



Ryan Disney

Ryan was born on Wednesday, June 27, 1984 in Pittsburgh PA to Bea and Kep Disney. He died Sunday, August 29, 2004 in Charlotte, NC after a life time battle with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy.

Ryan was an honor roll student at Hopewell High School where his favorite after-school activity was the DECA Club, an active member of Davidson United Methodist Church, the DUMC Youth Fellowship, and an employee at Supported Employment Training. He was also an energetic fund raiser for the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA).

Ryans Word of the Day

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Dear Friends,

Ryan was born with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, but was never disabled by it. While Ryan's muscles diminished over time, his spirit never did.

People would often stop and stare at Ryan because of his wheelchair. We never even thought about it; the wheelchair didn't define him. He was just another kid who loved to annoy his brother and two sisters; just another kid who, on occasion, loved to drive his family crazy.

At four years old, when we received his diagnosis, he seemed no different than any other little boy. He was mischievous and sweet; he was our son. His ability to walk and climb, run and jump diminished over time, until at ten years of age he became wheelchair bound. What never faded in Ryan's life was his positive attitude, willingness to try, and beaming smile.

For the past number of years, neighbors could always spot Ryan cruising in his wheelchair through our neighborhood with that big smile on his face. He started out with a Walkman for company, and the last year of his life he had his loving companion dog Austin taking him on long 'walks'.

Ryan always dreamed of building houses, driving cars, riding motorcycles, and chasing girls. He was driven and conscientious about anything important to him, whether it was church, family, school, or work. He had the determination, and with some help from family and friends, he was able to accomplish much in his precious short time on earth.

In his last few weeks, Ryan squeezed in a huge birthday party with his numerous family and friends, spent a week at MDA Camp; bought his family a big screen TV; helped with an MDA fundraiser; and saw his friends at Hopewell one last time.

Everyone should take the time to get to know people like Ryan. You will find treasure. In our own ways, we all loved him, we all miss him, and hopefully, we will all be inspired by him.

Thank you to everyone who brought joy to Ryan's life,

Bea & Kep Disney