

In Loving Memory of *Jerry Nicholas Ballas*

- * HS Graduate with Advanced Regents Diploma & 4.2 GPA
- * Northeastern University Acceptance, but now in the very best, University of Heaven
- * Eagle Scout 2/2022
- * National Junior Honor Society & National Honor Society Member
- * Tri-M Music Honor Society Member

- * NYSSMA Level 6 Piano
Level 5 Cello
- * Music Composer
- * Tennis Player
- * Avid Chess, Monopoly, & Magic the Gathering Player
- * Huge Star Wars Fan
- * Wise, Intelligent, Fun-Loving, Silly, Funny, Caring, Compassionate, Peacemaker, "OLD SOUL"

*An Angel on Earth,
Now An Angel in Heaven*

1/9/05 – 8/20/23

"A Scout is Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean, and Reverent"

Jerry exemplifies each and every one of these principles.

*Jerry was diagnosed with Ewing Sarcoma, a rare pediatric cancer, in his HS Sophomore year, on April 2021. In spite of the cancer and all the treatment side effects, Jerry maintained a loving, positive attitude and gave hope and encouragement to others! He never once complained, instead, continued to be his normal self, offering love & laughter. Everything he said & did was for the sole purpose of making others feel good, special. His friends say that he is the reason they are so close. He brought people together. He brought people love & happiness. Simply put,
*He Made Life Better.**

*We Honor Jerry by
Spreading His Love*





Peace & Love, the 2 signs Jerry made with his loving hands, representing the essence of who he was and is...

Special Memories of Jerry...

"Jerry was not just a student; he was a shining example of kindness, compassion, and a zest for life. His infectious smile and positive attitude brought joy to everyone around him. Whether it was in the classroom, on the sports field, or during extracurricular activities, Jerry had a remarkable ability to uplift those around him.

I had the privilege of witnessing his unwavering dedication to his studies. He approached every task with enthusiasm and a genuine love for learning. His passion for life was evident in his pursuit of knowledge and his eagerness to explore new ideas. Jerry was not just a bright student; he was a true inspiration to his peers and teachers alike.

Beyond his academic achievements, Jerry had a profound impact on the school community. He was always there to lend a helping hand, offering support and encouragement to his classmates. His caring nature extended beyond the classroom, as he actively participated in community service initiatives and volunteered his time to make a difference in the lives of others."

"I made pastitsio (a greek dish) and was very unsure of how it came out. But your wonderful boy, realizing I was unsure of how it tasted, turned to me with his beautiful eyes and smile, and told me it was the best pastitsio he had ever tasted...I'm pretty sure he was lying :) "

"One of the times that Jerry came to Youth group at church, we split into groups, and each group needed to perform a Christmas-themed skit. Jerry's group did the Polar Express, and Jerry acted as the know-it-all kid with the glasses. He was hysterical! The entire room was laughing so hard!"

"While I have too many memories to recount, Jerry biking to my house to deliver food to boost my mood when I was down though the sun was already set is something I will remember for the rest of my life. His love will always be remembered."

"At our Boy Scout camp, our friend cut his leg and out of nowhere, Jerry pulled a First Aid kit from literally out of his pants and helped our friend."

Jerry worked at the drive-thru at McDonald's. "One day, I overheard Jerry speaking in an accent so I went to see what was going on. He was speaking to every customer in the drive thru in a different accent. I thought it was so funny how each person was reacting. I also loved our conversations on the bus. We had hour-long talks about our love for coffee and food, especially breakfast and fried rice!"

"Before I met him, I thought I knew music pretty well. Wow, was I wrong. He was a genius in music. I was always amazed by his playing, and his knowledge of Star Wars."

