



## Joshua R. "Josh" Downing

December 17, 2013

Joshua Robert Downing, 27, of Cape Girardeau passed away Tuesday, Dec. 17, 2013, at Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis. Josh was born Nov. 13, 1986, in Oxford, Ohio, to Nathan Downing and Stephanie Downing. Josh graduated from Cape Girardeau Central High School in 2005, and received a bachelor's degree in hospitality management from Southeast Missouri State University in fall 2009. After he graduated from Southeast, Josh worked as a chef for the Ruby Tuesday restaurant in Cape Girardeau. Josh was diagnosed with leukemia as a senior in high school and survived two relapses, his last remission being from a stem-cell transplant in 2009 he received from an anonymous donor. He attended school throughout the entirety of his sickness, and later battled Graft vs. Host Disease while always working full-time. Josh was the definition of strength and bravery. "If you're going through hell, keep going," by Winston Churchill was his motto. Josh was known for his contagious sense of humor, laughter and his smile. Throughout his care, Josh's nurses would fight for him to be on their service after pranks he pulled, including leaving neon-green Play-Doh poop on the hospital toilet seat. His passions included the St. Louis Blues, Avalanche hockey, gaming and all movie trivia. He is so loved and will be so missed by every life he touched. Josh is survived by his parents, Nathan and Mendy Downing, and Stephanie Downing and Chris Taylor; grandparents, Harry and Sally Downing and Elaine Steh; three sisters, Amity (Nick) Shedd, Brynna Downing and Katlynn Dodd; several sets of aunts and uncles, including Morgan and Dave Rosenthal,

Tracee and Chuck Bleyer, Tom and Janada Schaubert, John and Margaret Heath, Arlene Thurman and Robert Thurman; cousins, Ella, Samuel, Maggee, Anthony, Keith, Derek and Makayla; and many other extended family members and friends, including his Rubys family. He was preceded in death by grandparents Robert and Beverly Thurman and John Steh, and uncle, Kevin Thurman. A visitation will be at 6 p.m. Monday at Ford and Sons Mount Auburn Chapel in Cape Girardeau. A celebration of Josh's life will be at 7 p.m. Monday at the chapel. If anyone wishes to add to the memories, photos and mementos of Josh's life may be dropped off at the funeral home before the visitation. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

# Tribute Wall

AB

“ I think about you so very often friend. I love and miss you everyday.



Alana Burke - August 07, 2015 at 11:31 AM

KJ

“ Please accept my deepest sympathy for I too know the pain of losing someone you love. May your family find comfort as I have in knowing that our loving heavenly Father promises us that very soon he will 'wipe out every tear from our eyes, and death will be no more.' (Revelation 21:4) What a wonderful day that will be!

K. Jackson - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DK

“ Hey there Josh. I never have had the pleasure of meeting you but as I see messages and comments on your FB, yes I do creep on my other son's girlfriends family members pages too, I see that you have one great way of looking at life, full of optimism and a warped sense of humor ~ one that has rubbed off on many of your friends, acquaintances & family. I wish I could be with Katlynn and the rest of your family right now wearing one of these great words to live by sentiment t-shirts of yours. But instead, I raise my glass to toast you Josh and to thank you for changing the outlook of the many people you have touched with your laughter. Diana ? I'm one of the many wearing the ?I'd rather be naked? T-shirts.

Diana Klimek - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SC

“ I will always remember Josh's gentle spirit. He made such an impression on me in those first hours at the hospital. As a nurse, there are always a few patients over the years that really impact your life. For me, Josh was one of them. May he rest in peace.

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**Stephanie Clark** - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ What a wonderful photo of Josh! Who could resist that radiant smile and the joy he brought to so many? He has been my hero for the last nine years. The grace and humor in which he has fought this terrible disease is nothing short of amazing. Next in line for medals of honor are Nate, Mendy and his sisters. Your love, compassion and unending support, surely made a huge difference in his life. My heart goes out to each of you. I hope your love of him and the good memories you have of him in his healthy days will give you a little smile in your heart in the years to come. With love, admiration & sorrow, Maggie

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**Maggie French** - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DW

“ We send our deepest sympathies to Josh's family and know that you all mourn the loss of your son, grandson, brother and friend. Although we never met him in person we heard amazing stories of his humor and strength through his grandparents, Sally and Harry Downing. He was so loved and cherished by all who knew him, and leaves an amazing legacy.

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**Dick and Judy Whitman** - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM