



Savannah Jeanne Walker

June 28, 1996 - March 19, 2017

20, was taken far too soon from us in the early morning on Sunday, March 19th; a bystander to a senseless act of violence.

Savannah was born on June 28, 1996, in Arizona, and was brought home to Louisville to be raised by her parents, Dean and Deborah, and her older brother Nathaniel. From her time as a precocious child to her adolescence as a multi-sport athlete and collegiate career as a debater and activist, Savannah lit up every room into which she walked. She was a beacon of happiness, acceptance and true friendship in the life of anyone who had the good fortune to know her.

The list of Savannah's accomplishments is significant, but she would not have been the one to share them with you. Her time at Norton Elementary and Noe Middle School was spent cheerleading, playing soccer, field hockey, basketball, and any sport that was offered at the YMCA and she was very involved in a myriad of school activities and events. She performed in talent shows, the summer Shakespeare theatre and was often turned to as a class leader and voice for other students. At Noe Middle School, she played field hockey and started the lacrosse team. Her field hockey teams were always among the best in the state and the lacrosse team she started in 7th grade was a state runner up in its first year and was the undefeated state champion in 8th grade.

Savannah formed many friendships at Ballard High School where she played lacrosse, managed the Lady Bruins basketball team, and never missed a chance to lead cheers at Ballard basketball and football games. As a freshman, her JV team won the Braveheart Tournament with Savannah scoring the deciding goal in the championship game. As a sophomore, she had the unique distinction of attending Ballard while playing lacrosse at Eastern High School where her Dad coached. That year she was nominated for All State honors and was a vital part of Eastern's Division II State Championship team. She returned to Ballard the following year and set a scoring percentage record that will be very difficult to break. Although she was not a starter and played only an average of 16 minutes per game, she was tied for the team lead in goals scored that season and had a

remarkable shooting percentage of 89%, scoring 16 goals in 18 attempts. In this same year, she became the youngest certified women's lacrosse umpire in Kentucky and began to umpire middle school games.

Savannah was invited to matriculate at the University of Louisville as a Porter Scholar, and immediately became involved with campus organizations that focused on equality and fairness. Recruited from a communications class to become a member of U of L's Malcolm X Debate Team, she found another true passion. Although new to debate, Savannah and her teammate Chinnel won several tournaments and received individual speaker awards from the judges. Debate rejuvenated Savannah's academic pursuits and her campus social activism. Classes with professors Kaila Adia Story and Rickie Jones raised her academic expectations and she was on track for a double major in Communications and Sports Administration and a minor in Pan-African Studies. Savannah founded the U of L Women's Club Lacrosse team and served as its president for two years as she continued to officiate high school lacrosse.

Over the last two years, Savannah found her life's passion and faced her life's biggest challenge. As a junior at the University of Louisville, she became a fierce advocate and voice for equality and access, following in the footsteps of her parents and her mentors. She also cared for her mother for a year as Deborah valiantly battled pancreatic cancer, and carried the family on her shoulders as they grieved Deborah when she passed away on February 18th of this year.

Savannah was preceded in death by her mother, Dr. Deborah Tamara Walker, by one month. She is survived by her father, Dean, her brother, Nathaniel, her paternal grandparents, Anna Walker and Leroy Walker (Elaine), her aunts and uncles Lori Amedore (Bruno), Norman Walker (Lynn), Keith Walker (Anne) and Leanna Mayberry (Mark). She had a great and talented group of loving cousins and so, so many fantastic friends.

After the death of her mother, Savannah worked passionately to start the Deborah Walker Memorial Scholarship Fund, which will continue now in honor of both mother and daughter. The family requests, in lieu of flowers, that you help us continue the fund that Savannah started one very short month ago. The fund will provide financial assistance for teachers who are seeking advanced training and be administered by The Collaborative for Teaching and Learning. The fund can be found at [gofundme./deborah-walkers-scholarship-fund](https://gofundme.com/deborah-walkers-scholarship-fund).

Visitation and viewing will be at St. Stephen Church, 1018 S. 15th St., on Friday, March

24th from 4- 6:15 p.m. with the Celebration of Life Service starting at 6:30.

