



June Embla Smiley

December 20, 2018 - June 14, 2020

June Embla Smiley, age 1 1/2, went to be greeted by her ancestors on Sunday, June 14, 2020 at Niswonger's Children's Hospital. June was the daughter of Andrew and Yvonne Smiley, Bluff City, TN.

June was a brave and strong fighter of HLHS. Her half heart worked twice as hard with not even half the help given to others with the same CHD. She was a sweet and happy sassy little girl who loved to laugh, smile and give side eye. She loved to laugh and grin at her older brother, Edward as he played with her. She loved many things especially her stuffed unicorn that she would wrap her little fingers around it's iridescent horn. It would bring her comfort. She found joy in the little things like the sponges used to give her water little bits at a time. She loved to chew on these and hold them. Her favorite bedtime movie was Peter Rabbit and as the special little girl she was she loved Frozen, Beauty and the Beast, The Little Mermaid, and Tangled. She was a well-known celebrity at Children's Hospital of Pittsburg (UPMC). When she was home she loved sitting outside under the trees watching her brother, momma, and daddy play and work in the yard.

June leaves behind many dear loved ones to carry on her legacy; her Momma and Daddy; big brother Edward Smiley; paternal grandparents, Sharon Rickman and Anthony and Susan Smiley; maternal grandmother, Debbie Childs; aunt, Amy Blide; uncle Brandon Smiley; special cousins whom she never got to meet Ameliana Childs, Sean Blide and Leila Blide. Several other family members and dear friends are also left to carry on her beautiful memory.

The family would like to extend a special thank you to the many nurses, doctors, therapists, supportive care, and admin who loved her and supported the family during her illness. They became more like family.

There will be a gathering and potluck at the family's home Saturday the 27th of June to celebrate June Bug's life and to say goodbye. Please contact Drew or Yvonne for more information.

Tribute Wall

SR

“ A note to June Embla Smiley, my beautiful baby Granddaughter, I loved you since the day that your inception was announced. In Joyful anticipation, we awaited your arrival. Before long, we learned that you would be a beautiful Baby Girl. Edward would be a big Brother to his little Sis. We could shop for “girlie clothes”. Eager excitement abound.

Then came the news of your heart defect. The chamber of your left ventricle had not fully formed; a reminder that you might be called ‘home’ to the Spiritual World before we were ready, a reminder of how special life is, of how special your life is <<was>>, to Us.

Your Momma and Daddy love you so much and searched the world over to find the right hospital and the right doctors, as they wanted you to experience all the Love we have had for you since the moment your conception was made known. Dr. Jen painted a very precise picture, even with the best surgeons, the odds were against you, but your indomitable will prevailed.

We all came together in Pittsburgh to welcome you into the world and shower you with Love. Your brother, Ga and I cheered each update from your daddy, who was in the delivery room with your momma. Within seconds of being born, you were whisked away for your first surgery. We prayed, I prayed, I had many conversations with the Angels watching over us. You did great. Your Momma was able to be with you and your Daddy before they transferred her to another hospital across town. The Universe was providing. The picture of your momma tending to you still warms my heart. You’ve been through so much, defied so many odds and you would still Smile. Your smile brought me joy and hope. I loved reading to you and making you smile.

Your Momma and Daddy became your strongest advocates. It wasn’t easy, but they held onto each other which multiplied their strength. Daddy grew his business during this time, instead of looking to work for someone else. “The obstacle is the Way.” He did this so he could set his own hours, as to not miss any important appointments, procedures, or just being there for you.

This winter you were discharged from CHP. You got to go to your Home in Tennessee. It was a long snowy drive. Your Momma, Daddy and Brother had the look of Joy on their faces during that journey. When you arrived, Odd Kitty would snuggle you, and this calmed your heart rate down. You go to go on some outings and know a more natural life, away from the hospital, away from the city. You’ve capture the hearts of so many people around the world. The morning you earned your wings, I wept, we all wept. “Tu me manques”, French for ‘you are missing from me’. Get your ‘sugar’ from your namesake, June, Your Great Granny, Your Great Grammy, and all the others that came to greet you. I love you Junebug! You will forever be in my heart!

Love, YaYa

Sharon Rickman - September 02, 2020 at 07:09 AM

DC

“*Sunshine, Lollypops and Rainbows, I will forever see your smiling eyes as I sang to you. Sweet baby girl, my heart is so broken. So much life in too short a time, you are in my heart forever... my sweet baby granddaughter... whole again... no more struggle. For all you went through to be here in our lives, you are a warrior, a true miracle. You smiled through it all. Now I must try to smile through the tears and honor your struggle. You left a very big hole in so many hearts, little one...only the best can do that. Rest in Peace, my little Junebug.... till I can sing to you once again!*”

Deborah Childs - July 19, 2020 at 11:34 PM

HI

“*Heather Coghill IN. lit a candle in memory of June Embla Smiley*”



Heather Coghill IN. - June 24, 2020 at 06:56 PM



“*Heart Wind Chime - Bronze was purchased for the family of June Embla Smiley.*”



June 24, 2020 at 06:18 PM

RA

“*Sharon...there are no words..just know that you have your Indiana family sending you and your family so much love and many hugs. God bless you all.*”

Roberta & Mike Arthur - June 24, 2020 at 07:44 AM

KB

“*Praying for you Drew and Yvonne and the rest of the family. June knew what it felt like to be loved beyond measure by her family. I pray God will heal your heart one day at a time.*”

Kathy Bales - June 23, 2020 at 08:45 PM