



Zach Martin-Polsenberg

SEP 6, 2000 - JUL 10, 2017



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Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Tribute Wall	Page 5



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SEP 6, 2000 - JUL 10, 2017

The family of Zachary Tyler Martin-Polsenberg has shared the heartbreaking news that Zachary has gone to be with the Lord. Zachary passed away quickly after being taken off life support on July 10, 2017, at the Holtz Children's Hospital in Miami, FL. He was 16-years-old. On the morning of June 29, 2017, Zach was running drills with his high school football team when he suddenly collapsed. His coach and teammates tried to revive him to no avail. He was taken to the Golisano Children's Hospital where they diagnosed him with heat stroke. Doctors estimate his core temperature was 107 degrees for an hour or more before they could start to bring it down. Zach suffered internal injuries and was in a coma. He was moved to Miami last Thursday, July 6, 2017, for more specialized care. His condition worsened, and he was removed from life support on Monday, July 10, 2017, surrounded by his family. Zach was born September 6, 2000, and grew up playing sports with his brothers and friends. In high school, he loved playing offense for the Riverdale High School Raiders football team located in Ft. Myers, FL. He was a good student and would have been a junior this upcoming academic year. Zach was nicknamed the "gentle giant" by his family for both his size, 6'4" and 320 pounds, and his personality, which was humble, thoughtful, and kind. He loved his large, extended family, and was content hanging out with his brothers and sister, his parents, and his grandparents. He is survived by his mother, Laurie Martin Giordano of Ft. Myers, FL, his father, James Anthony Polsenberg of Palm Coast, FL, his stepfather, Edward Joseph Giordano of Ft. Myers, FL, his sister, Vanessa Martin, his brother, Cody Polsenberg, his stepbrothers, Conner Giordano and Nicholas Giordano, his maternal grandparents, Jerry and Denise Martin of Naples, FL, and his grandparent, Francis Giordano of Punta Gorda, FL. He was preceded in death by his grandmother, Patricia Giordano, and his paternal grandparents, Frank and Viola Polsenberg. This has been a difficult time for Zach's family, and they are grateful for the support of so many



Obituary

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family and friends that lifted Zach up in prayer and donated to his medical fund. The fund is now a memorial fund to help with funeral costs and final medical expenses. The GoFundMe page is www.gofundme.com/teamzachfund. The family requests privacy during this difficult time. A Memorial Service for Zach will be celebrated at 7:00 PM on Friday, July 21, 2017 at New Life Assembly of God Church, 5146 Leonard Boulevard S., Lehigh Acres, Florida 33973, (239) 369-6147. An open-casket Visitation will immediately precede this ceremony also inside the church sanctuary with friends and guests being received beginning at 5:00 PM until the time of the service. To upload a photo, share a story leave a tribute or to offer condolences to the family at this difficult time please visit Zach's memorial webpage at www.fortmyersmemorial.com and sign the guestbook.



Tribute Wall

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SEP 6, 2000 - JUL 10, 2017

MC

Michele Crockett posted:

I am upset and outraged that this has happened to another young man and family. I am just finding out about this tragedy!! My heart goes out to your family! You do not know me but my son, Max Gilpin, died under the exact circumstances in 2008; such a tragedy that could have been avoided!! This saddens and angers me to know that deaths are still occurring because of overheating during football practices. When will coaches, state and local athletic associations and government officials take this more seriously. I know you all are coming up on the 1 year anniversary of your son's death! It is a very hard road to travel! Please don't hesitate to reach out to me if I can help in any way. Sincerest regrets, Michele Crockett "Live life to the Max" Louisville, KY 502-644-4247

June 25 at 10:13 AM

MC

Michele Crockett posted:

My heart goes out to your family! I know what you are going through. You do not know me but my son, Max Gilpin, died under the exact circumstances in 2008. Such a tragedy that could have been avoided!! This saddens and angers me to know that deaths are still occurring because of overheating during football practices. When will coaches, state and local athletic associations and government officials take this more seriously. I know you all are coming up on the 1 year anniversary of your son's death! It is a very hard road to travel! Please don't hesitate to reach out to me if I can help in any way. Sincerest regrets, Michele Crockett, Max's mom Louisville, KY 502-644-4247

June 25 at 9:59 AM

AL

Alanood posted:

I wish I would of had the pleasure of talking to him after 5th grade, because that was the last time I spoke to him. I remember in elementary school I would always tease him that I was a day older, even though he was so much taller. I remember one time he had a propel powder packet, the one you put in water to flavor it. And he would put it in his water and purposely leave a bit in the packet. He would always love to let it sit in his mouth and let it dissolve. He would also always run before school started and come drenched in sweat. I asked him why he did it, if he was just going to sweat. He said it helped him get some energy out and helped him concentrate. I will never forget how kind he was to me in elementary school when others weren't.

January 26 at 3:32 PM



Tribute Wall

Zach Martin-Polsenberg

SEP 6, 2000 - JUL 10, 2017



Johanna Polsenberg posted:

I am so, so sorry and deeply saddened to have learned of Zach's death. As a mother myself of two boys, my heart aches for you. My name is Johanna Polsenberg, and I am the daughter of Frank Thomas Polsenberg (he died a few years ago and would have been 76 this year; his siblings are Mary McCormick and Jack Polsenberg). My Dad is the son of Roland "Buck" Polsenberg. Roland's oldest brother was also a Frank, and that Frank would have been Zach's great-grandfather. I have google alerts set-up for the name "Polsenberg" and that is how I learned of Zach's death. My Aunt Mary is still close with her cousin, Eileen Polsenberg (who is Zach's great aunt), and cousin Eileen shared with us how we are related to Zach. Coincidentally, Zach shares a birthday – September 6 – with my dad, Frank. Again, I am so sorry for your family to have to suffer this loss.

