Zachary Lee Dukes

February 12, 1989 - March 31, 2010

Zachary Lee Dukes of Stevensville, MD died on Wednesday, March 31, 2010. He was 21 years old.

Zach was born on February 12, 1989 in Annapolis, MD to Gary Lee Dukes and Cindy Ann Napier Dukes. He was a graduate of Kent Island High School, Class of 2007 and attended Anne Arundel Community College. He loved music, fishing, skateboarding, shooting pool, and riding dirt bikes. Zach was known as a “gamer” and loved to play XBOX 360. He competed in Pumpkin Chunkin and had hoped to join the US Marines. He enjoyed helping his grandparents by cutting their lawn and had a great sense of humor.

He is survived by his parents, Cindy and Gary Dukes of Stevensville, MD; a sister, Amber Dukes also of Stevensville, MD; maternal grandparents, Rita and Arthur Felsher of Berlin, MD and Linda Ballenger of Berlin, MD; paternal grandparents, Rea Smith and Clarence Edwards Smith of Denton, MD and Jack Lee Dukes of Pasadena, MD; his God parents, Tracie and David Parkinson of Stevensville, MD; his aunts and uncles, Donny Smith of Denton, MD, Leah and Eddie Christenson of Denton, MD, Lisa and Tom Rose of Chester, MD, Judy and Russell Arnold of Salisbury, MD, Billy and Barbara Napier of Waldorf, MD, Donny and Debbie Napier of Baltimore, MD, Bobby Napier of Florida, Rick Ballenger of Baltimore, MD, Valerie and Terry Thacker of Huntington, MD, and Wendy Subasic of Ellicott City, MD and numerous cousins. He is preceded in death by his maternal grand fathers, Edward Ballenger and Bill Napier.

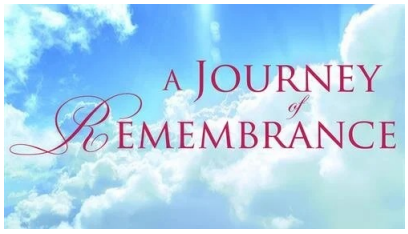
A visitation will be held on Tuesday, April 6 from 2 to 4pm and 6 to 8pm at Kent Island United Methodist Church, 2739 Cox Neck Road, Chester, MD where a funeral service will take place at 11:00am on Wednesday, April 7.

Interment will follow at Stevensville Cemetery.

Inlieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, P. O. Box 163, Salisbury, MD 21803.

Tribute Wall

Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Zachary Lee Dukes



Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - March 31, 2010 at 12:00 AM

Dearest Gary, Cindy, and Amber,
Words cannot express how sorry we are for the loss of your lovely son and brother. Zachary was such a wonderful young man and for some reason, GOD had another plan for him. With that said, I know it doesn't make your loss any easier. Please remember all the good memories of him and how much he loved you all and enjoyed life.
We will never forget Zach and will miss him tremendously.
God bless you all.
Love,
Patti, Larry, Chrisitiana, and Katie##imported-begin##Patti, Larry, Christiana, and Katie##imported-end##

April 08, 2010 at 01:15 PM

Dear Cindy and family my thoughts and prayers are with you, may God bless you and comfort you.##imported-begin##David Dickens (formerly Chesdiv)##imported-end##

April 08, 2010 at 11:55 AM

Cindy and family, I thoughts and prayers are with you during this time. We can't even imagine what you are going through now. God bless you and your family. Cathy and David Higgins##imported-begin##Cathy Higgins##imported-end##

April 08, 2010 at 09:07 AM

Dearest Cindy - there is nothing that anyone can say to ease your pain. Please just know that you are in my thoughts and prayers and I ask that the good Lord give you and your family the strength and faith to get through this difficult time. Fondly Cindy##imported-begin##Cynthia Guill##imported-end##

