



Terri Jo Vannoy

July 4, 1971 - April 10, 2014

Terri Jo Vannoy, passionate servant, loyal friend, caring sister, thoughtful daughter, and loving mother, died on Thursday, April 10th, 2014.

Terri's dream was to spend her life helping others. She lived her dream by sacrificing her home, food, and money to strangers in need. She lived her dream by serving disabled men and woman, and making them feel special everyday she visited them. But most importantly she lived her dream by relentlessly loving her children.

The most important thing in Terri's life were her children. Terri lived a simple life and gave the little she had so that her children could feel loved. Even when she had no money, she always found a way to make sure they were taken care of. Terri's generosity, in the face of hardship, astonished everyone.

Terri's life was not easy. As a teenager she lost her father to a fatal car accident. She had her first child shortly after. As a single mother, Terri raised two children with no more than a high-school diploma. She overcame both her bi-polar disorder and addiction so that she could care for them. Her son Zachary is now attending Law School and is twenty-four. Her daughter Alexa, is fourteen and in Junior High. Terri did everything in her power, even risking her own safety, to make sure her children had a chance at life. Even when Terri was living in absolute poverty she never gave up.

Driven by her determination to care for her children, through prayer and the help of her family, Terri pulled herself out of absolute poverty. She astonished everyone when she overcame her hardships and began working full-time serving the mentally and physically disabled. With a heart generated by love she served them like they were her own family. She bathed them, sang songs with them, and made sure that each person felt special and important. In doing so she impacted the lives of countless men and women who needed to feel loved.

Martin Luther King once said that anyone can be great because anyone can serve. "You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love." Terri was a great woman. She will be remembered for her warm smile, her radiant laugh, and her generous heart. But most importantly she will be remembered as a mother who loved her children more than anything else in the world.

She is survived by two children, Zachary and Alexa; mother and step-father, Jean & Charlie McMahan; 3 sisters, Becky and Wayne Hannah, Jodi and Seth Wells and Sarah Vannoy.

A celebration of Terri's life will be held this Saturday April 19th at 2 pm at Jamison's Event Center located at 605 E. Nelson Rd., Moses Lake WA. Please sign the online guest book or leave a note for the family at www.kayserchapel.com Arrangements are in care of Kayser's Chapel & Crematory.

Previous Events

Service

APR **19**. 2:00 PM (PT)

Jamison Center
605 E. Nelson Road
Moses Lake, WA 98837

Tribute Wall

DH

“ I was recently traveling on highway 17 when I saw the memorial sign for Terri. I decided to look her up and was so moved by everything I read that I wanted to extend my deepest, heartfelt sympathy to everyone fortunate enough to have known and loved this wonderful person. It was so very obvious what a special woman Terri was, who meant the world to the many, many people who loved her so dearly. I know what a difficult time that was for everyone close. I also know that Christ is with Terri, and you'll all be together again forever one day. Please press forward using the promise of the future to buoy you, and the good memories of the past to enrich you. And always remember there are so many keeping you and Terri deep in their hearts and prayers.

Don Hightower - October 22, 2024 at 03:16 AM

AW

“ I miss you so much my beautiful best friend

Alicia Walker - March 16, 2018 at 07:29 PM

DB

“ Found out yesterday. What a tragedy. Could not believe it. I have thought about Terri, Mike, and their grandma & grandpa on and off throughout the years. She will live on through her children and the memories we have. Say hi to my brother in heaven. **Dobierre Bassuer**

Dobierre Bassuer - July 18, 2014 at 05:04 AM

BH

“ Missing my beautiful sister so much it's been 3 weeks and everything I do or see it reminds me about something of you my life will be so much less without u in it

becky hannah - May 03, 2014 at 08:17 PM

LO

“ You will never be forgotten and forever be in our hearts. My prayers go out to her family and especially her children. I couldn't imagine losing my mother at 14 or 24. May her memory live on through them as she was a beautiful woman.

