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In Memory of Ryan Scott Speakman

JANUARY 08TH 2024 BY DEE LOFLIN

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In loving memory of Ryan Scott Speakman, a vibrant soul whose passion for life illuminated the world around him. Ryan, age 21, departed from us on January 2, 2024, leaving an indelible mark on the hearts of those fortunate enough to know him.

Born on July 24, 2002, Ryan, immediately dubbed Bubba, embraced a position of love and support for those around him. Armed with an unrivaled intuition, an aim to aid, he created a place of comfort for those he loved. In his early years, his compassion began with a "look, I made you a spot." or "I got you a present to make you feel better." His considerate nature and compassion only grew with each passing day.

Bubba embraced the wonders of learning, immersing himself in the world of literature, engaging in spirited debates, and nurturing a profound love for the arts. His dream of running an art store coupled with a cozy coffee shop, where personal connections could thrive, reflected his deep appreciation for human connection.

Bubba aspired to explore the beauty of our diverse world. His zest for life extended to his love for games and anime, bringing joy and laughter to gatherings with friends. His genuine affection for everyone, especially his nieces and nephews, created a warm and welcoming presence.

Bubba's role as "Uncle Bubba" began in 2008, marking the start of a beautiful chapter in his life. From the age of 6, he embraced the responsibilities of unclehood with sincerity, ensuring each niece and nephew felt cherished and unique. His genuine interest in their pursuits, whether it was playing "pee pie" or offering artistic guidance, solidified bonds and provided a love that will endure for a lifetime.

He is survived by his parents, Paul Speakman and Julie Wilson Speakman of Jackson, Missouri; by two brothers, Josh Speakman and wife Keandra of Advance, Missouri, and Dillan Wilhite of Jackson, Missouri; by three sisters, Emily Maddox and husband Robert of Lake Wappapello, Missouri, Jessica Hildebrand of Scott City, Missouri, and Kayli Leible and husband Andrew of Benton, Missouri; by his best friend, Derek Mathena; by his maternal grandparents, Carl Joe and Sheila Wilson of Sikeston, Missouri,

and Lee Hufford (Bruno O’Guinn) of Poplar Bluff, Missouri; by his paternal grandparents, Howard and Paula Pikey of DeRidder, Louisiana; by eleven nieces and nephews, Knava Speakman, Josh Speakman II, Mariah Johnson, Shiloh Price, Morrighan Maddox, Robert Maddox, Bennett Scott Wilhite, Ashlynn Hildebrand, Tage Hildebrand, Emeri Leible, and Clayton Leible; and by lots of loving aunts, uncles and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his maternal grandfather, Larry Hufford; his paternal grandmother, Pauline Pikey; and by his paternal grandfather, Colin Speakman.

In celebrating Bubba's life, let us remember the love he showered upon us all. His absence leaves a void, but his spirit lives on through the memories of joy, laughter, and connections he shared with everyone. The world was undoubtedly brighter with Bubba in it, and his legacy of love will forever echo in our hearts.

Visitation will be held at Mathis Funeral Home in Dexter on Monday, January 8, 2024, from 12:00 p.m. until 2:00 p.m. Funeral services will then be conducted in the Mathis Funeral Home Chapel on Monday, January 8, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. Interment will follow in the Bernie Cemetery.

Mathis Funeral Home in Dexter is assisting with arrangements.

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