



Christopher Cole Austin

November 18, 1999 - May 31, 2015

Lean On Me, Song by Bill Withers

Sometimes in our lives we all have pain
We all have sorrow
But if we are wise
We know that there's always tomorrow

Lean on me, when you're not strong
And I'll be your friend
I'll help you carry on
For it won't be long
'Til I'm gonna need
Somebody to lean on

Our precious Cole died Sunday, May 31, 2015, in Lubbock, Texas while surrounded by loving family and friends at the tender age of 15.

From the moment he was born, Cole captivated us and brought us much joy. He was a very happy and very, very chubby baby, that was constantly smiling and laughing. His first best friend was Rusty, his sweet Golden Retriever. Cole grew into a beautiful young man, brilliant and funny, giving his heart completely to the menagerie of animals throughout his life. Gracie, Kuma,

Barkley, Ellie, Reese, Moose, Toby Cheese and Soldier Waffles just to name a few – even the feral cat that Cole himself named Mr. Boogers. He had a special connection with animals and was often the instigator of convincing us to make a U-turn to pick up strays off the side of the road.

When he wasn't spending time with family and friends, discovering new music, or playing video games, his inquisitive mind and adventurous spirit often led him outdoors. He loved to be on his skateboard, go exploring on a four-wheeler and especially loved being in the pool. He was extremely proud to be on the MHS swim team and had recently received his lifeguard certification.

He inherited his mother's compassionate heart and desire to help strangers, her willingness to trying anything at least once and her love of playing practical jokes. He inherited his father's gifts of encouraging others, being protective of his family and friends and his amazing height and enormous feet. He enjoyed meaningful conversations, asking deep questions and giving hugs. He was also known to hack cell phones, change your screen saver without your knowledge, and was notorious for photobombing. He was an avid reader, enjoyed learning the art of Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, loved to participate in anything competitive and to tell mildly inappropriate jokes. He was sarcastic and witty, gifted and compassionate, and had the kind of hair that would make even Justin Bieber jealous. He was an excellent big brother. His little cousins cherished him and he never tired of playing with them. Cole had this amazing way of making the people he was with feel special. If he ever looked at you, intently, and held you there with him in that moment, you know exactly what we mean. He wanted his people to know they mattered to him.

Our Cole did not die in vain. As an organ donor, he will help approximately 200 people continue with their own lives.

We may never understand why this happened, but we DO know that God will never let go of us as we walk through this time. We take comfort knowing that Cole no longer hurts, he IS in Heaven and his body is now whole. Cole was perfect in our eyes. He was and is so very loved. He will forever live on in our hearts.

Cole leaves behind a large tribe of people, connected by marriage and blood and love and place. His mother, Rachel Nicholas Austin and brothers Zane and Sawyer; his father, Jon Austin and step-mother, Jennifer; step-sisters Charlotte and Ansley; his grandparents, Al Nicholas and Mary Nicholas (Grandpa Buddy and Grandma Mary) and George and Marj Austin; his great-grandmother, Eugenia Wilson; Uncle Dan Nicholas and wife Cheryl, cousin Jacob Nicholas and wife Ariel; cousin Melissa Nicholas; Uncle David Nicholas and wife Melanie, cousins Parker and Bodhi; Aunt Karin Austin Trujillo and husband Albert, cousins Amanda and Kassie; his confidante and partner in crime, Zac Marshall and Anabell; and the wonderful extended new family that welcomed him as their own: step-grandmother Mary Yocham, Aunts and Uncles Jim & Cindy Benson, Tim & Patty Prude, Todd & Becca Yocham, Scott Yocham and numerous cousins.. He is preceded in death by his great-grandfather Rev. William "Doc" Wilson, his great-grandmother Ivy Nicholas and his infant brother.

We cannot thank Brad Burgeson & Angela and Brant Glenn enough for their unfailing love and presence. We are especially grateful to the doctors, nurses and staff who cared for him at Lubbock Covenant Children's Hospital, and to the thousands who prayed for Cole literally across the world.

A celebration of Cole's life will be held at noon on Saturday, June 6, 2015 at Stonegate Fellowship, 6000 W Wadley Ave, Midland, Texas.

In lieu of flowers, donations be made to:

Rays of Hope

900 W. Wall

Midland, TX 79701

Or:

The Covenant Foundation*

Attention: Child Life D

3623 22nd Place

Lubbock, TX 79410

*Please specify Child Life D on check memo line.

Condolences may be sent to:

In Memory of Cole

PO Box 9012

Midland, TX 79708

Previous Events

Service

JUN 6. 12:00 PM (CT)

Stonegate
Midland, TX

Tribute Wall

LH

“ Cole was always so sweet to Tate, Chloe, Lucy, and me! He never refused a hug! You are all in our thoughts, prayers and hearts. We love you all so much! Love, Laura Hall and the Grissam kids



Laura Hall - June 05, 2015 at 04:52 PM

DF

“ Praying for healing, strength and guidance during this time. Denise and Paige Farr



Denise Farr - June 05, 2015 at 08:46 AM

VT

“ I read the words about Cole, and I can see so much brightness and good that his family and friends will remember from his life. Although I do not know Cole or any of his family, I work at ESC Region 11 with John Petree, so I do know of Rachel from him. I pray for God's big arms to wrap you up with his love and comfort, and I pray for you to have his strength to help you go through each day.



