask that you donate to the [Walden House / HealthRight 360](#), the [Native American Medical Center](#), or [SF Bike Coalition](#), or that you smoke pot in Russell's honor.

A gathering will be held at the white memorial bike marking Russell's intersection near [1675 Howard Street, 94103](#) at 7:15 pm on Wednesday October 3, 2018 ([RSVP here](#)). The celebration will continue at [Hole in the Wall Saloon, 1369 Folsom](#), where the suggested drink is PBR. Friends, acquaintances, cyclists, and others are encouraged to share stories and bring candles or memorial items of Russell that can be fastened to the white ghost bike.

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