July 19 at 10:36 AM



Douglas Wells posted:

Zach ??? You are someone I wish I had met a long time ago. However, I know you were a loving, kind, intelligent, hardworking young man from everyone I talk to, someone I am proud to know. I know your grandmother Denise who is my cousin, and she told me a lot of wonderful things about you. Someday I will meet you though, up there in that High Place we call Heaven, and we can have a nice long talk about the great things you have already accomplished and about all of the things you were about to accomplish in your life ahead. Let me give you a poem I wrote a few years back when I finally figured out there are many things bigger than ourselves, but there is nothing bigger than the things we are put here to accomplish for those we love, of which you accomplished your full measure. Until later, I'll see you in my memory and in my prayers.

Douglas W. Wells
BUR OAK
Bright summer days, we toil in our work
Nothing is easy, but we march
and never shirk.
An empty space to fill, where now there is nothing
There in the middle, but with
what was the riddle.
A big task it would be, to find the right tree
To stand there forever, that was the
key.
So off on my search, I looked far and wide
To this store and that store, it was a real
chore.
Week after week, but nothing was right
Then yesterday I saw it, standing almost out of
sight.
Behind others close to it, to stand in its way
Hiding it like smoke, it was my Bur Oak.
Into my
cart, and not much to pay
I loaded it up, and went on my way.
Tomorrow I planted it, right there in its
place
In the ground it nuzzled, the last piece of a puzzle.
Just three rings young, but over me it was
tall
I looked up and looked up, and almost had a fall.
Later that night, troubled I was
But with some
thought, the answer was bought.
Bur Oak was not old, but would be some day
And I by then, would
be long out of the way.
At first it was sad, to know it like that
Lose a race to a tree, surely not
me.
Then finally I saw, how it all works out
And vanquished away, was my internal pout.
It's not
first or last, that matters the most
It's the spaces we fill, that fulfills His will.
So Bur Oak I'll
watch you, filling in your big space
Someday from above, from my Heavenly place.
And hopefully I
pray, after your work is done too
There'll be a space for thee, right next to me.
Copyright 2011
Douglas W. Wells. All rights Reserved
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LtcsKCiRAzc>

July 13 at 6:25 PM



Tribute Wall

Zach Martin-Polsenberg

SEP 6, 2000 - JUL 10, 2017

YW

Yvonne L Wells posted:

Please accept my deepest condolences. You are in my thoughts and prayers. Sincerely, Yvonne Wells

July 15 at 8:36 PM

PG

Pepaw & Memaw/ Grandparents posted:

How do you share "a memory" when he gave us so many? He was always a joy to have around from the time he was born. Just a happy young man, always a smile no matter the mood. One that we just shared amongst the family at the hospital was this, and there were things like this that happened almost every time he was around: His Mom was looking through pictures that we have with him and his sister when he was about four years old. Jerry and I are the Grandparents, so we now have grey hair, Jerry's being white, and he was looking at all of these pictures of when Jerry had black hair, black mustache, suntan, etc. that are now white. He kept looking at the pictures and looking over at Jerry and soon after he looked at his Pepaw and said, "Pepaw, you need some paint!" These types of things happened all through his years of growing up. My nickname for him, "Precious Boy" just fit. Things like this were absolutely precious. We are going to miss so much not seeing the dream lived, the laughter and joy he brought to our lives, and the day to day occurrences, but we know who he believed in and have an assurance that he is with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We love you Zach and miss you so much, but we'll see you on the other side. Pepaw and Memaw

July 15 at 12:02 PM

JW

Jeanette Wells posted:

Our family shares, mourns and suffers heartbreak for this loss of our beloved Zack Martin-Polsenberg. Zach is the Grandson of my Niece Denise Blake-Martin, and the Great-Grandson of my late brother Gene Blake. In his young energies of life Zach was already realizing the achievements and the fruits of his life's dreams with a zest and love shared with family, friends and the lives he touched. I would like to share, to all of you, the following verse of comfort that I hope may be read at his Memorial Services. It is titled "In The Garden" I come to the garden alone, while the dew is still on the roses...And the voice I hear, falling on my ear, The Son of God discloses. And He walks with me, and He talks with me, and He tells me I am His own...And the joy we share as we tarry there, none other has ever known. He speaks and the sounds of his voice is so sweet the birds hush their singing...And the Melody that He gave for me within my heart is ringing. I'd stay in the garden with Him tho the night around me be falling...But He bids me go, thru' the voice of woe, His voice to me is calling. And He walks with me, and He talks with me, and He tells me I am His own. And the joy we share as we tarry there, none other has ever known. God's Blessings to All Aunt Jeanette Blake-Wells

July 14 at 2:01 PM



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SEP 6, 2000 - JUL 10, 2017

DM

Denise Martin posted:

From the day you were born you have been "my precious boy!" That has never changed. Your tender heart towards the things of God and spiritual growth have always touched my heart. I could not have been blessed with a better grandson. I'm going to miss our times of laughter and and teasing and wrestling around. I thought it was awesome that at the age of 16 you still allowed me to call you "my precious boy" and give me a hug and allow me to kiss you even in public. I know we will be re-united on the other side because of your love for Jesus. I love you and miss you!
Memaw

July 14 at 9:32 AM

KJ

Kathy Johnson posted:

I love you, Zach! From the time of your birth, to our many family vacations together, to our crazy Kathy/Zachie days, I always felt a special bond to my godchild. I know you're in a much better place and we will see you again. I will miss you! Kathy

July 13 at 6:25 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Zach by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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