



Ryan Joseph May

MAY 22, 1997 - JUN 13, 2023



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Ryan Joseph May (26) died on June 13, 2023 from pneumonia after living with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) for nearly five years. Ryan was born in Payson, Utah on May 22, 1997 to Andy and Debbie May as the fourth of six sons. His spirit moved quickly from this life into the next in the company of his family on both sides of the veil.

Ryan was an energetic and charismatic boy who grew up running with the nickname “Dash.” He graduated from Salem Hills High School in 2015, where he played soccer, sang in choir, and won the title of “Mr. Skyhawk” in the school charity pageant. He achieved the rank of Eagle Scout and the trash receptacles he placed for his project can still be found at the city park. He served as a missionary for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the Germany Berlin mission from 2015 to 2017. Upon returning, he enrolled at Utah State University and began studying Law and Constitutional Studies and Psychology. He belonged to the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity whose focus is virtue, diligence, and brotherly love. He also served on the Logan Institute's returned missionary committee.

His first week in Logan, Ryan met Rachel Harris at the LDS Institute and they quickly fell in love. After becoming engaged in Lund, Nevada, they were sealed in the Payson, Utah temple on September 22, 2018. They built their household together in Logan, Utah while they continued their schooling. Rachel graduated with a degree in Family Finance while Ryan continued preparing for law school and participating in political campaigns. They enjoyed keeping their newlywed apartment well-stocked with boxes of cold cereal and spending time with friends and family. Ryan and Rachel always enjoyed cooking together and watching old classic television shows.

The week they were married, Ryan began experiencing weakness and tremors and was eventually diagnosed with ALS, a fatal neurodegenerative disease also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease. After receiving the terminal news, Ryan and Rachel moved in with Rachel's family in the town of Huntsville for support in transitioning to their new reality. By 2020, Ryan's condition had become



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more severe, and they moved to Elk Ridge to live with Andy and Debbie after renovations to the house made it more accessible for Ryan in his wheelchair. Rachel and Andy were heroic in their roles as caregivers to Ryan throughout his sojourn with ALS.

Determined to start a family, Ryan and Rachel were blessed with a baby girl by Christmas 2021. Molly Noel May was perfect for her father, snuggling on his lap, giving him kisses, drinking from his water bottle straw, and tickling his paralyzed feet.

A lover of our good green earth, Ryan surrounded himself with plants and wildlife. Wherever he was, you could often find him tracking the activities of critters and birds. He was a brilliant strategist with an unparalleled competitive drive. Disability assistive technology enabled Ryan to play all manner of games with his family up to the last month of his life. He was opinionated, honest and ravenously listened to politics and news.

Ryan's faith never wavered throughout his life. He served faithfully in many callings including Ward Mission Leader, Ward Clerk, Elder's Quorum Teacher, and his highest calling as husband and father. His ability to give powerful priesthood blessings was a great strength to his wife and daughter. He had a happy disposition, even amidst immense trials. His legacy of faith and hope will continue to inspire all who knew him.

Ryan is survived by his faithful wife Rachel, his daughter Molly, his parents, and five brothers: Scott (Andi) in Spanish Fork, Tanner (Angie) in Eagle Mountain, Garrett (Jocelynn) in Washington DC, Carter in Provo, and Brandon in Lehi. He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Jim and Pauline May. We mourn our separation from Ryan but celebrate the separation of his spirit from his broken body.

Funeral services will be held on Monday, June 19, 2023 at 11:00 am at the Elk Ridge Stake Center (185 Ridge View Drive, 84651). The service live stream can be viewed at <https://www.elkridge2ndward.org/home>. A viewing will be open beforehand starting at 9:00 am. A graveside service will be held the next morning, Tuesday, June 20 at 11:00 am in the Huntsville cemetery, where Ryan's body will be laid to rest.

Arrangements are being coordinated with Premier Funeral Services. Condolences can be sent at www.premierfuneral.com



Tribute Wall

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Daniela Jakobi shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

We will miss him so much! He and Elder Day were the best Missionaries we had in our ward (Leipzig II, Germany) He was really wonderful. He even liked the german "Kartoffelpuffer mit Apfelmus".) We loved him very much. He will be forever in our heart. Daniela and Frank Jakobi from Leipzig, Germany



July 6 at 11:46 AM

DM **Debbie May** July 16 at 4:01 PM

This is very kind of you to say, Daniela! Ryan absolutely loved his mission and especially being in Leipzig. We sure appreciate you taking the time to share this ❤️



Lisa Bradshaw posted:

What a great young man! I got to know Ryan through my son who was his age. They grew up together playing on the same soccer teams and lacrosse. What fun boys! I remember picking them all up from various practices and having to keep all the windows down, regardless of the time of year because they were all pretty stinky after practices. Boys will be boys and would sometimes get a little over the top on what they talked about and volume. Ryan joined in but always was the one who knew where to draw the line and be respectful. He was always loved and respected by the other boys and they looked up to him. I'm grateful for the friendship my son has had with Ryan and for Ryan's influence in our lives. I dearly love his mother, Debbie, and have been blessed by her courage and strength as I, personally, have suffered from all of this. When I should have been blessing her, she inspired and lifted me. I'm so grateful for eternity and for our Savior making that eternity bright and hopeful. We love you, May family!

