



Lauren E. Ludeman

September 8, 1993 - December 1, 2010

Lauren Elizabeth Ludeman, 17, passed on through the Holes of Heaven (what she called her "Mama's Song") the evening of December 1, 2010 after struggling

against cancer discovered in February this year....maybe the first time that Lauren didn't get her way..She was very strong-willed even as a little girl.

Lauren was born in

Kennewick, WA but was a lifelong resident of Douglas county....growing up on a farm near Douglas and having moved into Waterville with her family in

the past few years. Lauren was preceded in death by a sister, Mary

Catherine, and her mother, Julie Abken Ludeman. She is survived in life

by her loving father Joe, her brothers: Alex Ludeman, and Joe Curtis,

sisters Natalie Ludeman and Maddy Ludeman. Lauren's numerous aunts and

uncles, cousins, and grandparents will all have a special place in their

hearts and minds for her, now and in the future. Lauren was full of life,

active in school activities, and had lots of friends in school who will

miss her but remember her forever. A celebration of Lauren's life,

services will be held on Wednesday, December 8th at 3:00 pm at Waterville

High

School. Memorial gifts should be directed to: The Waterville Ambulance

Fund. Please express your thoughts and memories on the on line guest

Book at jonesjonesbetts.com. Waterville Funeral Home has been entrusted

With the arrangements.

Tribute Wall

JM

“ Dear Lauren,

For the record (as I know you would want to know) I've typed this out more than twice now, to have the browser refresh to the previous page. Moderators need to fix this problem (you know I'm "techy" and everything) -lol-. Do me a favor, and break something in the database administrators house, will ya? I know you'd love the assignment (maybe toss a few remote controls).

You and I have had a grand total of a few paragraphs of conversation between each other. I've always been the kind of person to figure people out within a few seconds of conversation ... you only needed about 10 of those seconds. You're a fighter, a lover, and extremely supportive of your family. You dare people to cross your lines, because you'll make sure what happens if they do. We definitely shared that in common, and I will continue to do that for your family from here on out. Your friends and family hold you high, as they should. One in a million, right?

I'm also willing to bet, that this whole "8 days remaining unless we raise \$260" is something we agree to be a complete frickin' joke. Why should we pay anything to remember you forever? Thankfully, no matter what kind of money is raised, we're all smart enough to remember you without an internet connection or not. Do me another favor: find the web developer, and throw a few pieces of silverware around the room (something tells me you're OK with that!).

Sometimes we just have to fight ... and fight, and fight. You represent what fighting is, even in the short time you were given to do so. And, able to do it at an age that some of us aren't even capable of doing as an adult. If the whole world knew what you have dealt with in your life, they would think twice about the battles they pick to choose. You fought the fight and I will NEVER say that you lost.

On that note, I would like to recite the prayer I said for you, that I

*know you've heard already, which was at your grandparents house:
"This is for Lauren, for whom we will never say lost her battle to
cancer she's just taking a break".*

*Say 'hello!' to your mom, Julie for me. I never did get to meet her,
and I look forward to meeting her in the future. I hope you are
getting caught-up, and up to date!*

*Much love to you Lauren you have made a mark on everyones
life-map, especially within your family and friends. I hope your
basketball is properly inflated there, and the go-karts are sufficiently
fast (you don't have to do any farm-work, I talked to the boss : -).*

We miss ya' kid ... but we'll see you again.

~JM.

Jason Mettler - December 09, 2010 at 03:53 AM

JG

“ I first got to know a young Lauren through my lifeguarding days at the Waterville Pool. Then I really got to know her after Joe and Keli's accident. I would get off of bartending at Kneymeyers and then go out to the ranch house to relieve my father or mother of babysitting duty. I would then go to bed and wake up early to get all six kids ready for school and on time for the bus. Now I have to give a big thanks to Marlane Peterson who was always patient with me in my pajamas, hair all wild trying to get all six of them on the bus! I am sure I was a wild sight for sure! Through all of that though Lauren was the one that always did what I asked without argument. Also would coax her siblings with a glare or a grumble and sometimes even a shout. I will always remember when I took Lauren, Maddy, Alex, and Nat to Seattle in Joe's Expedition. Now that was an experience for sure! That is one of the few times that Lauren yelled at everyone to shut-up! Because for some odd reason EVERYONE in that car (who was under the age of 10) felt it was necessary to tell me how to drive and where to go! :) We then decided to eat before we went to the hospital (because they had awful food). Then surprise, surprise no one could decide on a place to eat. So I said fine, and one by one we went to at least 4 different drive-ins to satisfy everyone. Then at that point I just needed to find a place for us all to eat..... but after driving for 10 min with no place to eat in sight and hungry, moody, and irritated kids in the car I gave up and just pulled over and we all ate picnic style on the steps of a bank. People were starring at us and I'm sure they didn't know what to think. I just had to laugh! I cherish those times with those kids! I also thank Lauren for being the "older sister" and stepping up and helping me help them! R.I.P. Lauren.

Jessica Gray - December 07, 2010 at 10:49 PM

TC

“ *Trina Clune lit a candle in memory of Lauren E. Ludeman*



Trina Clune - December 06, 2010 at 10:57 PM

 Kiffen Schulz

“ *Joe and my mom Denise have been friends ever since they were kids, and as a result, Lauren and I have been friends since I can remember. Our connection truly formed after Julie passed away and Lauren and Alex came and stayed at our house. I sort of took on the role of being her older sister, even asking my mom if it was OK if I shared her with Lauren. I can't even remember how many times Lauren and I played together either out at the farm or in my backyard (and I can't even remember how many times we got in trouble). Over the years, we grew up and sort of went our own ways so to speak, but we still knew that we had that sisterly connection, something that could never be broken. There's this saying by an unknown author that says "Friends are family of our own choosing" and that is so true of Lauren and I. Its still hard for me to realize thats she really gone because I remember her as her healthy self rather than her being sick.*

I will always carry her with me, wherever I go. She will be my star that guides me through the darkness that life can be. I love you Lauren Elizabeth Ludeman, rest in peace beautiful girl.