Comments



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June 13, 2018 at 02:05 PM



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I was so shocked and deeply saddened to hear of Savannah's passing. I remember Savannah as such a spirited and charismatic young lady. I will never forget the first time I met Savannah back when she was at Norton elementary school with my kids, Paige and Hudson Heidorf. The 3 of them, along with a few others, attended wrestling practice with Savannah's father , Dean, in a small gym at Ballard High School. Savannah and Paige eventually hung up their wrestling shoes, pursued lacrosse, and became teammates at Ballard High School, but it was sure fun to watch them pin those boys! My family was blessed to know Savannah and her family throughout the years. We are praying that justice will be served to the individuals who committed this horrific crime and bring a sense of closure to her family. Sending prayers of peace and love during this difficult time. Rest peacefully Savannah... Love, Bobbi, Paige, and Hudson Heidorf

Bobbi, Paige, and Hudson Heidorf - June 13, 2018 at 02:05 PM



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such a great sheroe.in the presence of great tragedy she has shown tremendous courage.in the army of compassion,let us give her the highest ranking.may god bless her soul and may she rest in peace.

howard owens - June 13, 2018 at 02:05 PM



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I did not know this beautiful young lady but some of my family did. What a senseless tragedy. May God protect, comfort and keep you. I am praying for this family.

June 13, 2018 at 02:05 PM



“ Savannah's mother was a colleague and friend at the Gheens Academy. Her death is a tragedy and the world has lost a young woman with great potential. My deepest sympathy to her family and friends. Rest in peace, Deborah and Savannah.

Regina Kyle - June 13, 2018 at 02:05 PM



“ From one "Cougar" and "Bruin" family to yours We are so deeply saddened and hope "PEACE" for ALL Scott, Misty, and Scotty Sprigg

Misty Sprigg - June 13, 2018 at 02:05 PM



“ I didn't know Savannah, by my granddaughter did. She wen to Norton's school with her and also college. May you rest in peace sweet girl.

Peggy Barreda - June 13, 2018 at 02:05 PM



“ May eternal rest grant onto Savannah , oh Lord and perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest your in peace. Amen.

Barbara Yates - June 13, 2018 at 02:05 PM



“ God bless you Walker family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Leigh Jerry Raque and family - June 13, 2018 at 02:05 PM



“ Dean, you are in my heart and prayers! I can not imagine the loss you feel, but I know that Savannah was loved! My hope is that you and Nate can find comfort in the wonderful memories you have and that her legacy will continue (along with her mom's). May you find peace

Treva - June 13, 2018 at 02:05 PM



“ Though I did not know Savannah, my heart hurts when I think your loss. She was a bright light among us, and her good works will continue. I celebrate that I once touched her life by being on the board of Kentucky Shakespeare. It is my understanding she attended and loved Camp Shakespeare. It is for her and students like her that we offer it year after year. God bless you. Thanks for giving the world Savannah.

Mera Corlett - June 13, 2018 at 02:05 PM



“ I remember Deborah sharing stories of Savannah as a young girl. What a beautiful spirit! May God continue to blanket the Walker family with His kind mercies.

Sandy Ledford and family - June 13, 2018 at 02:05 PM



“ Savannah was in my Communications class and it has been hard to look over and not seeing her in her seat. She will be missed greatly. She was a wonderful person to know.

Lani Unger - June 13, 2018 at 02:05 PM



“ I did not know Savannah, I happened upon her obituary in the paper and felt compelled to tell you how very saddened I am by the senseless loss of such a beautiful and obviously talented young lady. I can only hope that the special memories you hold of your time together will help sustain you in the tough times ahead.

Nancy - June 13, 2018 at 02:05 PM



“ To the family: My heartfelt sympathy to you all. I can not imagine your loss, but it is so obvious Savannah was a beautiful young lady inside and out! My prayer is that God will bless you with an abundance of peace and comfort through the days ahead.

Sandra Fortner - June 13, 2018 at 02:05 PM



“ The University, the city of Louisville, and humankind have lost a valiant champion. Love and prayers to her family as we all deal with this tragic loss.

Diane Whitlock - June 13, 2018 at 02:05 PM



“ We send our deepest sympathy to the family. The news of your loss shocked us. Too many young people dying. God comfort you, Dean, for the loss of your wife and daughter.

William and Wanda Jackson - June 13, 2018 at 02:05 PM



“ Coach Walker, my heart goes out to you and your son. While I haven't had many conversations with you, you have been a positive part of my niece's experience at Manual H.S. Coach Walker, you are an amazingly strong man, particularly during a time when no one would expect you to be. I pray that God continues to give you strength and comfort through the days ahead. God Bless You!

