



Tobey G.L. Heym

October 17, 2004 - October 17, 2018

Tobey Gwok Leong Heym, died at 8:45 pm on his 14th birthday, October 17, 2018, after a hard-fought battle against MRSA, with his sister Lily, and his parents Jason and Mayland at his bedside, holding him and comforting him until the end. All of us who knew Tobey are devastated – not just because of his young age, but because it makes no sense to lose such a fantastic kid with so much promise and potential to make the world a better place.

Tobey was born at home in Portland, but really grew up on the small family farm in Scappoose that he loved. Along with his sister, he bred and raised rabbits, helped with his dad's interesting experiment as a pig farmer, built stuff, destroyed stuff, and just generally enjoyed the hell out of his life. He was starting to get into mountain biking, liked duck hunting (but liked his duck dinners more), and would occasionally go out the back door and run 5-miles just because he could. Tobey was an adventurer with his eyes wide open and up for anything.

One of his proudest accomplishments was to earn his Brown Belt in Pukulon martial arts two years ago and to continue to follow in Lily's footsteps to test for his Black Belt this year, which thanks to Lily and his own spirit, he would have achieved.

Tobey was an intelligent and curious boy with many interests and he excelled at whatever he put his mind to. He had just entered 8th grade and was looking forward to starting geometry. He loved math and aspired to study engineering. He read at college level and enjoyed reading adventure books but was obsessed with Marvel comics and movies. And Tobey loved playing his trumpet. Rumor is that he would sometimes stand-in for the band director at school. During his long and difficult hospital stay he would calmly and methodically move his fingers as if he were playing. He loved AC/DC and Led Zeppelin and classic rock in general so who knew what he was playing – but he was playing and playing it well.

But at heart, Tobey was a home-body. He adored his sister, his mom and his dad, and was very close to his entire extended family – his maternal grandparents, Lyn and Ken who

were with him nearly every day in his early years, his aunt Lei Wah and cousin Priya, who was always special to him, and uncles Rob and David and his Heym cousins. He genuinely enjoyed family time and family meals. He was always ready to chip in and help with household or farm chores. He loved food and he loved eating. He was a teenager after all but he took it up a notch. And he baked. Knocking out chocolate chip cookies and lemon tarts in his sleep that no one could match.

In essence – and what is Tobey’s gift to each of us – is that he loved life and sought out and discovered new beauty in it every day. He loved babies, small animals, sunrises, stargazing, hikes, kayaking, and cuddles. He was emotionally open and a friend to all. He lived in the moment and made every one he knew feel better. And that is the best legacy any of us could hope for.

In lieu of flowers, we are requesting guests bring an unwrapped toy to Tobey’s service. The gifts will be donated to Randall Children’s Hospital at Emanuel Hospital where Tobey received amazing care.

Comments



“ Toby's friend Nick dedicated his eagle project to Toby this month. Nick remembers Toby as the friend that rescued him from the loneliness and oblivion of middle school and introduced him to his friends. Nick's eagle project was to improve Bella Vista Nature Park by removing some holly, planting some natives and installing a bench. The bench bears a plaque with Toby's name.



Erin Howarth - May 25 at 08:30 PM



“ Thank you to everyone who knew and loved our boy. We continue to grieve every hour of every day but are bolstered by all of the love shown by the community.

Jason Heym - October 31, 2019 at 06:21 PM



“ Thinking of Tobey this past week. I know lots of others are as well. Sending hugs to his family.



Tennale Goss - October 29, 2019 at 10:39 AM



“ Jack Date lit a candle in memory of Tobey G.L. Heym



jack date - June 06, 2019 at 05:12 PM



“ Makayla lit a candle in memory of Tobey G.L. Heym



makayla - May 23, 2019 at 12:32 PM



“ he accidently kicked a soccer ball and it hit me in the face.

makayla - May 23, 2019 at 12:30 PM



“ Tobey and my daughter became friends within days of us moving to Oregon last October. Since that day he walked her home almost EVERY single day. I was so expected that on the few occasions he wasn't there, it was noticeable. One evening that stands out was a night for a middle school dance. My daughter called to say Tobey was "bringing" her home and didn't need a ride...my thought was a parent would drop her off. But here they come walking up to the house. "it's ok Mom, Tobey has taken martial arts all his life. He can handle a short walk in the dark."

To tell you the truth, it did make me feel better knowing that Tobey was by her side.

Tennale Goss - November 05, 2018 at 02:59 PM



“ Thank you for sharing this touching memory. I did not know this about Tobey. Thank you so much for sharing.

Mayland Heym

Mayland Heym - November 07, 2018 at 07:25 PM



“ Terri Vandehey lit a candle in memory of Tobey G.L. Heym



terri vandehey - October 25, 2018 at 01:17 PM