



Austin Bryce Utley

August 25, 1988 - May 28, 2019

Let me tell you the story of a man who even as a child laughed and engaged in life with such zeal that it was beautifully contagious to all those around him. As a man, he was also characterized by his intense love for his family and friends, his generosity, and his compassion for those down on their luck.

I need to tell you this story because those of you that did not have the blessing of knowing my son, no longer have that opportunity. Tragically, Austin is no longer with us. On the evening of May 28, 2019 Austin was viciously and cruelly killed by a man with murder in his heart. While nothing on earth can fill the void left in our lives, we take comfort in knowing that Austin is with his Savior in heaven. While we cannot possibly see how, at this time, we know that Austin would be the first to point out that God will use what was intended as evil for the greater glory and furtherance of His kingdom. Austin is survived by Bill and Lucy Utley (parents); Aaron and Brandi Utley, Allison and Erik Armstrong, Ariane Utley (siblings); Emma Utley, Avery Armstrong (nieces); Les and Mary Hatcher (grandparents); along with uncles, aunts and cousins. He is preceded in death by Bill and Rae Utley (grandparents). Austin also left behind his girlfriend of 4 years, Jessika Gaehring.

Austin was born on August 25, 1988 in Jackson, MS and grew up in Lisle, IL, where he lived life to the max, made many friends and did the things that kids do (went to school, played on a baseball team, wrestled, learned to

snowboard).

The last leg in the journey of Austin's life took place in The Woodlands, TX after moving with the family from IL. Austin worked part time and went to college. During this time, he deepened his walk with his Lord and was looking forward to expanding his dog-sitting service and to start acting on his dream of providing a shelter for abandoned and abused dogs.

Austin loved the family and was very sentimental and cherished those relationships.

He was a humble man, with few possessions. However, the possessions he treasured were those items that represented a family relationship; such items as a groomsman's gift from his brother, a small cross with a flower from his mother, a Leatherman tool from his father and a shield of faith neck chain and baseball memento from his sisters.

As I close this last testament to Austin's memory, I can still clearly hear his voice gently breaking with laughter. I cannot help but wonder how long I will retain the clarity of this precious memory and my heart breaks to think that as long as I live, I will never hear his voice or be able to embrace him again.

Please join our family and friends in celebrating the life of our son, our brother, our uncle, our nephew, our grandchild and our cherished and loved friend, Austin Bryce Utley.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JUN 8. 2:00 PM (CT)

Addison Funeral Home
18630 Kuykendahl Road
Spring, TX 77379
(281) 350-0998
addisonfh@yahoo.com
<https://addisonfuneralhomes.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Austin Bryce Utley*

July 20, 2022 at 05:14 PM



“ *Austin was always funny, laughed a lot, and kind. I wish I would have made more memories with him as we got older, but I am grateful for the times we had together. I loved getting to see him at Gulf Shores cause I knew how fun he was to be around. :)*

Sage Hatcher - December 12, 2019 at 11:59 AM



Thank you, Sage, for adding your special thoughts about Austin. He truly valued family and always looked forward to being at the beach with all of the cousins. Our 2 families also had fun times together in Illinois, Indiana, Colorado and Lake of the Ozarks. We are so thankful for those memories.

Lucy Utley - December 20, 2019 at 11:50 AM

SJ

“ Although I have never met Austin. I heard his story from Bill so many times before that I feel he is a part of my life already. After attending his memorial service, I got to know him much more and deeply regret that I haven't had the opportunity meeting him because I am sure we will make great friends (we both love living life to the fullest adventure and my favorite sport is snowboarding). His kindness toward animal and people down on their luck deeply touched me. His faith in God touched me even more and I cried and cried at the service. But I decided I will not stop there and should do something in his honor. Inspired by the faith of Austin's family, I started a bible study group at work. I am also working on establishing an endowment fund in memory of Austin (it will be named after Austin) with Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine for pet rescue which is one of his passions. So his legacy can continue to live while he is in heaven watching us from above. Like the pastor said in the service, there is no good bye, there is only see you later in heaven. Our presence on earth is only temporary and we should all live to glorify God by loving others and one day we will all meet again in heaven. Hope I will get to shred some blacks on snowboarding with Austin when we see each other again!

Sophie Jia - August 01, 2019 at 10:03 AM

MH

So sweet Sophie...As Austin's Grandmother, I deeply appreciate how Austin has touched your heart & life. How I would have loved to be there tonite . My heart is stretched all the way to TX from MS. Thank you sooo much for your part in keeping Austin's legacy alive. In Jesus' Love . "Seeing we are composed about so great a cloud of witnesses...let us run with patience our race...looking to Jesus The Author & Finisher of our faith..."Grandma Mary.

Mary Hatcher - August 24, 2019 at 07:04 PM

LB

“ Austin was one of my favorite cousins. Not only was he a cousin but also a friend. He was always smiling, laughing and fun to be around. We would always go to wal mart and play guitar hero some evenings and play in the game room at the beach. He will truly be misssd!



