



Jeromiah Asher Drennan

July 11, 1997 - March 22, 2017

Jeromiah Asher Drennan, age 19, bravely passed away March 22, 2017, in Provo, Utah at Utah Valley Hospital due to respiratory complications associated with his disability. He was born the 11th of July, 1997 on the Isle of Wight in England to Deborah and Robert Drennan.

Jeromiah was inquisitive and mischievous at a young age, always asking questions wanting to know how and why things worked. At the age of three he was diagnosed with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, a terminal condition affecting muscle growth and regeneration. In 2006 he, along with his mother and siblings, relocated to live in Provo, Utah, gaining many new friends including a wonderful step-father and step-brother. He struggled further with his disability and lost the ability to walk in 2009. What Jeromiah lacked physically could never diminish his thirst for knowledge and brilliant intelligence. In 2008 he was recognized for achieving the top ten percent in the country in the Iowa testing for science. In 2011 he received the Utah Valley Chamber of Commerce Great Kid Award. In 2013 he was awarded a National Honor Society certificate of membership at Walden School of Liberal Arts. In 2016 he graduated from American International School of Utah as the Salutatorian, gaining his diploma with ACT honors and congressional scholastic award. His rousing salutatory speech gained a standing ovation.

Throughout his life he navigated numerous hospital and doctor visits, endured a feeding tube, full spinal fusion surgery, and several life sustaining machines with dignity and bravery. His hobbies included transcribing and listening to music, anything and everything computer related, keeping up to date with nerdy YouTube videos and blogs. He thoroughly enjoyed nature programs and documentaries. He was passionate about urban planning, the environment, maps, transport, and politics. More recently he had been working on his own blog titled: "the Ramblings of Jeromiah." He was adept at making and designing things digitally. His latest project was creating interchangeable widgets for his computer interface to look exactly like several London Underground station maps. He was a gifted writer and all around genius who loved to share his knowledge to help others. All of this he did with an affectionate, dry sense of humor. He thoroughly enjoyed attending institute class at Utah Valley University. Jeromiah was a faithful, determined, and honorable young man always devoted to righteousness, delighted in serving others, diligent in his callings, desiring always to be better and accomplish more.

Jem, as he was affectionately called, is survived by his great-grandmother May Ellison; grandparents, John and Joan Ellison, Christine Mayhew, James Drennan, Burt and Lula Knudson, and Gerrel Knudson; his parents Bryce and Deborah Knudson, and Robert Drennan; siblings, Aaron James Drennan, Lucy Bea Drennan, and Tor Bjorn Knudson.

Jem was preceded in death by his uncle Robert Ellison and great-grandfather Douglas Ellison.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, April 8th 10:00 am at the Freedom Stake Center 835 South 500 West in Provo. A light buffet and sharing of happy memories will follow the service.

Thank you to all those who loved Jeromiah, encouraged him, and helped him to achieve his highest potential. He touched the lives of many everywhere he went. Thank you for the outpouring of support and love at this difficult time.

Please share memories of how he touched your life and condolences at www.serenityfhs.com.

If you would like to contribute to help off-set Jem's medical expenses, you can do so by clicking here: [Jeromiah Asher Drennan Memorial Donation Fund]https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_donations&business=6ZLXVLGXEKQN2&lc=US&item_name=Jeromiah%20Asher%20Drennan%20Memorial%20Account¤cy_code=USD&bn=PP%2dDonationsBF%3abt%3adonateCC_LG%2egif%3aNonHosted

Contributions can also be made at any Zion's Bank branch throughout the state by asking for the Jeromiah Asher Drennan Memorial Donation Fund. Thank you!

Comments



“ I had many classes with Jem at Walden. He was a fantastic piece to our Walden family. We will miss you.



Kaitlyn - April 08, 2017 at 11:11 PM



“ I went to school with Jem, he was in my class when I was a 4th grader, and he was a 6th grader. He was always funny and sarcastic, but he was also very kind. God bless him.