Verone Travis - June 05, 2015 at 06:10 AM

LP

“ *Lesli & Jillian Peters lit a candle in memory of Christopher Cole Austin*



Lesli & Jillian Peters - June 05, 2015 at 05:23 AM

GW

“ *Cole you reached not only for the Gold but you were awarded your Crown of Glory and Robe of Righteousness. Looking forward to seeing you again in eternity. What a glorious day that will be. What a significant shadow you cast upon all who know you and love you. I believe I am better for having you in my life. Remember, It's never good bye as Christ-followers but see you later. Sending our love and thoughts to your family. We will see you later- Randal & Gale Wilson*



Gale Wilson - June 05, 2015 at 12:28 AM

RA

“ *Truely blessed to have known this young man, we will miss you. Love and prayers to the family,*

The Aldana's

ramon aldana - June 04, 2015 at 11:43 PM

CE

“ Cole and Lexa (my granddaughter) were in nursery and preschool classes at Fannin. I served in the preschool area and remember taking them for rides in the wagon together, then off to the playground, we walked and quacked like ducks while flapping our wings. They were around 2-3 years old. They laughed with joy, and I just looked a bit ridiculous. They were cute quackers and flappers while waddling though.

Charlie Eastup

Charlie Eastup - June 04, 2015 at 11:27 PM

CE

“ Charlie Eastup sent a virtual gift in memory of Christopher Cole Austin



Charlie Eastup - June 04, 2015 at 11:20 PM

 Bridget Hannifin

“ Looking out my front window or outside mowing the lawn to see Jon and Cole playing catch. Miss those days, so much. Sean and I love you all dearly and feel your pain. My heart is broken for you.

Bridget Hannifin - June 04, 2015 at 09:11 PM

JH

“ Cole will truly be missed. He was such a sweet boy. I loved the opportunity to get to know him as he sat in my salon chair. My heart breaks knowing he won't be back again. Rest in peace Cole, It was a honor to have been your hair dresser.



Jennifer Hendricks - June 04, 2015 at 09:09 PM

MI

“ I'm so blessed to have known Cole even it was for a brief time. He always had such a big smile on his face. I know Cole was such a blessing in life and know he was able to give so much to so many through his organ donation, such a beautiful testimony to is life.

Misty Ingmire

Misty Ingmire - June 04, 2015 at 06:45 PM

DD

“ Douglas, Cyndi, Doug and Lily Doerfer purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of Christopher Cole Austin.



Douglas, Cyndi, Doug and Lily Doerfer - June 04, 2015 at 04:10 PM

KH

“ *Kathy & Steve Henderson purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Christopher Cole Austin.*



Kathy & Steve Henderson - June 04, 2015 at 03:09 PM

PS

“ *Although I did not personally know Cole, I now feel like I do because of the beautiful people he was surrounded by in life. May God give all of his family and friends strength, grace and peace during this extremely difficult time in their lives! My thoughts and prayers continue for all of you.*



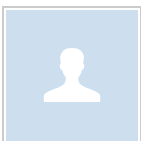
Patty Smith - June 04, 2015 at 02:27 PM



“ *Taresa L. Kellogg lit a candle in memory of Christopher Cole Austin*



Taresa L. Kellogg - June 04, 2015 at 01:15 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Christopher Cole Austin.*



June 04, 2015 at 10:34 AM

AB

“ I have one specific memory of Cole. It was one of Stonegate's big play days for all of the elementary and preschool kids. There were jumpers everywhere, and hotdogs and a dunking booth. Both Jon Austin and I were taking turns in that dunking booth, but it wasn't working quite right. Even if you hit the target just right the mechanism wouldn't drop us. So Cole assisted and started pushing the target when it didn't work to make sure the kids were "dunking" us. And I mean he did this for hours, standing in the mud. As the evening wore on I was coming out of the water and pushing myself onto the board and all of the sudden "bam" the board pops up and hits me in the chin and I'm back in the water. Cole wanted to surprise me, and boy he got me good. I still have a scar on my chin to always remember Cole by. I'll never forget that night, not because of that last dunk, but because Cole worked so hard to make those kids happy! He so enjoyed seeing the smile on all those children's faces. Jon and Rachel, you and the boys have been on all of our minds and hearts for days. We love you and will continue to pray for you all!

Aaron Battles - June 04, 2015 at 12:14 AM

SM

“ Cole was a young man when I first Met him in tony and Katie's thatchers class and mr Gregs class he was always a funny kid and he will be missed Cole u will always have a place in all our hearts rip



shelley martin - June 03, 2015 at 07:05 PM



“ *Wildflower Seeds - Build A Memory Garden* was purchased for the family of Christopher Cole Austin.



June 03, 2015 at 03:21 PM