April 08, 2010 at 08:36 AM

Dear Cindy, you and your husband & daughter are in my prayers. I will carry a piece of your pain with me each day. As a parent, I cannot fathem what you are going through, but I can feel some of it with and for you. To Amber, I too, am a sister who lost her only sibling. My brother passed a year ago. He was my brother and friend too. I feel for you and will keep you in my prayers every day because I know how hard it is. Cindy, I hope you and your husband and daughter have a strong faith in God. Your son was a beautiful young man. The video told a wonderful story of his happy life. I wish for you a strong support system of family and friends. I wish for you comfort from the wonderful memories that you have. I wish for you peacefulness to allow you to look for the signs and to feel Zach's love and presence in your heart. He was a wonderful gift to you all, as you are to each other. Last year I started a memorial garden with a bench, a beautiful stone, and 2 dogwood trees in my yard in memory of my brother, Thomas. My husband and I are going to plant Zach's seeds in there too. I will think of him and you every day! You will remain in my thoughts and prayers! Love, Christine##imported-begin##Christine Owens##imported-end##

April 08, 2010 at 08:10 AM

Gary and Family,
Please know that many are thinking and praying for you at this time.##imported-begin##Dave Bruce##imported-end##

April 06, 2010 at 04:58 PM

My heart is breaking for you,in the loss of your son, and brother, Zach. I don't know what really happened, but I just want to express my heartfelt grief and deepest sympathy for you. You all will be in our many prayers.##imported-begin##Maryann Baker##imported-end##

April 06, 2010 at 04:42 PM

We are so very sorry to hear about Zach. We can't imagine the pain that you are enduring at this time, but we truly hope that your many memories will sustain you in the days ahead. May our loving Heavenly Father's guarantee bring you comfort: "Do not marvel at this, because the hour is coming in which all those in the memorial tombs will hear his voice and come out...to a resurrection of life." John 5:28,29##imported-begin##Nikki and Jay##imported-end##

April 06, 2010 at 10:59 AM

Dear Gary, Cindy and Amber,

I am very sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you in this very difficult time.

Much love,
June##imported-begin##June Hendrie##imported-end##

April 06, 2010 at 10:59 AM

Dear Gary, Cindy and Amber,
Kathie and I are so sorry for your loss of your dear son and brother Zach. We can only imagine the pain and suffering you are going through during this difficult time.
Our hearts and prayers are with you among many others from your family, friends and co-workers.
Glenn & Kathie Krebs##imported-begin##Glenn and Kathie Krebs##imported-end##

April 06, 2010 at 09:38 AM

Dear Dukes Family,
I am so very sorry to hear about the loss of your son, Zach. My thoughts and prayers are with you. Barrie##imported-begin##Barrie Litzky##imported-end##

April 05, 2010 at 09:10 PM

There are no words of comfort at a time like this but I want you, Gary and Amber to know that you are in our thoughts and prayers.##imported-begin##Danny and Burnadean Napier##imported-end##

April 05, 2010 at 08:04 PM

Cindy...I am so deeply sorry for the loss of your son, Zach. I can not even imagine the loss of a child. There is no bond as great as that between a mother and a son. My thoughts and prayers go out to you and your family...Roxanne##imported-begin##Roxanne Lacidonia##imported-end##

April 05, 2010 at 03:35 PM

Life is but a stopping place, a pause in what's to be. A resting place along the road to sweet eternity. We all have different journeys, different paths along the way. We all were meant to learn some things but never meant to stay. Our destination is a place far greater than we know. For some, the journey's quicker ~ For some, the journey's slow. And when the journey finally ends, we'll claim a great reward and find an everlasting peace, together with the Lord. My heart and prayers go out to the Dukes family. Linda Payne [Brittany & Jacob Brady's Grandma]##imported-begin##Linda Payne##imported-end##

April 05, 2010 at 03:02 PM

To Gary, Cindy and Amber,

Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time,

Bill and Julie Schuman##imported-begin##Bill and Julie##imported-end##

April 05, 2010 at 11:44 AM

Cindy, Gary and Amber,
There are no words that I can come up with to express how truly sad and heartbroken I was to hear about Zach. Please know that you and your family are in our thoughts and prayers daily...you have alot of people that truly love you and know that we're all here for you right now. Take Care of each other -- Love - Chris & Kenny##imported-begin##Chris and Kenny Tyler##imported-end##

April 05, 2010 at 11:16 AM

Cindy and Family
Cindy I don't know if you remember me or not when we used to work at the Academy together. I'm so sorry to read about your loss in the paper. I can not even begin to know what you and your family are going thru with the loss of a child. My thoughts and prayers are with you.
Your friend
Ruth Anne Gibson##imported-begin##Ruth Anne Gibson##imported-end##

April 05, 2010 at 10:42 AM

The Dukes Family,
To my dearest family, some things I'd like to say...
but first of all, to let you know, that I arrived okay.
I'm writing this from heaven. Here I dwell with God above.
Here, there's no more tears of sadness; here is just eternal love.

