



## Lauren Elizabeth Brown

*October 25, 1994 - December 9, 2016*

Lauren Elizabeth Brown, age 22, died on Friday, December 9, 2016, in Frisco, Texas, following a six and a half year battle with Ewing's Sarcoma.

Born October 25, 1994, in Austin, Texas, to her parents, Kitty and Richard, she lived for three years in Plano, Texas, before moving to San Diego, California, with her brother, Evan, and her mom. She attended elementary school in Rancho Penasquitos and Poway where, cheering for Poway Pop Warner, she discovered her love of cheerleading. When her mother and step-father, Mike, told her they were moving back to Texas, her big brown eyes welled up with tears and she asked with a trembling voice, "Do they have cheerleading in Texas?" Did they ever! Lauren cheered competitively for Ultimate Texas Cheer, later called Ultimate Texas Allstars, and for Pro Sprit. She also cheered on her middle school, freshman, and varsity cheer squads. She won every major national championship—CGA, America's Best, ACA, and NCA—and was an NCA All American cheerleader.

In California, Lauren attended Sundance Elementary in Rancho Penasquitos and Garden Road Elementary in Poway. In Frisco, she attended Curtsinger Elementary and Wester Middle School, and graduated with honors from Centennial High School. She was active in theatre and broadcast; was a member of the Duke University Talent Identification Program (TIP), National Junior Honor Society, International Thespian Society; and was an NSPA Broadcast Pacemaker Award Finalist.

In June 2010, Lauren was diagnosed with Ewing's Sarcoma in her lower right pelvis. Her cheerleading career ended immediately and she missed the better part of her junior year in high school due to treatment. Her cancer returned her senior year, but she still completed high school on time, held down a part-time job, and took twelve credit hours at the junior college, all while undergoing chemotherapy and radiation.

Lauren entered Texas A&M University in the fall of 2012. Even before she had heard of Texas A&M, she was destined to be an Aggie. Through middle school and high school, when she described the kind of university she wanted to attend, she was describing A&M, even though she didn't know it. God made this warrior to be a fightin' Texas Aggie. She

always appreciated the strength and solidarity that comes from commitment to tradition. She loved A&M. She didn't just adopt its traditions, she actively sought them. Long before she knew what they were, she embodied the core values of Excellence, Integrity, Leadership, Loyalty, Respect, and Selfless Service. She embraced her education with the true Aggie Spirit: determined to get everything she could out of her experience there, but always with her eye on the world and how she could use her education to serve it, protect it, and make it better.

She began A&M pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Studies, with a focus on Commerce and a minor in French. Two years in, she petitioned the university to add a second degree: a Bachelor of Science in Applied Mathematics in Statistics. Through four years at A&M, she continued to battle recurrent Ewing's, traveling home to Dallas for treatments, and to Miami and San Antonio to participate in clinical trials. She worked for the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and was a tutor for the Mathematics Texas Success Initiative program.

In the fall of 2015, she had the great honor of receiving her Aggie Ring. No Aggie endured more or worked harder to be there. Through the fire of adversity, God forged in her a powerful instrument, and through her education, He armed her with a formidable weapon. Wanting to pursue a career in public service, this true Aggie was poised to make her fellow Aggies proud.

Lauren did not want to be, and was not defined by her battle with cancer. Instead, her battle gave a far-reaching voice to her incredible strength, wisdom, bravery, selflessness, and, most important, faith. She spoke on behalf of the American Cancer Society, 1 Million 4 Anna Foundation, Heroes for Children, and the Make-A-Wish Foundation of North Texas. She also authored a blog on CaringBridge that was the source of inspiration for so many people, many of whom never met Lauren. When well-meaning friends would suggest this hard-working young woman take some time off—from work, school, or whatever—she would respond, "What is the point in fighting for your life if you don't have a life worth fighting for?" And, Lauren had a life worth fighting for. Each time cancer robbed her of one dream, she would immediately replace it with another. She called her own shots and lived life on her own terms. She beat every prognosis and challenged every doctor to think outside the box.

When she received her final prognosis in September that she had a couple weeks to a couple of months left to live, Lauren made a bucket list and began checking off the items. She had just returned from a vacation in the Keys with Foster, the love of her life, and they turned around and took off for Colorado so that she could see the mountains. She then headed to A&M for the ultimate Aggie weekend, hosted by members of her incredible Aggie family. She fought hard to squeeze as much as she could out of each and every day and, in the process, gave those who loved her a shining example of how to live, really live, life. She will be dearly missed.

Lauren is preceded in death by her grandfather, Robert S. King; grandmother, Mary E. King; grandmother, Dorothy King; and grandfather, C. Robert McGahey.

Lauren is survived by far too many family, friends, and loved ones to appropriately list here.

She is also preceded in death by Anna, Makenna, Veronica, Nishant, Lilli, Kyle, Andrew, Hormozd, and far too many other Ewing's Sarcoma warriors. For anyone who would like to make a donation in Lauren's honor, the family suggests a donation to The 1 Million 4 Anna Foundation (<http://www.1Million4Anna.org>). While there are so many worthy organizations that Lauren supported, 1 Million 4 Anna is fighting Ewing's Sarcoma Today, Tomorrow, and until its Gone, which will enable Lauren to achieve her very last dream: to beat Ewing's.

A celebration of life for Lauren will be held on Saturday, December 17, 2016 at 1:00 PM at St. Philip's Episcopal Church, 6400 Stonebrook Pkwy, Frisco, TX 75034, with Rev. Greg Methvin presiding.

