



Avaya Rain Stephens

May 27, 2023 - May 21, 2024

Avaya Rain Stephens, 11 months old, of Overisel, passed away on Tuesday, May 21, 2024. Avaya was born May 27, 2023, the youngest of eight children with seven older brothers.

Avaya was, and always will be, a miracle baby. She was our sweet, sweet baby girl. Prenatally Avaya's parents were told "incompatible with life", she wouldn't survive pregnancy, and to prepare for end-of-life care. But they never gave up hope. They never stopped believing in God's plans for their daughter and for them.

Avaya showed her sassy side from the very beginning. It didn't take long for her NICU nurses and doctors to see she was a fighter. Everyone who met Avaya loved her. Even with her future so unknown, they moved forward, always following Avaya's lead. It was the Avaya show.... everyone else was just along for the ride.

Avaya did so well, she came home from the NICU after 4 months. At home, she thrived. Surrounded by her big brothers, parents, and family, she showed everyone what she was capable of. Avaya proved to her doctors that medical diagnoses and their expectations wouldn't define her.

Avaya's parents made it very clear; quality of life always came before quantity of life. Avaya's heart defect proved to be too much in the end. Avaya made it clear she was done fighting and ready to go. After a wonderful year, Avaya passed just days shy of her first birthday. All who knew her felt incredibly blessed to be along for the ride. To witness the miracle of her life. Avaya has

touched more lives than she would ever know.

She is survived by her parents Jason Stephens and Jamie Marcus, brothers: Brayden, Caleb, Isaiah, Zac, Colin, Jayce, Parker; grandparents: Tom and Kim Marcus, Mike and Peggy Stephens; great-grandparents: Sherri De Glopper, Joanie (Stan) Peters, and many extended family members. She was preceded in death by her great-grandpa Don De Glopper.

Avaya's parents would also like to acknowledge Avaya's incredible care team at Helen Devos Children's Hospital, Avaya's home therapists and all the other staff that truly allowed her to thrive. Saying thank you will never be enough.

Dr. Casey Madura and Dr. Sarah Badran gave her a chance when most others wouldn't. To them, Avaya's family is forever grateful.

A visitation will be held 12 noon – 2:00 PM, Saturday, May 25, 2024, at Ridge Point Community Church, in Ren's Café, (Please use the main "Standing Stone" entrance), 340 104th Ave., Holland MI 49423. A graveside will follow at 2:30 pm, Saturday, in Overisel Twp. Cemetery, 4662 143rd Ave. Holland MI 49423. Memorial contributions may be made to defray funeral expenses. Fundraiser for Jamie Marcus by Shannan Dorman : Help Celebrate Avaya's Life ([gofundme.com](https://www.gofundme.com))

Arrangements are by the Yntema Funeral Home, 251 S. State Street, Zeeland MI 49464.

Cemetery Details

Overisel Cemetery

4630 143rd Avenue
Holland, MI 49423

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY **25**. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Ridge Point Community Church
340 104th Ave.
Holland, MI 49423

PLEASE USE RIDGE POINT'S MAIN ENTRANCE- The Standing Stone Entrance

Graveside Service

MAY **25**. 2:30 PM - 2:45 PM (ET)

Overisel Cemetery
4630 143rd Avenue
Holland, MI 49423

Tribute Wall



“ *Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Avaya Rain Stephens*



Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes - May 24, 2024 at 01:17 PM

MC

“ *I am honored to have been able to care for Avaya! My thoughts are with you and your family. Avaya's has left a mark on my heart! Those smiles and scrunched up nose i will never forget.*

Melissa Cordial-Stout - May 29, 2024 at 04:32 PM

SA

“ *I imagine a tiny light blue baby bird with bright eyes and a badly broken wing, fallen. Her family prods and coaxes and loves her into doing the impossible- flying clear across the yard. Tired now, but so proud, asks if she be excused to play at the feet of our lord, where there is no illness or pain or tubes. Such an honor to know her.💜*

sarah - May 25, 2024 at 08:55 AM

JA

And her doctors who believed in the impossible. So grateful to you and blessed to have been able to share our daughter ❤️

Jamie - May 25, 2024 at 07:13 PM

MS

“ Michael S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Avaya Rain Stephens.

Michael S. - May 24, 2024 at 01:48 PM

CV

“ Chad VanDenBosch purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Avaya Rain Stephens.



Chad VanDenBosch - May 24, 2024 at 09:31 AM

CV

“ Chad VanDenBosch planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Avaya Rain Stephens.

Chad VanDenBosch - May 24, 2024 at 09:31 AM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Avaya Rain Stephens.



May 23, 2024 at 08:45 PM

GS

“ *Avaya was a fighter and let you know when she didn't like something and wrinkled her nose . She was so precious . She had personality. She will be missed so very much .*

Grandpa and Grandma Stephens - May 23, 2024 at 05:55 PM