Lexi Hanson - April 08, 2017 at 11:02 PM



“ I went to school with Jem. I had biology with him. I always appreciated his sarcasm and wish I had gotten to know him better. Bless his soul.

Harry McLane - April 08, 2017 at 08:11 PM



“ One of the best friends I ever had, and one of the very first at Walden, I met Jem when I had nearly given up on education, and had no friends in a new school, the first time I had ever been to a new school. We instantly clicked, all of the same interests, and the biggest nerds around. I'll always remember seeing him working on his computer in the commons, waiting for someone to come help him up the elevator, being excited that someone hadn't beaten me to it. We made robots together, set up a game server on the school wifi (when we weren't supposed to) and even helped map the moon. Nearly every other friend I made at Walden was because of Jem, he just had an aura of welcomeness about him, that every kind person wanted to be near. He was inspiring not just because he managed with his affliction, but that he excelled, and brought everyone close to him along as he did. Jem was one of the people who helped me figure out what my passion was, and I wouldn't be where I am today without his inspiration and friendship. I hope I can carry his curiosity, faith and kindness with me to my own adventures that lie ahead. We love you Jem.

John Hammond - April 08, 2017 at 06:00 PM



“ We had science together the first year I ever attended Walden. I was extremely shy and he would always make sarcastic remarks and crack jokes to me. He and I were never close, but he was seriously one of the kindest, sweetest souls I have ever met. I'm so thankful I have these memories with him even though there are few. My condolences to the family.

Ciara - April 08, 2017 at 12:20 AM



“ Jem was an inspiration to everyone he came in contact with! His wisdom and character were an example to the entire school. Much love from the students and staff of AISU.
-Annie Romano

Annie Romano - April 06, 2017 at 03:30 PM



“ Please accept my sincere sympathy for the passing of Jem. I enjoyed seeing him and his mother and sister on my train in the mornings. I was amazed at his courage and ability to navigate the world in which he moved about. What a strong young man. It was an honor and pleasure to have served Jem and your family as you rode the morning train to school.
R. Kauffmann, FrontRunner Train Host

R. Kauffmann - April 05, 2017 at 10:15 AM



“ Thank you so much for contacting us at FrontRunner. I am so so sorry to hear the news. Jem, his sister and mother rode my train quite a bit. Due to my schedule changing every 4 months, I hadn't seen him in awhile and often wondered how he was doing. I remember how shocked I was when I found out the 2 women he was with was his Mom and his Sister! I thought they were both his sisters! What an awesome Family! Thanks again for informing us, our customers become part of our world and we are thankful that you would share his accomplishments and his passion with us. FrontRunner Train Host Marni

Marni - April 04, 2017 at 03:00 PM



“ Jem radiated wisdom, intelligence, a sense of humor, and a deep, abiding peace. We can only guess at the frustrations and sadnesses he must have felt from time to time, but he was nothing but gracious and generous with his classmates and teachers. I loved his presence at Walden; We missed him when he moved on, but we are so proud of him for all that he accomplished.

Last year, Tyler stopped by my office to talk for a few minutes. I asked him about his own life and about Jem. Tyler can be hard to read at times—stoic and mysterious—but as he spoke about Jem, his voice faltered, his eyes filled, and the love he felt for his long-time friend filled the room with a clear and powerful sense of connection.

I am grateful, that I was lucky enough to know Jem and his beautiful family for a brief moment in time. My life is better for it.

Diana West - April 03, 2017 at 05:52 PM



“ The last time I saw Jem he was coming out of the Provo Temple after completing some baptisms for the dead. I talked to Deborah and she told me how much Jem wanted to serve a mission and how he was really into indexing and family search. Jem has been called home to serve in the Lord's vineyard on the other side of the veil. He will be missed on this earth, but it will be said of him, "Well done thy good and faithful servant."

May God's blessings of peace be with his family at this time.