"No matter how he was feeling, he was always smiling. He made me smile every time I saw him"

*"I loved everything about Jerry...
The constant glimmer in his eyes;
His persistently hopeful and positive attitude, especially in the midst of adversity, pain,
and suffering;
The way he made everyone feel as if they were the center of his universe, always
focusing on others rather than himself, and making everyone around him feel seen,
heard, understood and loved, even without words.
And I especially love the peace and comfort I always felt around him.
There's not a single thing I didn't love about Jerry."*

*"You were like a role model. You were funny, always filled with joy, taught me how to
play Magic the Gathering card game, destroyed me in tennis, and even opened a
YouTube channel with me where we would edit funny videos."*

*"Even through his pain and sickness, he would not let his illness be a deterrent to his
goals. He even taught himself the entire Chemistry curriculum while out of school and
acted like it was "no big deal!" While totally amazed, I wasn't surprised. Because of his
indomitable spirit I learned to not suffer the small stuff and cherish every moment."*

*"The 1st time I met him in Freshman year, he was my partner and the most wholesome,
friendly and welcoming person. He was one of the people who made high school not so
scary."*

*"The amazing talent he had for cello was something I only dreamed of when I played
the cello. Jerry was a wonderful leader in Troop 214."*

*"My son was a new scout and Jerry took him right under his wing and made him feel
very welcome and feel right at home."*

*"I remember Jerry always greeting me with his warm smile in the hall or in the
cafeteria, genuinely interested in how I was doing and how my day was going. His kind
heart and compassion for everyone was reflected in every conversation."*

"Jerry grabbed life and lived no matter what, he did not waste a second"

*"Jerry was always making people around him smile. This unassuming kid wearing his
Star Wars shirts was one of the toughest people I have ever encountered."*

*"Jerry was in Community Kids Club in 5th Grade. He was such an amazing and
compassionate kid! He only got better from there."*

*"He had such a great sense of humor. I am in awe of his character and integrity. He is
an amazing role model of dignity and selflessness."*

"Jerry invariably brought his infectious sense of joy with him."

"He taught me how to swim."

"I've been thinking about Jerry's gentle personality and how eager he was to help both his parents in caring for his sister. I had never seen that in a child before and he could change her mood/attitude in about 10 minutes. One day, Tess was studying with Georgia and both were showing signs of frustration. With no instruction or guidance, Jerry stepped in, played with Georgia for about 10 minutes and at the end of the time, she was her smiley self again. It was fun to watch the both of them roll around the floor and laugh together. At the end of their break time, both Tess and Georgia were ready for another round of study. Jerry did this without a sign or hint or resistance or refusal. What a rare talent for such a young boy. We are all blessed that we knew him.

On another note, Jerry interacted with me freely, with no signs of hesitation or shyness. We played games together and he ALWAYS beat me. I had only a very small edge in Scrabble. I liked playing ping-pong with him and knowing that I had arthritic joints, he willingly retrieved all of my balls that went astray and fell off the table. I did not ask him to do that, he did it spontaneously and never complained. How many people show that kind of compassion? Again, I was blessed by his kindness and am fortunate to have experienced it."

"I remember a very quiet little boy, and saw him blossom into a confident young man with plenty of personality, and a will of iron. Mostly I remember seeing how patient and good he was with his sister, and celebrating his Eagle Merit."

"I was so amazed because he had such a musical ear and picked up the song we played without any sheet music. He had such passion about the way he played. He is truly a diamond in the rough. I love your family and I know that Jerry was the best big brother anyone could imagine."

"He was so kind & polite & excited about what he was learning. The light and kindness in his eyes will always stay with me."

"So very brave - ALWAYS in good spirits and optimistic! An inspiration to all! May he help God with his work in Heaven."

"I clearly remember when we were at a BBQ thinking what a fantastic brother Georgia had! He was so phenomenal the way he interacted with her. I knew he was special!"

"Jerry always inspired me and continues to inspire what I do every day. He was one of the kindest and strongest people I had the privilege to know."

"Jerry was a boy who knew what he wanted and he would do anything he could to get it."

"He was such an amazing brother to his sister. An amazing son."

"He is so full of life, personality, and joy."