



Gavin Alan Charles McClain

May 13, 2002 - July 18, 2021

Gavin McClain passed away on Sunday, July 18, 2021, following a nearly two-year battle with osteosarcoma. He was 19 years old. He was recently preceded in death by his great-grandmother, Donna Walworth, and his uncle, David Beckman. He is survived by his mother and step-father, Nicole and Ben Klok; his father and step-mother, Ryan and Elizabeth McClain; his brothers, Andrew, Marshall, and Clark; his girlfriend, Riley Carlton-Evans; his grandparents, Ron and Vicki McClain, Charles and Jo Ella Beckman, Ken and Diane Lowry, and Kevin and Suzanne Klok; as well as many loving aunts, uncles, and cousins. He is also survived by his two furry best friends – Tox and Maggie. Gavin leaves us far too soon. A 2021 graduate of Hudsonville High School and recipient of the David Johnson Memorial Scholarship, Gavin was preparing to attend the University of Northwestern Ohio. There he was planning to obtain an associate degree in Diesel Mechanics and a bachelor's degree in Business Management. Gavin was born on May 13, 2002 in Hillsdale, MI and grew up in Hudsonville, MI. He had what his family lovingly called an "old soul," not too terribly concerned with the technology and trends of his peers. Instead he had a quiet wisdom and found passions that went well beyond his years: he cared deeply for others, he loved to work, and he was a true outdoorsman. Gavin was loyal to his family and friends with a keen awareness of the needs of others. He has always watched over his younger brothers and created strong bonds with his closest friends. He cared deeply for those around him and even as his body weakened he still found

opportunities, both big and small, to give to others. Even recently, he began packing an extra lunch for a fellow student who otherwise would have gone without. For Gavin, these acts of kindness were done without fanfare. They were simply part of who he was and for him what it meant to be a person in this world. Never one to sit still, Gavin loved to work and, especially, to work with his hands, to create, build, and repair. As soon as he could walk Gavin followed after the men in his life, learning from them an appreciation for a job done with care. He was willing to help with even the most mundane household jobs, like standing beside his Grandpa Chuck to wash and dry dishes. He always had a love for trucks, tractors, or any big machines that did work. At a young age, he would ride along in the tractor of a farmer friend, sitting for hours, and enjoying the simple pleasure of watching the soil turn. His first "real" job was at 14 when he began working at a local lumber yard. After this he worked a variety of jobs: plowing/shoveling snow, at a diesel shop, and for an excavating company. Work that was physical and strenuous, but from this he could feel that acute sense of satisfaction from a job well done. During this time Gavin also took on woodworking as a hobby and by-hand fashioned many things including end tables, a plaque for deer antlers, and a beautiful dining room table, which still stands at the center of his mother's home. One can imagine the quiet joy he found in this focused work. And, of course, Gavin was always working and tinkering on his own trucks, especially his Chevy diesel, a cherished gift from his grandfather. Finally, for all of his life Gavin has had a strong connection to the outdoors. Unlike many, his first word was not "mom" or "mama." Instead, it was "deer." By 16 months he was already spending time in the woods hunting with his father. He loved everything about hunting, fishing, and camping. Not just bagging a buck, but the camaraderie that comes with the hunt. Not just bringing in the big fish, but also the quiet contemplation from time spent near the water with rod and reel. And in this way, even as the surgeries and treatments took their toll, he continued to seek solace in nature, as the poet Wendell Berry wrote: I come into the peace of wild things

who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.

And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time

I rest in the grace of the world, and am free. Funeral services are planned for 12:00pm Friday, July, 23 at Langeland-Sterenberg Funeral Home, 315 E 16th St., Holland. Pastor Jeff Henderson will officiate. Burial will be in Pilgrim Home Cemetery. Visitation is scheduled for 4:00-7:00pm on Thursday, also at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to Lakeshore Quest Ministries (5351 133rd Ave, Hamilton, MI 49419) and the Osteosarcoma Institute (<https://osinst.org/donate/>). Condolences may be left online at www.langelandsterenberg.com.