Les Bailey - June 26, 2019 at 08:03 PM

LU

Hey Les, thank you for adding your thoughts. Austin would love that you considered him a friend as well as cousin, because that's exactly what he wanted in all of his relationships. He would still talk about his time in Lucedale and how close he got to know y'all while he was there. God bless. We love you lots!

Lucy - June 29, 2019 at 11:14 AM

MG

I know cousin roots run deep. Thank you Les ❤️

Mary Hatcher Austin's grandmother - June 30, 2019 at 01:16 PM

JH

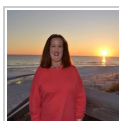
“ Austin was a comedian!! He knew how to make people laugh!! My favorite memory of him was when he made funny faces!!

Jessica Hatcher - June 23, 2019 at 09:34 AM

LU

Jess, your comment is sweet. Austin liked it when people laughed and were enjoying life. Thank you for adding this memory. God bless! We love you so much.

Lucy - June 27, 2019 at 07:59 PM



I love y'all so much too! ❤️

Jessica Hatcher - May 15, 2022 at 02:41 PM

MH

“ 8 files added to the tribute wall



Mary Hatcher - June 22, 2019 at 11:40 PM

MH

“ Austin, our 6th grandchild of 15, spent a month with us during a time of transition move from Lisle, IL to The Woodlands, TX. *(I remember well our ride to Lisle when he was a baby ; 'Austin on my right & his brother Aaron's tarantula in a cage on my left, I stayed close to Austin .) While he was here that month he shared an experience of sensing the Awesome Presence of God , while reading some works of C.S.Lewis & Watchman Nee late one night. It seemed to me he was always looking for 'the Real thing' & obviously He Knew Our Lord in a 'Personal & 'Real' way. He helped his Papaw H. dig post holes for a little curved bridge on our property during this visit & learned what Papaw meant when he said You will earn a PHD. (Post Hole Digger) He ate a lot of Bagel bites & Hebrew hotdogs! Would take his cousins Les& Matthew, next door, to town & play video games on Walmart's Demo games and may have been his first football game to go to, to see his cousin Brittany perform halftime on dance team MS Gulf Coast Community College . We are thankful for every memory of his visit.

More recently, He told me he loved the pictures in his 2018 B'day card we sent of his baseball trophies & especially the one of me holding him in Lucedale(MS) Park. with his blonde hair. He will FOREVER be in our hearts & memories With loving thoughts of spending Eternity with him, Grandma & Papaw Hatcher.❤️

Mary Hatcher - June 17, 2019 at 04:21 PM

LU

Thank you, Mom, for posting these special memories of yours and Dad's. That was the summer he turned 18. He talked about that time as a spiritual awakening for him. Austin's collection of C.S. Lewis books, and that one special book by Watchman Née, "The Release of the Spirit" remain on his bookshelf. He loved to read and be challenged in his faith. We're so glad y'all got to share that time with him. God bless. Love y'all so very much!

Lucy - June 18, 2019 at 12:30 AM

MH

We love you all so much ❤️😭

Mary Hatcher - June 22, 2019 at 11:26 PM

KG

“Great kid and nephew with a warm, soft heart and contagious smile. See ya soon...absent from the body, present with our Lord! Prayers for wisdom and peace for Bill and Lucy and family, Love Always Uncle Ken and Aunt G

Ken and G - June 15, 2019 at 03:58 PM

LU

Ken and G, such fine words you offer us in memory of Austin, and the encouragement that he is with his Lord. Thank you for your prayers, especially for wisdom and peace as we seek both of those in this time of unanswered questions. Your love, as family, means everything to us, God bless! With all of our love from each one of us here.

Lucy - June 16, 2019 at 01:11 AM



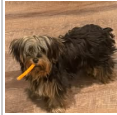
“Austin was one of my best friends growing up in Lisle. I met him in the third grade at our first Astros baseball practice. We were friends instantly. I have so many great memories with him from our trips to six flags to our endless days at the Lisle pool to the great baseball teams we were on together. I miss him more than ever. He was a very special and unique person that will live on forever in our hearts. My thoughts and prayers are with the Utleys. Love you Austin.

Mitchell Gihle - June 15, 2019 at 01:15 PM

LU

Mitch, what a great friendship y'all had, and you hit the highlights of all that was special to Austin whenever he talked about his 'growing up' years. Thank you for sharing, your words bring tears to my eyes. You and your family will forever be special to us. Your thoughts and prayers for us during this time of heartbreak are invaluable. God bless and much love from us.

lucy - June 16, 2019 at 12:55 AM



Austin was my lab partner and great friend for years at TCD in high school many laughs and times were shared my condolences to everyone that got to share an amazing time with such a wonderful soul! Scurtee.

Anthony West - July 06, 2019 at 08:26 PM

LU

*Anthony, thank you so much for adding your thoughts and condolences. I am just seeing this as I'm transferring these tributes to a Legacy site. Austin had good memories from his time at TCD so I'm sure you were part of that. I just found a picture of him with Mr. Scurtee, he always made Austin feel valued. God bless!
Lucy (Austin's Mom)*

lucy - September 16, 2019 at 01:05 AM



“ Sympathy Fruits Abound was purchased for the family of Austin Bryce Utley.