Lori - April 19, 2014 at 11:18 PM

SG

“ To Charlie and Jeannie,
Such sadness and grief to lose your daughter. We grieve with you and wish to reduce the pain of your loss. Not even time can heal such a tragic event, only the hope that she will return to you as promised in the bible.
We didn't know Terri Jo but would have enjoyed meeting her and sharing in her wonderful smile and personality.
Our thoughts and prayers to you both today on this Saturday.

Steve and Sharon Gallagher Apache Junction, AZ

Steve Gallagher - April 19, 2014 at 02:51 PM

LW

“ My heartfelt condolences to Terri's family and friends. I really enjoyed working with Terri at Ambitions. I miss her beautiful smile and friendship. She will always have a special place in my heart.

Lori Weyer

Lori Weyer - April 18, 2014 at 07:51 PM

LW

“ *My heartfelt condolences to Terri's family and friends. I worked with Terri at Ambitions. I will always remember her beautiful smile she came to work with each day. No matter her burdens, Terri always put them aside to enhance the clients day. A favorite memory is that Terri always noticed the packaged sweets I carried in my lunches. She always teased that she was going to eat them so one day I had bought her a package of them, ding dongs, that brought that smile to her face and a great big hug! I miss Terri dearly and she will forever have a special place in my heart.*

Lori Weyer

Lori Weyer - April 18, 2014 at 07:26 PM

CL

“ *Beautiful picture.
God be with all of Terri's family as you journey through this terrible loss. I'm so sorry...*

Colleen Long - April 18, 2014 at 11:47 AM

BM

“ *Betsy Murray lit a candle in memory of Terri
Jo Vannoy*



betsy murray - April 17, 2014 at 06:22 PM

CL

*I didn't know Terri. Beautiful picture...
Thinking of all of her family. God be with you as you journey through
this terrible loss.*

Colleen Long - April 18, 2014 at 11:40 AM

BM

“ We knew Terri when she was so young. She and our daughter Kathy were friends. Terri always had a sweet and beautiful smile. I also worked with her mom at the bank and would see all the kids when they came in. I haven't seen any of them for a very long time but know that you are all in my thoughts and prayers and I love you

betsy murray - April 17, 2014 at 06:22 PM

 Gabriel
Clark

“ My name is Gabriel Clark I am very sorry to hear about Terri. I do say prayers for her family. The last time I saw Her was probably 19 or 20 years ago. Zack was probably Four or five years old. At one point in your mothers life We were very good friends. We spent a winter up at Snoqualmie working and skiing. I will continue to say prayers.

Gabriel Clark - April 16, 2014 at 09:57 PM

BH

Thanks Gabe this is becky her older sister that was a great winter

becky hannah - April 16, 2014 at 11:48 PM

BH

Thanks GABE this is becky her older sister that was a great winter

becky hannah - April 17, 2014 at 01:25 AM

CR

“ *This is such a beautiful picture of Terri, what a beautiful smile . No words can express how sorry I am for the loss of your dear Mother, daughter, Sister, aunt and Friend she was to many. There is no good reason why this happened and I am so sorry that it did. Please accept my deepest condolences. My heart is broken and I wish you all comfort and strength as you grieve.*



Cyndi Ray - April 16, 2014 at 07:27 PM

JB

“ *I did not know Terri but understand what her family and friends are going through and I send my sincerest condolences. If I could go back and change things, I would in a heartbeat and spare you all the grief of losing one - so young, so loved, so vital. I am truly, truly sorry and I pray you will feel God's comfort and strength as you grieve.*

Joanne Bracht - April 16, 2014 at 02:47 PM

LO

“ Terri was my friend and my daughter's Godmother. We are so very sad, and would like to wish her family peace and healing. Even though she moved away, we loved and missed her so much. Her infectious smile could light up the darkest day, and her enthusiasm made the most mundane of tasks fun. I had the privilege of sharing morning cups of coffee with her, days spent by the river watching our girls swim, and many conversations where we just talked about our hopes and dreams as two friends often do. Terri was loving and kind, compassionate and genuine. She wore her heart on her sleeve, and I loved that about her. She could literally light up a room with her fun and energetic spirit. She had the sweetest heart. The woman I knew was courageous, passionate, and loved her children so much. I'm sure gonna miss the chance to maybe someday sing along to "Beautiful" by Christina Aguilera, with her in the car again. Peace and Love my "Beautiful" friend, until I see you again someday.

