

IN LOVING MEMORY OF RYAN DAVID NICHOLS

2/2/1996 - 5/3/2018

*In Loving Memory of a beloved
twin brother and son who
passed away 8 years ago.*



Ryan, it is like living in a parallel universe, unbelievably, eight years since you physically left this world and it will never, ever seem real. It will never make any sense, that such a good young man, such a wonderful, intelligent, caring person, is not continuing to enrich our lives with his kindness, empathy and sense of humor. Every single day hurts for so many of us, but the anniversary brings back the earth-shattering pain, utter shock and complete disbelief that this could have even happened. We are comforted by the knowledge the your incredible spirit permanently touched so many lives and that you will always be a part of so many people. The impact you had on those you met was profound, but pales in comparison to the indelible impression you made on everyone who knew you. Your impact and your legacy live on, and although you have shown that you're with us, missing your daily hug and "I love you" before bedtime, and all the laughter and warm conversations, is excruciating. You are missed by so many.

While your loving, kind and fun spirit will always live in our hearts, our love without your hugs, your "I love you's", your laugh and smile is a heartache that never abates.

Your loss created holes in so many hearts. That this happened to you proved that it can happen to anyone, and with that, you have improved some lives even more. The unthinkable, the unfathomable, will always be so surreal to everyone you touched. It just can't be that you're not physically here with us. We were so proud of the boy you were and the young man you had become. You had so many innate qualities that made you special...ones that aren't taught. You were too good, too happy, too kind and had too much potential to not be personally continuing to make the world better for decades to come.

We have to find some comfort in knowing that You will always live on in so many that you touched in your twenty-two years:

Your entire extended family who loved being part of your life.

Many great family friends who were like aunts and uncles to you from Day One.

Fellow students and teachers you befriended throughout elementary school and high school. Fellow students from all over the world, and even professors you befriended, in business school at university.

Teammates on all your baseball, basketball, football and hockey teams over the years...even some players from other towns with whom you formed continued relationships for many subsequent years.

Bonds with neighbors and continued bonds with former neighbors.

Co-workers and customers at Hannaford over six years who complimented you then, and compliment you now. A young lady you worked with expressing that you were such a "beautiful person".

Co-workers at Vermont Lake Monsters and Vermont State Parks.

So many great memories for so many people, all of whom have shared that they will always hold you in such high regard.

Loved ones and great friends having tattoos in your honor. Friends having vivid dreams of you interacting with them. A great friend writing a song in your honor. A young co-worker legally changing his middle name to Ryan to honor you. The new owner of our last home planting a Maple Tree in your honor.

So many of us will always remember the "inside jokes" or "catch phrases" we had with you, inevitably resulting in that wonderful contagious laugh. We know that you are still laughing and smiling with us when those come to mind.

Even with the bottomless grief that we feel...the heartbreak and devastation, let us continue to hold Ryan's spirit so precious and allow it to work through us to make our lives, and by extension, others' lives better.

Take some comfort knowing that his twenty-two years were filled with so much laughter, peace and love. He will always be loved by so many people. He achieved and experienced so much and was such an amazing person in his twenty-two years, but we will never get the chance to see how much more Ryan could have done.

We are immensely blessed to be his parents, his brother, his relatives and his friends.

Ryan, you taught us so much...an old soul with maturity and wisdom well beyond your years...an incredible young man who had so much to offer. We all lost out when we lost you, Ryan. Your amazing sense of humor and quick wit made you even more lovable. Having friends from seven different decades, of so many different nationalities and races, spoke volumes to your character and integrity and also to the strength of your relationships and bonds. You are the driving force that gets us through each day as you made us better with your kindness, wisdom and gentle demeanor. You were a special young man. As we emulate as many of your qualities as possible, you continue to live on and make this world a better place. Ryan, we can still hear your deep, long, contagious laugh several times a day. Your voice and your warmth ever present. Your awesome smile and beautiful eyes, etched in our minds forever. We feel your absence in everything we do. You are so greatly missed. We love you Ryan. You are always with us.

- Alex, Mom and Dad