Amy Roan

Amy Roan - April 01, 2017 at 09:09 PM



“ I remember the boy scout trip when our troop took Jem to Havasupi with them. My boys were so excited as they planned how they would help him get around. They made a litter and carried him to the waterfalls. They still talk about it. Jeremiah touched many lives. My heart goes out to his family as we mourn with them. God be with you 'til we meet again.

Cindy Butcher - March 30, 2017 at 11:29 PM



“ I met him as a Train Host on the FrontRunner. He always had a smile for me, and he was more than willing to talk to me about whatever he was working on. Recently, when he found out my computer crashed, he got on KSL. Com and found similar ones that were in my budget so I wouldn't be without for long. He radiated Light, and I always loved being around him.

Jeanne - March 30, 2017 at 10:05 AM



“ Some of my favorite memories of Jem include him always passing the sacrament. He was always such an example to my little boys when they would see him and often his little brother or dad pushing him down the aisles. I also remember him laughing at how crazy my boys were when we would visit. Sweet Deborah would get the trains and cars out for them and he would watch them and occasionally look over and see me sigh out of exhaustion from trying to keep up with them. But probably the most profound memory I have of him is when we helped with a fundraiser for him and in an interview about his illness, he said something to the effect of "seeing all these people come together. Maybe this is why I have this disease" I will always remember him for that perspective. We love you, Drennans and Knudsons!
Love
Rachelle Olmos

rachelle olmos - March 29, 2017 at 10:56 PM



“ It was the 4th of July. There were fireworks and booming explosions of color and sound and a walk back to the car afterward that seemed like it would NEVER end. That's how I met Jeremiah on the day he came to live here. He embraced that long walk...there were streams and new plants and ducks and new people, and he was interested in all of it. If he got tired, I didn't know about it...Deborah though...let's just say she knew when enough was enough! Awesome mom! It was a beautiful night...just like the night he left. Run Jeremiah. Feel the rain on your face and the strength in your body, and know you were a light to us all!

Gary Killpack - March 29, 2017 at 08:03 PM



“ Beautiful words and images Gary. Thanks for sharing your memories.
Ethan - March 30, 2017 at 02:09 AM



“ I feel lucky to have been one of Jem's teachers at Walden. He was inquisitive and curious, a hard worker, and a kind soul. Though he was small, he was mighty--both in stature and in voice. I remember his somewhat quiet and shy voice, but the whole class would listen attentively every time he spoke because they knew it would be either an interesting question or a profound comment. He would light up the room wherever he went. Although I have fond memories in the classroom, my favorite memory of Jem was found far outside the classroom walls. I went on a hiking/camping trip to Havasupai Falls. Some friends and I had hiked 10 miles down the canyons into the campground. We set up and set out to go find some waterfalls. On our way to the falls, we ran into a boy scout troop. The group of young boys were walking towards us carrying one of their troop in a chariot-like contraption. I looked up to the young man being carried and saw it was Jem! We said hello and expressed surprise upon running into each other at the bottom of the Grand Canyon! I thought it was amazing that this group of boys had found a way to bring Jem along with them and loved that Jem, the curious soul that he was, was enjoying every second of this beautiful hike!

Beverly Pecoraro - March 29, 2017 at 03:36 PM



“ I was Jem's science and technology teacher at Walden School for several years and had the great pleasure of having him in 3D modeling, computer programming, and other classes. He helped record all the data for an environmental science study we did of soils in the Tintic Mining District, and gave everything he could to every project I assigned him. He was not limited in his curiosity or intellect, his sense of humor, or his compassion for others. As his body got weaker his spirit grew stronger; he was an incredible example to me and everyone around him. I saw him solve challenges that would have daunted a lesser person, but he faced them with optimism and hope. He never gave up.

