



David Erich Zager

November 7, 2001 - January 16, 2024

David Erich Zager, age 22, passed away in Corvallis, Oregon, on Tuesday, January 16th, 2024 leaving behind a wealth of memories we'll forever hold dear.

David is survived by his brother, Eddie Zager (West Linn, OR); mother and father, Jackie Zager and Keith Mac Donald (Lake Oswego, OR); grandparents, Robert and Sachiko Gingras (Cadott, WI); godfather/uncle Carl Gingras, cousins Audrey and Elena, who grew up together (Portland, OR); and numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins across the US and in Japan. Keith brought a loving family into David's life, adding to the circle of support, including his mother, Jeanne Mac Donald (Jacksonville, FL). David is preceded in death by his father, Edward Zager (2012). David also leaves behind his beloved dog, Misty, who was always by his side at home since 2009.

Born in Mountain View, California, on November 7th, 2001, David's journey brought him to Lake Oswego, Oregon, where he attended West Hills Montessori Preschool, Montessori School of Beaverton and Oak Creek Elementary, Lake Oswego Junior High, and Lake Oswego Senior High. From a young age, David was known for his infectious smile and caring heart. His preschool teacher commented on David's empathy and kindness at the age of four; he would ensure all classmates had someone to play with on the

playground so no one would be left alone.

Despite residing in different cities, David and his brother, Eddie, shared a close bond, connecting online through games and world-building. Board games are a family tradition, with David often claiming victory. David consistently surprised his family as he grew and evolved into his own person. Eddie recently discovered David's love for country music during a winter break trip to the shooting range.

David's interest in shooting began with a BB gun on Grandma and Grandpa's farm in Wisconsin. He visited them every summer because there were always new adventures to be had. He cruised around the farm on the ATV, then made longer trips in the UTV. David learned to kneeboard on Lake Wissota with his uncle Paul and cousin Peter. He went to tractor pulls, watched mud bogs, and played bingo with Grandma at Cadott Nabor Days. David always said his grandma was the best cook, and her BLT was like no other.

In the realm of academics, David's passion for computers emerged early, building his first computer in junior high. David was a senior at Oregon State University Honors College, pursuing a B.S. in Computer Science (Cyber Security). David received the Finley Academic Excellence Scholarship, a testament to his academic rigor. Additionally, he received the prestigious National Institute of Science Scholarship for Service, a highly competitive and extremely selective honor, in its inaugural year at OSU, showcasing his unwavering dedication to Cyber Security. Recently returning from a job fair in Washington D.C., David sought opportunities to contribute to the defense and protection of our country and explored roles with government agencies such as the NSA, FBI, Homeland Security, and Treasury Dept.

Beyond academia, David was a tech enthusiast. His summers were marked by ingenious projects, including programming robots and creating a position-

tracking device for flight simulators. If a problem caught his attention, he was relentless at solving it. His friends often sought his sharp mind to help them. After he started playing Wordle, he wrote a program to find the best starting word. He and his mother used that word daily. David had recently received his pilot certificate, which he was very proud of, following in his father's footsteps as an airman.

David also lived a life of service, highlighting his giving spirit through volunteering at events like Light the Night and the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society in honor of his deceased father. He dedicated time to coaching life skills for Pathways students in junior high, serving as an academic mentor in high school, and working as a Computer Science tutor and teaching assistant at OSU. He contributed his time to organizations such as the Oregon Food Bank, Tryon Creek Park, and Portland Sunday Parkways.

David's social life revolved around a tight-knit group of friends who shared his interests in airsoft, target shooting, hiking, and video games. Fondly remembered not just as a reliable rock but as a guiding force, David's impact surpassed shared activities. One friend revealed that their commitment to a specific major was made possible because of the invaluable help and steadfast support from David. Many acknowledged David as the one who helped them navigate challenging classes, emphasizing that he was always there, ensuring everyone had the support they needed. David would not only find answers to their problems, but he would take the time to walk them through to the solution.

His friends also remember him as a prankster. They would never leave their computers alone with David after they saw him play a prank by changing the screen to shattered glass and placing a hammer in front of the monitor. He liked to joke around with them, and every one of them said the pranks were

done with love and to share an immediate laugh.

David Zager's legacy is one of kindness, brilliance, and selflessness. He had such a big heart. As we remember him, let's carry forward the warmth and compassion he brought to our lives.

Previous Events

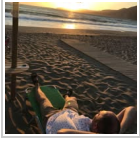
Memorial Service

FEB 18.

Contact McHenry Funeral Home for More Information

For more information on David's service, please reach out to McHenry Funeral Home.

Tribute Wall



“ I have never met David but looking at this photo I can see a positive energy of Jackie. I think there will be a chance to meet David in eternity.

Tomasz Bagniuk - February 28, 2024 at 02:43 AM

TB

“ Tomasz Bagniuk lit a candle in memory of David Zager



Tomasz Bagniuk - February 28, 2024 at 02:36 AM

SS

“ Such a beautiful soul short lived! My deepest sympathy to the family. I wish you peace and comfort as you memorialize his life.



sunita shenoy - February 11, 2024 at 12:37 PM

FA

“ My deepest condolences to Jackie and family. Please stay strong.



Faisal - January 31, 2024 at 01:20 PM

MR

“ I first met David when he was a young boy filled with life and love for his mom and the adventure of moving to Oregon. I stand with Keith and Jackie in their time of need. David will be missed by all who he touched.

Michael Rotier - January 27, 2024 at 01:24 AM

LS

“ Linda Schwartz lit a candle in memory of David Zager



Linda Schwartz - January 26, 2024 at 01:55 PM

MH

“ Melissa Mark Himmelman lit a candle in memory of David Zager



Melissa and Mark Himmelman - January 25, 2024 at 08:55 PM