## Memorials

*Kitty and Mike When I ran into you guys at Children's months ago I knew in my gut it was because Lauren was still battling ewings and my heart broke. Seeing and talking to her was amazing, she was exactly like I remembered, so beautiful, happy and full of hope/love. Lauren was truly an amazing young girl and I couldn't believe what a wonderful young woman she had turned into! We only spoke for a few minutes but you guys truly gave us hope that our little guy will beat his cancer and not be defined by it. This is what you guys and Lauren have taught me no matter how rough it gets, keep fighting and never give up hope. My family and I will continue doing our part to bring more awareness to childhood cancers! Thank you for allowing me, my sister Kat and nephew Jose to visit with ya'll and Lauren. God bless you always! Diana*

**DIANA LOPEZ, DECEMBER 20, 2016**

*We are deeply saddened to learn of Lauren's passing. She was a cheerful, driven young lady who achieved much, overcame seemingly-insurmountable obstacles that would have defeated most, but possessed an inner strength to inspire others during her brief life.*

**GARY, SARAH & LARA BADEN, DECEMBER 16, 2016**

*Lauren brought joy, friendship, love, strength and inspiration to so many with a special thanks for the lives she touched, a sadness and emptiness felt for loss but peace knowing she's in heaven and without pain. Words can't be expressed for her friendship shown toward my daughter throughout their years of friendship. Love, prayers and thoughts are sent for Lauren's family now and always.*

**DEBBIE, DECEMBER 16, 2016**

*Just want to send my condolences, I can't imagine what you must be going through. I hope you can find comfort in God's Word. Psalm 34:18 is one of my favorites. Again, my heartfelt condolences to all of Lauren's loved ones.*

**NICOLE STEWART , DECEMBER 16, 2016**

*We have shared your incredible journey. Your pain, your hope, your anger. Rebecca and I are a few years ahead on the road through grief. May God comfort you as only He can. Lauren and our Joffrey are now together in*

*heaven, knowing no more pain, no more agony. Hopefully their experience will allow others to benefit in future cancer treatments. God Bless....*

**MICHAEL AND REBECCA SWIECZKOWSKI, DECEMBER 15, 2016**

*All of us at Benchmark Bank were so blessed to have known and worked with Lauren. She was an amazing young woman and such an inspiration to all of us. Her wonderful spirit and attitude will be remembered. May God comfort your family during this time.*

**CARLENE TOWB, DECEMBER 15, 2016**

*I am sorry to hear the news of Lauren's passing. Losing a child has to be the most overwhelming devastating thing a parent experiences. Our thoughts and prayers are with your family. Wayne & Julie Wilson*

**JULIE WILSON, DECEMBER 15, 2016**

*God Bless*

**DAN OLSEN, DECEMBER 14, 2016**

*My Sincere Condolences to Lauren's Family in this time of Sorrow. I am still a little new to the clinic, but was Blessed to have met Lauren on her visits to Childrens. I truly enjoyed seeing her every time that she had a visit. I didn't like that she was there so often but even though she did she was always in good spirits and tried to keep a smile on her face. Just know that she is no longer in pain and is flying high and happy. She will always be watching over you all. So this is not a Good Bye but a Til We Meet Again..... Christina Garcia Childrens Medical Center of Dallas*

**CHRISTINA GARCIA, DECEMBER 14, 2016**

*Continued prayers for all of you. Much love from the Bell family. Brad, Bridget, Kelly (Kelly Griggs-Bell, Titan class of 2012), Gunnar and Brooks*

**BRIDGET GRIGGS, DECEMBER 14, 2016**

*A life well lived. Thank you for your example and leaving this world a better place, albeit a bit darker now. Godspeed you, Lauren, as you carry your light beyond.*

**RON KOLB, DECEMBER 13, 2016**

*She will be greatly missed! Marc Shinebarger "Show me a hero, and I'll write*

*you a tragedy.” ? F. Scott Fitzgerald*

**MARC SHINEBARGER , DECEMBER 13, 2016**

*Lauren was truly an angel on earth. She touched my life in so many ways, and I only met her in person one time! Many prayers to her family and friends! She will be missed.*

**AMY CULP, DECEMBER 13, 2016**

*Mike, Kitty and Evan, I am at a loss for words as I write this. Lauren has and ALWAYS will be a very special person to me. She wasn't just my patient, she was my friend. She was perfect in every way. I never had a daughter but she would of been what I would of dreamed a daughter would be. We shared stories, laughs, a love for A&M and hugs. I came across a note she had sent to me during her chemo that she was praying for my son to be accepted. That was Lauren! She put others before herself and anyone who knew her, loved her. I am praying for all of you, her friends and the rest of the family. She is your angel now. May she rest in eternal peace. Karen*

**KAREN GUILLOT, DECEMBER 13, 2016**

*We only met her once, but once was enough for her to inspire you. We won't forget you.*

**PAT AND CHARLES, DECEMBER 13, 2016**

*I don't think you knew how many of us you touched and inspired by your positivity and strong desire to live. Praying that your family and friends find some type of comfort knowing this. RIP Lauren*

**LISA C. HERRERA, DECEMBER 13, 2016**

*Lauren will be missed so much. Wow! What an inspiration! What a hard worker! There was nothing that she couldn't do or attempt to do. She really lived her life to the fullest. I am so glad that I knew Lauren. She made a huge difference in our granddaughter Taylor's life, too. Lauren will continue making a difference to so many in the future and people still fighting Ewing's Sarcoma in her name.*

**CINDY MEYER, DECEMBER 13, 2016**

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