Please do not be unhappy just because I'm out of sight.
Remember that I'm with you every morning, noon and night.
That day I had to leave you when my life on earth was through,
God picked me up and hugged me and He said, "I welcome you."

It's good to have you back again; you were missed while you were gone.
As for your dearest family, they'll be here later on.
I need you here badly; you're part of my plan.
There's so much that we have to do, to help our mortal man.

God gave me a list of things, that he wished for me to do.
And foremost on the list, was to watch and care for you.
And when you lie in bed at night, the day's chores put to flight.
God and I are closest to you....in the middle of the night.

When you think of my life on earth, and all those loving years
because you are only human, they are bound to bring you tears.
But do not be afraid to cry; it does relieve the pain.
Remember there would be no flowers, unless there was some rain.

I wish that I could tell you all that God has planned.
But if I were to tell you, you wouldn't understand.
But one thing is for certain, though my life on earth is o'er.
I'm closer to you now, than I ever was before.

There are many rocky roads ahead of you and many hills to climb;
but together we can do it by taking one day at a time.
It was always my philosophy and I'd like it for you too...
that as you give unto the world, the world will give to you.

If you can help somebody who's in sorrow and pain,
then you can say to God at night....."My day was not in vain."
And now I am contented....that my life has been worthwhile,
knowing as I passed along the way, I made somebody smile.

So if you meet somebody who is sad and feeling low,
just lend a hand to pick him up, as on your way you go.
When you're walking down the street, and you've got me on your mind;
I'm walking in your footsteps only half a step behind.

And when it's time for you to go.... from that body to be free,
remember you're not going.....you're coming here to me.

Words can not convey the sadness we have in our hearts for your loss. Our deepest heartfelt sympathy and prayers are with you all. Although we did not know Zach personally, Brent spoke very fondly of him and we know he will hold a special place in Brent's heart.

May God Bless you all and may he bring peace to your heart as you go through this time of sorrow.
Bill & Robin Wagner (Brent's parents)##imported-begin##Bill & Robin Wagner ##imported-end##

April 05, 2010 at 10:12 AM

Gary and Family,
Our hearts ache for you as we cannot imagine the pain you feel. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Anne & Ron Grimes##imported-begin##Anne & Ron Grimes##imported-end##

April 05, 2010 at 09:20 AM

Cindy, Gary & Amber - I was saddened to hear of your loss of Zach. My thoughts and prayers are with you all at this time in your lives.##imported-begin##Billi Jo Dove##imported-end##

April 05, 2010 at 09:06 AM

Dear Cindy and Gary, Please know that we are so very sorry for your loss. I know how much Zachary meant to you guys and cannot even imagine what you are feeling now. Please know our thoughts and prayers are with you.
Tina and Craig##imported-begin##Tina and Craig Clagett##imported-end##

April 05, 2010 at 09:05 AM

Please accept my heartfelt condolences for your tragic loss. I only knew Zach a few months but quickly became aware that he was a special person wanting to accomplish big things in his life. I will miss him.##imported-begin##Richard J. O'Meara##imported-end##

April 05, 2010 at 06:07 AM

Zach and I have been through Kiddie Academy to graduation at KIHS. I cannot fathom the heartbreak you have today, nor can any of us take it away. Yet, as we must and do believe....God has a special place in heaven for his child ren.
With much respect and heartfelt sympathy, I remain...his friend.
Dave, Carrie Swartz
John and Grace Ciaravella##imported-begin##Dave Swartz##imported-end##