Laurel and Fallon Ostendorf - April 16, 2014 at 12:05 PM

BH

How beautiful thanks for your memory

becky hannah - April 16, 2014 at 06:49 PM

JB

“ Terri was one of those people you never forget! The most nonjudgmental, reach out and touch someone person. As a little girl she always spoke her mind, especially when it wasn't wanted. She matured into a young woman who was more concerned about others than the way she felt. Always for the underdog, which is a rare thing in this world today. Her children Zack and Alexa thank goodness have inherited this quality. I wish I had grabbed her more often and told her how much she meant to me. But that's the one good thing about funerals, they give you the opportunity to correct misgivings that we have and start a new day with the example that Terri left behind. I'm positive she received these special gifts from her mother!!!!

Jamie Berens - April 16, 2014 at 11:09 AM

BH

Very sweet

becky hannah - April 16, 2014 at 06:51 PM

KR

“ I love and miss you so much!!! Idk what im gonna do when kylie asks about you she loved you and adored you so much. I hope when she can understand what happened she to will learn a lesson like so many of us have. Love you aunt terri!!

kristin - April 16, 2014 at 10:23 AM

BH

It breaks my heart ky loved her so much

becky hannah - April 17, 2014 at 01:26 AM

JB

“ *Joanne Bracht sent a virtual gift in memory of Terri Jo Vannoy*



Joanne Bracht - April 15, 2014 at 02:42 PM

JB

There are no words to express the sorrow I feel.

Joanne Bracht - April 15, 2014 at 02:43 PM

SB

I am praying for all of Terri's family and friends on the loss you are experiencing. Extremely sad and sorry for your loss.

Stacey B. - April 16, 2014 at 10:53 AM

“ You already know all the things I am about to say but I believe it is important to hear these things over and over about Terri. My husband and I referred to her as Sweet Innocence. We used her given name at times but it was my belief that Sweet Innocence fit her better.

I only knew Terri for a short year but she taught me much about herself and demonstrated standards that I will need to reach hard to achieve.

The ladies Terri worked with recognized her and I believe it was her gentle nature that was her greatest gift to them. She spent extra time with the ladies, always willing to play a game with one, take another for a walk and reach out quite literally to let them know she cared. The tenderness Terri showed for a lady who was passing was inspirational. She appeared to know just what the lady needed and did it for her. I wondered if she had a special gift for providing comfort to those who are passing and now it is obvious she did and for a special reason. This is my Sweet Terri.

Though I am 20 years her senior Terri taught me a lot about alternative, more kind (to oneself as well as to others) ways to handle difficult situations as well as oneself.

Terri will always remain in my heart and my memories. Terri is the first adult that I met that appeared to be true Innocence, trusting, and believing in the good in all people. Terri never met a person she didn't like, of that I am sure. There was something in her that made everyone the same, equal in deserving the same love, patience, trust, and her positive guidance. You have taught her well.

May God help you through this difficult time. The way she is constantly in my thoughts makes me fearful that your emotions must be triple difficult. God is your gift.

I believe that God is with her, that she is now able to help her whole family by being there when you need to talk, by being able to provide comfort surrounding future difficulties and by sending her love magnified many times over.

Thank you for allowing me the honor of knowing your daughter, mother and friend. She suggested that we be friends forever, no matter where we worked and I thank God for that privilege.

Barbara Hornaday - April 15, 2014 at 01:38 PM

JH

She most definately had a big heart! And touched many :(

Jennifer Hunting - April 16, 2014 at 05:12 AM

JM

Barbara you're so right! She really did care so deeply about other people.

Julie Melseth - April 16, 2014 at 10:59 PM

RL

Thank you Barbara.....beautiful words of a beautiful woman.

Rose Lauzier - April 18, 2014 at 08:11 PM

BH

“ Missing you so much my beautiful sister

becky hannah - April 15, 2014 at 12:21 PM

BH

My heart is saddened for myself and doubly so for the wonderful people in her family.

Barbara Hornaday - April 15, 2014 at 01:34 PM