I wrote a blog post a month ago about an upcoming trip to Indonesia through a State Department program and talked about my hope to build bridges of understanding between our cultures. Jem read the post and wrote the following comment:

"I really enjoyed this post! I haven't read your blog in a while, so I thought I would check it out again. I hope all goes well in Indonesia! I've been having a hard time with all the recent events, the anger, the fear, and your post was very helpful to me. --Jem"

He wrote this on March 18, just four days before he died. I'm glad that what I wrote was helpful to him. I miss you, Jem. God Speed!

-David Black



David Black - March 28, 2017 at 03:44 PM



“ I was privileged to be Jem's teacher. He had what I consider one of the most important attributes to success in life--he gave his best on everything he did. Every single piece of work he did was done to the best of his ability. It didn't matter what it was, but he gave 100%. In my life, I try to follow his example. Another funny memory I have about Jem is that whenever I would tell a particularly corny or silly joke (which was frequent), he would just smile and shake his head. In some ways it was like an eye roll (I don't think he actually rolled his eyes though--not that I remember), but it didn't convey annoyance like eye rolls can. The way I took it was, "That was a very, very bad joke, but I genuinely appreciate the attempt."

Great kid. Great person.

Carl Young - March 28, 2017 at 09:34 AM



“ I remember Jem from the days at Walden. He was always a joy to have around. He did not say much but when he did, he seemed to be cracking a joke. I missed seeing him and Tyler as a duo around the grounds of Walden when he left. I remember the last time he came to visit! Always a wonderful, kind, funny young man. We will miss you dearly, Jem!



Hannah - March 27, 2017 at 11:01 PM



“ I taught Jem for two years in elementary school. He was fun to have around. I remember the other students fighting over whose turn it was to be Jem's buddy - making sure to hold the doors and help him maneuver through the crowds - because everyone wanted to do it. Jem will be profoundly missed.

Shelly Gramajo - March 27, 2017 at 09:39 PM



“ Jeremiah and I became fast friends years ago when we met. When I was a broken, lost, non believer and human trafficking victim. I hadn't yet identified with all that, but that was what I was. He always knew my name. "Hi Laurin" or "HEY!" When I would walk in this church, not knowing anyone, being scared, and hearing his chipper voice. I have always loved his family dearly, so special. Jeremiah was one of those old souls, who remembered me from the spirit world, it was kinda if he had been expecting to see me at some point. He would show up at events I'd do to feed and bring coats to the homeless. We sat beside each other as I put together sandwiches once, he said it quietly, I heard it clearly, he said "like Jesus, going after the one lamb." Now behold God, the precious lamb of God. Holy is the lamb. You love us so Lord, we shall never know. I saw him run in the down pour of rain, into his Heavenly Mothers arms. She stood tall, to embrace him, he was taller than she, standing, they embraced. She's holding, our precious lamb of God. Mercy now Lord, as I stand now in the middle of my tears, behold our lamb.

Laurin Crosson - March 27, 2017 at 06:12 PM



“ Jem was a very special student here at AISU. He touched so many people in so many ways, and was such a pleasure to work with. Jem was an inspiration to all that knew him. I will particularly remember his graduation speech and how powerful it was. We talked prior to that day about it because he was shy about reading it out loud, he didn't want to read it at first. He, obviously, got up the courage, as he did for many things, and delivered a speech that was amazing. I always appreciated Jem's quiet, yet strong, personality, his wry sense of humor and his intelligent mind. Jem will always hold a special place in my heart. My deepest sympathies to Deborah and Lucy and all of his family. ~ Karen Kendall

Karen Kendall - March 27, 2017 at 01:54 PM



“ Thank you Karen, you made a huge difference in his life.
-Deborah

Deborah Knudson - March 27, 2017 at 04:02 PM



“ Jeromiah, you are an amazing young man. I always loved sitting in sacrament meeting and seeing you pass the sacrament. What a handsome man you became. We will see you again in your glorified tabernacle.

Mary Devonshire - March 27, 2017 at 04:39 PM



“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Serenity Funeral Home - March 27, 2017 at 11:44 AM