June 15, 2019 at 12:33 PM

LU

“ 1 file added to the album Family



lucy - June 14, 2019 at 01:25 PM

JV

“ My thoughts are with the Utley family during this difficult time . I had the pleasure of meeting Austin in 4th grade during little league baseball. Austin is a great friend and an even better person. He had the most creative mind I've ever met and gave me some of the best laughs of my life that I will never forget. Austin and his family are in my prayers.

James Venard



James Venard - June 13, 2019 at 07:18 PM

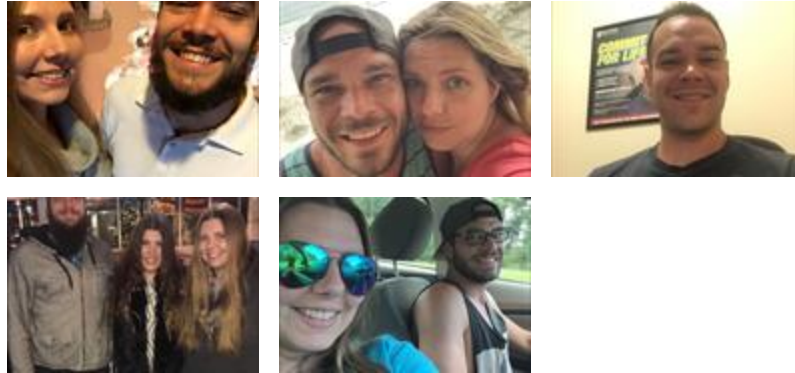
LU

Oh my goodness, your words made me cry! About a month ago, we sat around our table and Austin reminisced about his buddies in IL...so many great stories and memories. Thank you, James (always Jimmy to Austin) for sharing, and including the pictures. It means so much for us to hear from his friends. Also, thank you for keeping us in your prayers. God bless. With love from the Utley family.

Lucy - June 13, 2019 at 11:25 PM

JE

“ 13 files added to the album Austin



Jessika - June 10, 2019 at 01:26 PM

EM

“ *Bill and Lucy, my heart goes out to you in the loss of Austin. I pray that you will find comfort with the Lord and that he will give you peace that Austin is with him. Praying for the family. With deepest sympathy.*

Earline Martin

Earline B. Martin - June 10, 2019 at 10:35 AM

LU

Thank you, Earline, your prayers are much appreciated and much needed. We have no doubt that Austin loved the Lord and is with Him in heaven. God bless, and all our love to you from us!

Lucy - June 13, 2019 at 11:07 PM



“ *Pretty Please* was purchased for the family of Austin Bryce Utley.



June 08, 2019 at 09:06 AM



“ *Serene Retreat* was purchased for the family of Austin Bryce Utley.



June 07, 2019 at 01:14 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Austin Bryce Utley.



June 06, 2019 at 02:43 PM



“ *Days of Sunshine Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Austin Bryce Utley.



June 06, 2019 at 10:29 AM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Austin Bryce Utley.*



June 06, 2019 at 10:09 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Austin Bryce Utley.*



June 06, 2019 at 08:47 AM



“ *Rick & Laura Williams purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Austin Bryce Utley.*



Rick & Laura Williams - June 05, 2019 at 06:19 PM



“ *With heartfelt sympathy, your Habitat Family ” purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Austin Bryce Utley.*



With heartfelt sympathy, your Habitat Family ” - June 05, 2019 at 06:08 PM



“ *Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Austin Bryce Utley.*



June 05, 2019 at 03:44 PM



“ *Kate and Craig Holzhauser purchased the Laver Reflections Spray for the family of Austin Bryce Utley.*



Kate and Craig Holzhauser - June 05, 2019 at 03:36 PM



“ *Chris, Shelley, Luke, Logan and Sydney Hatcher purchased the Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet for the family of Austin Bryce Utley.*



Chris, Shelley, Luke, Logan and Sydney Hatcher - June 04, 2019 at 01:36 PM



“ *Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Austin Bryce Utley.*



June 04, 2019 at 01:12 PM

AF

“ Aunt Phyllis and uncle Wayne and family purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of Austin Bryce Utley.



Aunt Phyllis and uncle Wayne and family - June 03, 2019 at 08:48 PM

SH

“ I first met Austin as a 5 year-old kindergartener when he was in the same class as my son. Austin was vibrant, talkative, and always smiling. I loved that he was unsophisticated, just a warm hearted delightful boy. I remember fondly his visits to our house. My sincere condolences and much love to all of Austin's family and friends.

Shelly - June 03, 2019 at 02:57 PM

LU

Shelly, thank you so much for sharing. Austin loved your boys and always enjoyed his visits to your home! Hope we can get together soon and share the memories. God bless, with love from the Utley family

Lucy - June 13, 2019 at 10:51 PM