



Kaylan Marie Whitaker

December 4, 1985 - March 16, 2019

Kaylan, 33, died at her home on Saturday, March 16th. Kaylan grew up in Cary, North Carolina, attending Athens Drive High School (class of 2004) and North Carolina State University with degrees in Biological Sciences (2008) and Microbiology (2012). Those that knew Kaylan would describe her as caring, thoughtful and full of life. Her focus was on helping people showing this both professionally, by previously serving as an EMT and a public health researcher, and personally, by preparing care packages for the homeless and standing up to bullies.

She is survived by her parents, Jon and Lee Ann Whitaker of Apex, North Carolina; her sisters and brother-in-laws, Danae and Jason Shipp of Cary, North Carolina (niece, Tenly), Caryn and Nick Dworski of Milford, New Jersey (nephew, Connor), and Kimberly and J.R. Drake of Fairhaven, New Jersey; and several aunts and uncles and cousins in both Maine and New York.

Sometime this summer, a celebration of life is planned. Those interested in attending can contact the family. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to National Alliance of Mental Illness (NAMI) of Wake County, 120 W Hargett Street, Raleigh, NC 27601 or the American Chronic Pain Association (ACPA), P.O. Box 850. Rocklin, CA 95677 USA.

Tribute Wall

MG

“ *My sincere condolences to Kaylan's family. Kaylan and my son dated for about a year a few years ago and we spent time with her in Raleigh and she spent time at our house in Asheville. She was fun to be around, taught us how to play cribbage, and I was impressed with her artistic and craft abilities. She gave us lovely hand-made scarves for Christmas. Wishing her family peace and lovely memories.*

Margaret Gerleve

Margaret Gerleve - June 14, 2019 at 12:14 PM

PD

..I am truly sorry. She was par excellence, a star.

Parent who also has a daughter in dance. - January 19, 2024 at 11:19 PM

WW

“ *Kaylan was a hands down one of kind she loved everyone in her own way! Her personality her spirt she was an amazing person I will always cherish the times I had with her and our Cary crew! We grew righter We played together we lived together we loved together we created bonds and friendship that will never be forgotten kaylan was always So caring and happy so beautiful & talented taking away from us way too soon kaylan we love you you will never be forgotten Rip Kaylan*

william wade - June 07, 2019 at 09:09 PM



Andrew Washburn

“ *Kaylan was an amazing person and friend. Her heart was so big and outgoing. She is missed.*

Andrew Washburn - June 07, 2019 at 06:06 PM

BF

“ One more note - today I was cleaning out my old closet, and this photo literally fell out of something. An old book, maybe? What a pleasant surprise it was. At first I thought it was our wedding, but the note on the back says Easter 1990.



Billy Fettweis - April 21, 2019 at 10:57 AM

BF

“ Hi Whitakers,

I've been thinking of you so much over the past few weeks. I'm so sorry for what you're going through.

I'm home in Randolph, sitting at our kitchen table and looking out the window at your old house. (No tree house in sight, though - surprising that my handyman dad never used the construction plans that you made, Mr. Whitaker. I still have them, in case he gets around to it in retirement.)

I uploaded all the photos of Kaylan I could find in our old albums. I'm honestly a bit surprised we didn't have more, considering she and I spent pretty much every waking hour together. So many of my earliest memories involve Kaylan - playing with all kinds of toys, watching TV, scamming my mom for snacks, coloring, running between your yard and ours, picking berries in the woods. I couldn't find any photos from our wedding, when we became each other's "waffle-y wedded" wife and husband in my parents' living room, shortly before you moved to North Carolina. I'm glad that's a memory I'll never forget.

Billy Fettweis



Billy Fettweis - April 20, 2019 at 10:32 AM

JC

“ Lots of great memories for Mike and I and all our family from our time in Winding River. Meeting your folks when building their home and them staying in the carriage house was so much fun. Meeting Kaylan and Danae made it more fun. Many boat rides, eating together and just enjoying the Crafts and the Whitakers being together. Kaylan was a lovely young woman. Smart, beautiful, and funny! Kaylan was in WR when we left for Texas and she gave us a big send off. Kaylan was a very caring person and we are so sad that she is no longer with us but thinking of all the fun times we had with her will be with us and keep her memory alive. We love you Kaylan!

Mike & Jackie Craft

Jackie Craft - March 23, 2019 at 05:57 PM



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Danae Shipp - March 22, 2019 at 07:17 AM



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Danae Shipp - March 22, 2019 at 07:17 AM



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Danae Shipp - March 22, 2019 at 07:14 AM



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Danae Shipp - March 22, 2019 at 07:11 AM



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Danae Shipp - March 22, 2019 at 07:09 AM



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Danae Shipp - March 22, 2019 at 07:08 AM



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Danae Shipp - March 22, 2019 at 07:05 AM



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Danae Shipp - March 22, 2019 at 07:00 AM



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Danae Shipp - March 22, 2019 at 06:59 AM



“ *Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet* was purchased for the family of *Kaylan Marie Whitaker*.



March 19, 2019 at 11:47 AM