

Jake

A true and genuinely compassionate soul has taken its place in each of our hearts. Although Jake will never be in flesh again, he will continue to live with all of us forever.

When I first sat down to contemplate where to even begin, my first memory of meeting Jake found its way into my head. Sitting in the back of my freshman year biology class, Jake and I were intently having a conversation about how we had known who each other were but had never really met in person and so on, when suddenly the entire class room was silent and the teacher making her way to the back of the class room. Yes, Jake and I both received a warning for talking on the first day of class. I was absolutely furious at first but quickly enough I forgot all about it and continued to talk through biology class and somehow the cycle kept repeating itself. The first day that I got that warning in class was the day a new and everlasting friendship was born.

In every memory and experience I have had with Jake, he always expressed what he truly felt about everything, never holding back. Countless hours were spent on the phone talking about everything from who could spit the furthest to philosophy and religion. He taught me so much about the importance of communication and the true bonds of friendship, lessons that will be with me forever. It seems as though every time Jake walked into a room I could not help but smile. He lit up everyone's life that he entered into. Whether at a football game watching him play with more heart than anyone or simply fishing down the stream with him watching him gracefully cast into the water Jake became one of my best friends. So many people have been touched by this truly amazing person and will be changed forever from all of their memories and experiences with him.

I can remember after a day of skiing he started a snow ball fight and of course I had to fight back. After white washing him and stuffing snow down his back he then retaliated and to say the least I was absolutely soaked and frozen. Even after white washing

him and maybe getting him a little cold he let me put my freezing cold hands on his stomach to warm.

Jake was part of something larger than himself in that he gave every ounce of love and attention to everyone around him. His compassion for his family, his friends, and his life is a reflection of the true handprint of God. He lived every moment of everyday like it was his last. Jake gives meaning to the phrase "live life to its fullest." He has inspired both myself and every one he has touched to live and to love every moment we have been blessed with. Every moment with Jake was truly a blessing.

I honestly cannot remember a time where there wasn't a story incorporated with Jake. Many of these stories could range from great times with his wonderful friends to stories that would make his parents just shake their heads. He used his amazing intellect to excel in school and of course to calculate just how far he would have to jump over the cliff ledge to do a back flip in the water.

After the five year span of my relationship with Jake I want to take this opportunity to thank Jake for the genuine love that he shared with all of us. His unconditional love encompassed us all leaving his mark forever. Jake always took the time to make my day and tell me that the world just would not be the same if I was not in it. And Jake the world is not the same with out you in it. He always encouraged me, never letting me falter, always there to catch me if I fell. Jake was never afraid to stand up for what he believed in the only fear he had was dishonesty which he would face to find the truth. He lived his life with purpose, to inspire, to love, and explore the very world before him.

His confidence in life and his spirituality encouraged and strengthened my beliefs in faith, love, and life. He always made time for adventure and excitement exploring his surroundings but more importantly himself. He was a passionate soul whose creative spirit grew through his relationships, his studies, and the boundless life before him.

I cannot even begin to thank Jake for our amazing connection and finding each other through our love of nature and adventure. To us, the outdoors was a Sanctuary of God's creation which fused our lives together. In each other we found joy in our adventures and memories we shared.

Jake had a special relationship with everyone he ever knew, he touched each person in his own way. He was a component to our happiness and joy.

I remember almost every day in chemistry class, Jake would write me a country song or refrain that he had heard that day or was just on his mind. I kept every one he wrote and when going through them the first one I read was appropriate to read for him.

“ Your in my head
your in my heart
your in that song on the radio, in my car
even when I sleep
Each day ends like it begins
Your in my head”

Forever he will live in our hearts and may we continue with the purpose in which he lived with, to strive to live every moment to its fullest with the same compassion and conviction that Jake did. In my heart I know he will always be forever and every time I see a sunset I will know he painted it.

Jake I will carry you with me until the day comes that we meet again.