Kiffen Schulz - December 06, 2010 at 06:13 PM



“ I am a long time friend of Lauren's dad, Joe, but I have gotten to know Lauren better over the last several years since she was a cheerleader and playing in sports. Lauren was a very beautiful girl, who was full of spirit and very spunky at times. I will always remember the bus trips to games and when she played softball, she hated playing in the cold. She was afraid of getting hit by the pitcher, but by the end of the season she had improved a lot. I will always miss her and that beautiful smile. We love you, now and forever, Lauren.

Terry Conners - December 06, 2010 at 05:46 PM



“ Lauren has been one of my best friends for as long as I can remember.
She was the one person who could understand any problems you were having.
Her love and protectiveness over her friends was overwhelming.
Lauren and I were both very hard headed, and after being best friends for so long,
she always told me that we were more than that now, that we were sisters.
I miss her so much, but I know she's happy to be with her mama. :)
Love you babyy. <3

Taylor Northcott - December 06, 2010 at 04:20 PM

MA

“ My first female cousin on the Ludeman side, Lauren and I had a special relationship while she was still in the womb. Her beautiful mother, Julie, was who I went to with anything that I didn't feel comfortable (as a teenager) talking with my own loving parents about. When Julie was very close to delivery with Lauren, I spent a week with their family in Kennewick - as I needed my aunt, and indirectly, my cousin's help in selecting a homecoming dress. I remember that Julie and I met up with Joe that night for dinner, where Julie went on and on about what a beautiful and feminine name they had chosen for Lauren Elizabeth - which is absolutely true.

After Lauren was born, I again spent a week, this time over my Christmas vacation, helping to care for her while Joe and Julie moved into their new home in Moses Lake. I remember watching Julie be fascinated with the cartilage in Laur's nose...Joe and I thought she was nuts!

After I went to college, Joe, Lauren and a very pregnant-with-Alex Julie came to visit me at Central. It was then that I discovered that Lauren's pet name for Julie's belly would soon be my new cousin - a 3 year old Lauren had named her little brother!

When Lauren lost her mom, she was so strong for Alex...despite her own pain. She comforted him more quickly than Joe could have the chance to, and both kids continued to be amazing beyond their years. I was blessed to have Lauren as my flower girl when I got married - we both had shortish hair, and we both hated the way it ended up being styled for the wedding. Perhaps that should have been a clue back then, huh? ;-)

There were multiple times that Lauren would come and stay with my former husband and I, the most extensive being when she, Alex, Nat and Maddy stayed for four weeks when Joe had his farming accident. I enjoyed playing the mom role during that time - something so completely foreign to me, but that I wanted so very

much. I cried buckets when it was time for those kids to go back home - tears of joy because it meant my precious uncle was doing better, and tears of pain because I was going to miss that day-to-day with them so much.

In recent years, Lauren and I had more of an adult relationship - chatting as I would with my friends and being very real. As a high school teacher, I feel that I can relate to most of my students because I so value what they have to say, what they are going through and what they have been through, but there were those occasions where I didn't have a clue how to reach a student or help them make a better choice. I felt lucky to have Lauren to exchange texts with, asking for her input on what she, as a student, would want or need to hear from a teacher or confidant at school...on more than one occasion, she helped me to come up with something that was perfect. On other occasions, it was NOT the way to go. LOL. Whatever the case - I had a relationship with her that I valued so very much.

My love for that family - Julie, my go-to-girl with a funky style that I miss so dearly and now gets to wrap her arms around her gorgeous daughter who has wanted just that for so long, Joe - an uncle who has this impressive resilience and tender heart all at once, and has risen above everything thrown at him to continue to be this amazing person, and Alex, who is wise beyond his years because of how quickly he has had to grow up. Stoic. Handsome and willing to do whatever needs to be done. A fighter and a peacemaker all in one. And Lauren - who is the social butterfly with a shy side, a true friend throughout everything, the girl that everyone knows, and the person how everyone respects. The circle of friends that not only Lauren, but her brothers, sisters and father have, could wrap easily around this state multiple times over.

We are all lucky to have known her, and are lucky to still have Joe and Alex in our lives. I am richer for knowing this family - through good times and bad. And I look forward to the day when we are all pain free and spending time together as a group, playing board

games.

Just a side note

Maggie Anderson - December 06, 2010 at 12:05 AM

MA

No one ever accused me of being short and to the point...to continue from above -

Just a side note to Lauren - Cooper loves you so much. He always called you his "pretty cousin" and is happy that you aren't hurting, and get to snuggle with your mom whenever you want to...

I love you all...you are amazing people.

*Maggie Anderson
Niece to Joe and Julie
Cousin to Lauren and Alex (as well as Joey, Larry, Nat and Maddy)
December 5, 2010*

Maggie Anderson - December 06, 2010 at 12:13 AM

NL

Maggie, all that you said was very touching. I am glad she is not in pain anymore too. I hope that you, Cooper and the rest of the family is doing well. Love you.

natalie ludeman - December 06, 2010 at 12:42 AM

Maggie Anderso

Thanks Nat...it was good to see you today...you and Maddy looked amazing - I miss you so much, and I am so sorry that I didn't get to say goodbye to you!

Maggie Anderson - December 09, 2010 at 01:44 AM