April 04, 2010 at 11:35 PM

My dear friend, Cindy: My heart aches for you as I know you are dealing with a broken heart. . . .to lose a child - your first born - is beyond all comprehension. I have been in shock since hearing of your loss. My daily prayers are with you, Gary and Amber. I have so many memories of our conversations from David Taylor when Zach was so young to our days at the Academy when he was in high school. . . .I am so sad. . .thoughts beyond words. However, please know that you and your family are in my every thought. I am so sorry that we are still on the road; but as soon as I get home, we will meet up for our friendship hug and comfort. Call me anytime. I love you my friend.##imported-begin##Sandy Soderstrom##imported-end##

April 04, 2010 at 10:49 PM

May God Bless all of you in this difficult time.##imported-begin##Sublett Access Floors##imported-end##

April 03, 2010 at 06:50 PM

I love you so much Zachy and I'll miss you more than anything. You are so important to me and I will never forget you. I am so glad that I have known you and things just won't be the same without you. Miss you and Love you forever.##imported-begin##Nicole Bach##imported-end##

April 03, 2010 at 02:06 PM

We are at a loss for words to express how we feel other than how much we will miss Zack. Always smiling and being friendly to everyone.
Love, Aunt Patsy & Uncle Joe##imported-begin##Pat & Joe Clawson##imported-end##

April 03, 2010 at 08:36 AM

Dear Gary,Cindy and Amber,
Karen and I are saddened to hear of your lose.Though we did not know Zack , we knew of him as Gary spoke of him often. He was a good son and would have made a great Marine just like his Dad. Gary, May God Bless You and Your Family during these difficult times. Semper-Fi.
Your Friends and Coworkers,
Fred and Karen##imported-begin##Fred and Karen Biondo##imported-end##

April 02, 2010 at 02:44 PM

We send our deepest sympathy. Matt, Karen, Michael and Melissa Hranicka##imported-begin##Matthew and Karen Hranicka##imported-end##

April 02, 2010 at 01:07 PM

zachy poo! my cousin! i love you so much and your forever in my heart i will truly miss you more than youll ever know. i will never forget all of our wild adventures and the times we had together. i love you zachy poo!##imported-begin##Katelynn Rose##imported-end##

April 02, 2010 at 12:49 PM

Dear Cindy, Gary and Amber,
We are so very, very, very sorry for the sudden awful loss of your son, Zach. Please know we are praying for each of you during this time.
With Sympathy,
Ed, Jacque, John, Beth and Allie Lyons##imported-begin##The Lyons Family##imported-end##

April 02, 2010 at 10:32 AM

Our family is truly sorry for your loss.##imported-begin##SANDY STOWE##imported-end##

April 02, 2010 at 08:56 AM

zachary lee dukes :) im going to miss you so much, you were the best neighbor ever! we have had some good memories since we were 4. playing team tag in the community, or you just yelling BECKA FRECKA. all the times you and mark use to be mean to me;) i hope your having the best time of your life high above the clouds and please look out for your family and the people you adored. i hope you come in my dreams. its not going to be the same without you. you were a great person inside and out. you will always be in my thoughts and prayers. you were like a brother to me. love you to death##imported-begin##Rebecca Bruns##imported-end##

April 01, 2010 at 11:45 PM

Dearest Cindy, my sweet friend...I cannot imagine the grief you are going through right now. I almost passed out today (4/1) when I got the word that your dear baby had passed. 21 years young! Please know that you, Gary, and Amber are in my prayers. Your entire work family has you in their thoughts and prayers as well. GOD bless you all. I am so very, very sorry for the loss of your dear son Zach. I know you and Gary raised him well and had so much fun with him and Amber, as a loving family. GOD had other plans. I pray for you girlfriend. I hurt along with you as do all your buds. Sweet Jesus be with you at this difficult time. Love you, Teresa Rutter/Queenstown, MD##imported-begin##Teresa Rutter ##imported-end##

April 01, 2010 at 07:27 PM

I'm deeply sorry for the Duke's family loss. It was such a shocking loss for all of us. Zach you were one in a million and your sense of humor truly made you one of a kind. We had many memories together and made much more this past Thursday and Friday. I'll hold them all close to my heart and you will always be in my thoughts. I love you Zach and will alway miss you!##imported-begin##Amanda Wilburn##imported-end##

April 01, 2010 at 04:11 PM