Tribute Wall



“ *Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Gavin Alan Charles McClain*



Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes - July 18, 2021 at 12:00 AM



“ *Gavin Alan Charles McClain*

August 31, 2022 at 01:26 PM



“ *"Dear Nicole and Andrew and family, We are so sorry for your loss. Our prayer are with you during these hard times. He fought a hard fight and now he is at peace and no longer in pain. Love and prayers are with all of you. Love you Uncle Ted and Aunt Jane"*

Jane Dershem - July 28, 2021 at 12:00 AM



“ *"Nicole My heart breaks for you! You are in my prayers"*

Ann Laban - July 26, 2021 at 12:00 AM

MC

“*“Ryan and family, our thoughts and prayers are with you during this saddest of times. Words cannot express how sorry we are for your loss. RIP Gavin and God bless your family.”*”

Mike Brockie and CMF - July 26, 2021 at 12:00 AM

KO

“*“What a beautiful obituary in the Holland Sentinel. I didn't know your son but I was touched by your loving tribute to him and felt compelled to tell you that you conveyed his personality even to a complete stranger. He sounds like a gentle soul who was a blessing to all who knew him. May your memories of him bring you comfort.”*”

Kimberly Olson - July 22, 2021 at 12:00 AM

LC

“*“My sincerest thoughts and condolences to the entire McClain family. Prayers to the family, as well.”*”

landon cooley - July 22, 2021 at 12:00 AM

TH

“*“Our deepest condolences to you Nicole and the family. Such a rich life was taken too soon. You're in our thoughts and prayers.”*”

Thomas - July 22, 2021 at 12:00 AM

DS

“*“It's with great sadness we send our prayers and deepest sympathy to you Nicole, and to your entire family. May God comfort you in times ahead for the unthinkable loss of your beloved son Gavin.”*”

Dwight and Chris and Kelci Schaeffer - July 22, 2021 at 12:00 AM

LC

“ We send our condolences to all of Gavin's family and Riley for your loss. We are sorry we don't have words adequate to comfort you all. May your memories of Gavin's happier, healthy days bring you comfort-Pat & Linda Carlton (Riley's Grandparents)”

Linda Carlton - July 21, 2021 at 12:00 AM

MO

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with Gavin's entire family, for peace and comfort. God bless.”

Monica - July 21, 2021 at 12:00 AM

EH

“ Our hearts go out to Gavin's families - there are no words that can express our sympathy on this huge loss - know you all are and will remain in our thoughts and prayers. God bless, Tom & Emily Henson”

Emily Henson - July 21, 2021 at 12:00 AM

ST

“ Ryan, Elizabeth, Andrew, Marshall, Clark and extended family we offer our condolences and prayers during this difficult time; and all our words can't make things better. We trust God will grant you comfort, peace and we will continue our prayers in the days ahead. May God Bless you.”

Steve - July 21, 2021 at 12:00 AM

JJ

“What is grief ? LOVE !
It is love you want to give Gavin, but cannot. The unspent love gathers up in the corners of your eyes, the lump in your throat, and in that depth of your chest. Grief is just love with no place to go, but we are all here to share that love with you...”

Jim - July 20, 2021 at 12:00 AM

KW

“Kevin Wiersma : Gavin We Will Miss you !!! you have touched our lives with your kindness, seriousness of learning a trade, giving your best every day and being a caring friend. You have set the bar high . Blessings of comfort to your family and until we see you again... You are the whole package !!! We Love you Young man!! Sincerely, Mr Wiersma aka KW.”

Kevin Wiersma - July 20, 2021 at 12:00 AM

JM

“Our Family sends out deepest sympathy,prayers to yours. Gavin was a special young man. Words can't express these times. Jesus loves Gavin and he loves your all too.”

Jeff Meeuwes - July 20, 2021 at 12:00 AM

JC

“Our deepest heartfelt condolences to Gavins entire family on Gavin's homegoing. Our family had the blessing of watching Gavin grow from a Lil tike into a young man whom loved everything about the outdoors. We are going to mis you terribly Gavin but we will never forget you and the fight you fought....I know my Belle was happy to see you!! RIP Gavin”

Jon Colby - July 19, 2021 at 12:00 AM

BD

“*Nicole and family, I am so sorry and heartbroken for your loss. I had been keeping Gavin in my prayers and now, I will continue to pray for God to comfort you.*”

Brenna Drilling - July 19, 2021 at 12:00 AM