Venus Ludlow - June 13, 2018 at 02:05 PM



“ Dean, You and Nathaniel have my deepest and most heartfelt sympathies over such tragic losses. I was shocked over Savannah but equally shocked and very saddened to learn about Deborah reading today's beautiful obituary. i will always think of Savannah as an energetic imp with an enormous smile and huge bright eyes surrounded by a halo of curls. She certainly grew into a beautiful young woman. I will hold both of you and both of your very beautiful and talented women in my heart.

Susan Gorsen - June 13, 2018 at 02:05 PM



“ Celebrating a life well lived. We will cherish the memories forever.

Charle Etta Miller - June 13, 2018 at 02:05 PM



“ Sending love and prayers for a special young lady taken to soon!

Charles Etta Miller - June 13, 2018 at 02:05 PM



“ I am speechless... Savannah was a student of mine at Ballard High School. This girl was amazing! We connected at Ballard and remained in contact with each other. I have not been the same, since Sunday, after hearing about this senseless tragedy. I am praying for the Walker family, the U of L family and all who have been touched by this incident. Life is too short... appreciate your loved ones. Savannah knew that she was loved and she expressed that love to others. Let's pray for our city that the violence will end and we will rebuild and restore the brokenness. Be blessed...

Teresa Hinkle-Jones - June 13, 2018 at 02:05 PM



“ Dean, I'm so sorry to hear news of these overwhelming losses. My prayers are with you and your son in these days of deep grief. Grace and Peace, Gordon Stewart (former Pastor @Westminster Presbyterian Church @ The College of Wooster)

Gordon Stewart - June 13, 2018 at 02:05 PM



“ I am so deeply sorry for your loss. Many prayers sent your way. Sincerely, Karen Knissel-Jackson

Karen Knissel-Jackson - June 13, 2018 at 02:05 PM



“ May peace be with you!

Karen Knissel-Jackson - June 13, 2018 at 02:05 PM



“ Savannah had such a youthful, loving and glowing spirit. In your pain and sorrow during this time, trust and believe many thoughts and prayers are with the family. Savannah was a beautiful person.

Mamie Nicholson - June 13, 2018 at 02:05 PM



“ Savannah started Kindergarten the year I started teaching at Norton. I was very privileged to get to know her sweet and loving personality. I especially enjoyed the daily hugs and hello's. She was beautiful! God's blessings during this time of mourning.

Lisa Pigman - June 13, 2018 at 02:05 PM



“ My heart aches for you and your family. Know that my prayers and thoughts are with you at this tragic time. May God's angels support you and remember she will live forever in your heart until you meet again.

Janice Vockroth DeMaria - June 13, 2018 at 02:05 PM



“ Sending Love to the Walker family during this time of unimaginable heartbreak. Surround yourself in the the Sunlight of the Spirit.

Tara Stubert - June 13, 2018 at 02:05 PM



“ Such a beautiful young lady who had such a promising future. My deepest sympathies to her friends and family at this time of your grief. Such a loss; it is hard to even comprehend or understand.

Dana Wagner - June 13, 2018 at 02:05 PM



“ we will always remember Savannah, she & Dajea spent lots of time with Granny. Mr. Walker & Nate we will keep you in our Prayers. Mrs Wagner [Dajea's granny].

ANN WAGNER - June 13, 2018 at 02:05 PM



“ i pray for her family and friends left behind, she has given you all many reasons to carry on her beautiful memories in everything she was passionate about.

judy woodward - June 13, 2018 at 02:05 PM



“ John Hans Gilderbloom and The Compassionate Friends of Louisville produced a brick with the name of Savannah Walker on it who was randomly killed at the Tim Faulkner Gallery. Can anyone help notify the family and friends about participating in this event at 12:30 p.m. today September 24. We are honoring 67 other children as well and have not been able to contact the family and friends of Savannah Walker. Our message is you don't walk alone. The grief is forever but this helps to heal.

Dr. John Gilderbloom - June 13, 2018 at 02:05 PM



“ To the family and friends of Ms. Walker please accept my heartfelt sympathy and sincere condolences may you find comfort during this most difficult time. Psalms 18:2,6

March 23, 2017 at 12:00 AM