



Janae Diane Stephenson

MAR 7, 1976 - JAN 23, 2019



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Janae Diane (Peterson) Stephenson (42) of South Jordan, UT, passed away on Wednesday, January 23rd 2019 peacefully at home while surrounded by her family.

The following obituary was written by Janae:

“I was diagnosed with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (aka. Lou Gehrig’s disease or ALS) in June 2008. As this disease began to work its way through my body, it was devastating to experience the ongoing and steady muscle atrophy, the lost physical abilities. My life plans for the next 50 years were wiped away and I was left with a blank slate. I was shocked. I was furious. I grieved. And then (even though it is easier said than done), I decided to try and proceed with my life, trusting in God, that even though things did not seem okay—in the end they would, in fact, be okay.

Born to Martin and Louise (Reese) Peterson (Hyde Park, Utah) on March 7, 1976, I am the middle child with two older sisters, Heidi (D.J. Risk) and Kristen (Charles Ford), and two younger brothers, Steven (Lindsay) and Jared (Lisa). I grew up in Hyde Park, Utah. While attending Utah State University, I met my best friend. On March 20, 1998, I married that best friend and sweetheart, Jeff Stephenson (son of Scott and LaKay Stephenson of Orem, Utah), in the LDS Bountiful Temple. I graduated from USU with a degree in Landscape Architecture and spent four years working in this profession until our first child was born. I was grateful to have the option of being a stay-at-home mom. After Erik was born, Claire and Megan also joined our family. After the birth of our first child, there were the occasional design projects, and a variety of church callings, but mostly my days were filled with everything mom. I’d like to think that I wasn’t “just a mom,” but a “MOM!” Cookie making, trips to the library and museums, mountain hikes, pushing jogging strollers for countless miles, bug catching, band aids, art projects, parks, planting seeds, picnics, mediating the “it’s not fair” events, timeouts, tears, a lot of laughing, and hugs and kisses. I would do it all over again and I am thankful for the time I had. I want to thank Jeff for being my sweetheart and caregiver. For all that I have had to face, he has had to face it, too. Being a caregiver is one of the most difficult challenges in life; as a caregiver you see the good and the bad. Through all these years, Jeff has been a rock. He’s been a provider for our family. I want to



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thank him for who he is and what he's done. He really is a hero. My family and I are forever grateful for all the love, support, and kind deeds we've been given. As you remember me, I hope you'll remember that life really is a journey—and it's possible to find joy in that journey no matter the challenges we face.”

A viewing will be held on Sunday, January 27th from 5:30 to 8:30 pm at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints chapel located at 11685 South Kestrel Rise Road, South Jordan, UT. A viewing will be held prior to the funeral service on Monday from 9:30 to 10:30. Funeral services will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, January 28 at the same chapel.

If you wish to send flowers, please do, she always loved them. If you wish to support the family in another way please coordinate with Libby Tallerico 435-512-7657 (txt) or Joe Ross 801-706-6992.



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MM

Matthew D McBride posted:

I met Jane while attending USU. She was an amazing light those of us who surrounded her. I was shocked to hear of her passing, so grateful to know her. It sounds like she continued to have an amazing influence on those around her including her spouse and children. I suppose until we meet again Janae! Thank you for influencing my life!

November 23 at 9:58 PM

AC

Aurora Clark posted:

Rest well beautiful. I am grateful for the friendship we shared during my Utah years and will never forget trying to keep up with you during one of those jogging stroller climbs. I still have the photo you took of me huffing and puffing with my double wide Graco while you tried so hard not to burst out laughing at my spaghetti arms trying to push that thing uphill. I was no match for you lol. Jeff, you are in my prayers as are your sweet children.

January 30 at 9:19 AM



Joyce Siler posted:

Martin and Louise, so sorry to hear of the passing of your dear Janae. My heart aches for you and for her family. What a sweet girl! Joyce Siler

January 27 at 2:06 PM

DS

Diane Mcaffee Smith posted:

Jeff, you and Janae will always be an example of true love, dedication and service. Love you both and I pray that you and your kids will always think of Janae with joy. May the Lord be with you during this tender time.

January 27 at 11:18 AM



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Lorraine L Carter posted:

For FHE we met as one big family. We were all sitting around talking and Scott her father-in-law was holding Megan, on his lap kind of bouncing her on the end of his knees, she was about 3-4 months old. He dropped one of her hands and as Megan was headed to the floor, Janae Jumped up from across the room and almost dove to save her daughter from hitting the floor. We all laughed and gave her a bad time. Scott did hang on so Megan was not in any jeopardy, but there was no one that jumped up to save her but her mom! Janae is like that always jumping to save someone, even if its with her beautiful smile! We love you all!Lorraine Carter

January 27 at 7:55 AM



Amylou Muller posted:

We send our deepest condolences from our team at Elevation hospice. We are honored to have been part of Janae's journey. We know Janae's legacy of courage and strength will continue for generations. Janae will be missed by many including our team. Sending our love to your family.