June 19 at 7:36 AM

DM **Debbie May** July 16 at 3:59 PM

Lisa, thank you for these kind words ! We sure love you guys 💜💜💜



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Mary Jane And John Markle shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.



We met Ryan when he and Rachel moved to Huntsville. He was a happy, smiling, funny wonderful guy. On a hot summer's day, Ryan and I were going around the neighborhood chatting. He asked if John could move a sprinkler so it would spray him as he went by on his wheelchair. We all loved it! On a snowy March morning, Ryan came over driving The Beast, a super wheelchair with a snowplow on it. He cleared our sidewalk and even gave me a ride on the back of it. We only knew him the last few year of his Huntsville life but his humor and joy attracted us to him. Seeing him with Rachel always made me happy. We feel lucky that our lives crossed paths.

June 17 at 5:28 AM



Debbie May July 16 at 4:11 PM

Br & Sis Markle, Ryan LOVED the snow! So I know how much he enjoyed moving your snow 🌸👶 We are so grateful he can "play" in it again now that he's been released from the prison his body became .



Scott Young posted:

Ryan- Thanks for your example in always looking after the person who may not feel that they fit in or need a boost of confidence. This was very apparent in our scouting/young mens trip to Moab several years ago. You always made sure everyone had a partner to participate with and a big boost of confidence for the guys who were intimidated by the high adventure activities we were participating in. You were one of the guys, but also held your high values in setting an example of conduct. We will miss you Ryan, we know that you are actively participating in our Saviors work on the other side. Scott Young

June 17 at 2:14 AM



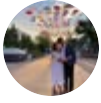
Debbie May July 16 at 4:10 PM

Your words give us such comfort, Scott. As parents you don't always know everything about your kids when they are at their activities - this means so much to us ☐



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Ben Osguthorpe posted:

When I was at my lowest point, after a failed marriage and a tough summer of work, Ryan reached out to me shortly after finding out about his own diagnosis. We cried together, and he made special point to care for me, even as his own life was in jeopardy. He was always an incredible example to me of what a strong priesthood man should be like. We shared a lot of special memories, but one of them was that we would call ourselves the three amigos, (another person was involved to make it three) and we bonded over that for years. Nerf wars in the church, monopoly until early hours, or lord of the rings conquest late night sessions are favorite memories as well. He won a lot, which was infuriating. But in a good way ;) From one of the three amigos to another, I love you Ryan, and hope I can live up to your example.

June 16 at 1:49 PM



Debbie May July 16 at 4:09 PM

I know Ryan loved you too Ben 🍷🍷🍷 And he will hold your little son close until the resurrection



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Ammon Clark posted:

Ryan was always a great friend to my parents and I and to everyone else, I can still remember him helping me serve my service mission at Deseret Meat and at the Spanish Fork High School Seminary building training the volunteers and being a teachers aide at the seminary building. He was such a great friend. Him and his parents will always hold a special place in my heart

June 16 at 8:34 AM



Debbie May July 16 at 4:16 PM

Tammy, please don't feel badly. The Lord has been very kind and merciful to us ☐. And yes, it IS true! We shouldn't have to bury a child before we ourselves leave this life... we are grateful for the knowledge he fought the good fight and is now serving our Savior 🙏❤️ We love all of you



Debbie May July 16 at 4:06 PM

Thank you for being Ryan's friend, Ammon!! know you taught him a lot to help him get ready to serve his mission ☐



Tamara Lundell Lance June 26 at 2:49 AM

My dearest May family, I feel so bad that I didn't know of Ryan's passing until this morning! Debbie, my heart weeps with the feelings that I know you must be having, for when a child leaves this earth before the parent, it seems like they take a piece of your with them. What a blessing that Ryan was raised in the May household. Ryan is such a ray of sunshine. I just want you to know that my thoughts and prayers go out to his family including his sweet eternal wife and child. My life has been forever blessed with having known the May Family ! My God continue to watch all of you as you journey through until your able to be with Ryan again !



Daniela Jakobi shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

July 6 at 11:46 AM





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Memories only last if you share them

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



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