January 26 at 7:19 PM



Minnie Sylvester posted:

I have wonderful memories of Janae. Just like myself, she enjoyed cultural foods. I'd surprise her with my experiments and they were always welcomed with excitement, questions on how I made them and notes of gratitude later. This became years of ongoing taste testing. I wondered at one point if she really ate them. But when I'd see Jeff at the dcc and mentions my dishes; I knew she ate them! (even the questionable ones that my own family refused to eat). As her conditioned changed and she couldn't eat anymore, she'd still asked about my cooking. I love how genuinely interested she was with my family especially my children and my mom. She was a ray of sunshine. I am grateful for her friendship. Every time I cook "ginataan" (filipino dessert), i'll think of you, the only friend who honestly liked it as much as I do and will have a smile on my face.

January 26 at 12:37 PM



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Kristine Bullen posted:

Janae is an incredible woman. I know she's not left us physically but I think of her in the spirit world and have fond thoughts of what she must be doing. I have special empathy for her and her family since my mother struggled with a lot of medical problems and died young as well. Despite her struggles, Janae always was thinking of others. When we took in our twins I was shocked when she turned up one day with a meal for our family. With everything she already had going on she was thinking of us and our own burdens. I will miss her even though I didn't have the opportunity to get to know her really well. Everyone around her could feel her pure love. With the few conversations I had with her about her children, I could tell that she loved them and cared about them so much. Goodbye Janae. To her family and close friends, my thoughts are with you.

January 26 at 11:49 AM



Felicity Wightwick posted:

Janae made us feel so welcome when we moved unto the neighborhood. Her kindness, friendly nature and courage will never be forgotten

January 26 at 8:54 AM



Marie Loveless Younker posted:

I remember when Jeff came home from his mission and Janae was at the airport to meet him with the rest of the family. He had been so ill at the last of his mission that we didn't recognize him at first. When he saw Janae he was so happy to see her. Randy commented, " those two are going to get married, Jeff doesn't have a chance". We loved her and welcomed her into our family.

January 26 at 8:26 AM



Patrick And Adele Casaday posted:

Janae and Jeff are two of my heroes. Please know that life is eternal, that death does not terminate our existence, that the greatest joys of married and family life can and will be carried on beyond the grave. Our separation is but temporary and I know that Janae misses her family just as you miss her. God bless. Patrick and Adele Casaday

January 25 at 4:48 PM



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CW

Cindy Watkins posted:

Heart felt prayers from Herriman High. Janae and Jeff are wonderful parents who have raised children in love, the value of hard work, honesty and faith. Erik will make you proud Janae and Jeff! Please know that you are not alone-even when things feel sad and lonely, your family and friends and everyone at Herriman High are with you. May the Lord grant you peace, Cindy Watkins

January 25 at 5:13 AM

PB

Patrick Boitumelo posted:

My wife Tebogo and I met Janae and Jeff in an Indian restaurant for the first time as two families in 2016. Jeff invited us. We later met at their house and played a Qwirkle game with them and I remember Janae telling Jeff we were so bad at the game that she had to deliberately make bad moves to keep the game competitive and entertaining. She was such a darling and gift from God and we will forever remember her and cherish the time we spent with her. Condolences to Jeff, the children and the rest of the family.

January 24 at 6:55 PM

VF

Valerie Franks posted:

I met Janae for the first time during the week my daughter Lindsay married her younger brother Steve. I was impressed with her classy, yet maternal ambiance, and her beautiful smile! I saw her years later in Las Vegas, after the baptism of my grandchild Brynn. She was in a wheelchair by then, and was unable to fully communicate with me, but one thing I remember very vividly was her incredible smile and beautiful shining eyes. She had mastered the ability to extend warm greetings and understanding just by the way she looked at people! What a gift that was! Since then, I have been more aware of how I look at people during conversations, and to be sure that my thoughts are communicated through voice and eye contact. My heartfelt condolences go out to Jeff and the kids for the years of strength and love that you have poured out to your wife and mother. Also, I want Martin and Louise to know that they have set a wonderful example to me of the never ending love parents have for their children, and a reminder that all of us are still very much needed in our children's lives even after we are empty nesters, and to be available and on call at all times if we are needed! I am grateful for the knowledge we have of an after life, and the profound reality of that realm. When we pass out of this mortal existence, it is very comforting to know that we will be greeted by our loved ones. I do not doubt that Janae will be waiting, arms outstretched, and standing up firm to greet her loving family members as they pass through the veil!! Of course, I am certain that her beautiful eyes will be shining and full of love for those she greets! I love the Peterson Family. Thank you for being there for my daughter, and loving her for who she is! God bless all of you with a comforting arm around your shoulders as you strive to find a new normal without lovely Janae. My prayers are with you.

January 24 at 11:45 AM



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TB

Thomas Barber posted:

Her cousin Chad Reese and I(Tom Barber)are best friends. We all went to high school together. I took her to a school dance once our Junior. She very gracious, kind and has a sweet spirit about her. Her influence haf a tremendous impact on all who knew her to do good and be good. She will be greatly missed.

January 24 at 11:57 AM

JE

Jessica posted:

Janae is and will always be a star. She radiated positive energy and love everywhere she went. I met her in collage and she introduced me to Landscape Architecture which I graduated in and have made a career out of. I loved backpacking, hiking, rock climbing, dancing, and just plain hanging out with her. She leaves this life with a legacy and she will always be an inspiration to me. Until we meet again my sweet friend - Jessica Nanney Barlow

January 24 at 11:45 AM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Janae by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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