



Erica Duba Hayes

August 3, 1992 - February 15, 2019

With heavy hearts, we announce the passing of Erica Duba Hayes, 26, of Fort Collins, CO. She passed away peacefully and with grace on February 15, 2019.

Erica was born August 3, 1992, in Fort Collins. She attended Traut Elementary, Kinard Middle School and graduated from Fort Collins High School in 2010. She was a National Honor Society student and played both high school and club softball. She attended Willamette University, graduating in 2014 Magna Cum Laude and Phi Beta Kappa with a BA in Psychology and a minor in Sociology. While at Willamette she volunteered all four years at a local no-kill cat shelter and a local elementary school and spent her spring breaks working in community service.

Upon graduating from Willamette, Erica moved to Seattle, Washington. She served with Lutheran Volunteer Corps for one year, placed with a non-profit organization working to find housing solutions for homeless families. She continued with the non-profit for an additional year and then worked at a before/after school program in Seattle before recently returning to Fort Collins.

Erica was an incredibly gifted writer and from an early age loved reading. She enjoyed spending time in libraries and art galleries. She also loved animals, especially horses and cats, and had pictures of our family cats tattooed on

one of her arms. She greatly enjoyed working as an intern at the Minneapolis Zoo the summer before her senior year at Willamette.

Erica traveled extensively and always spent time truly exploring and seeing the places she visited. In addition to many family trips growing up, she traveled to Europe during high school and attended the University of Canterbury in Christchurch, New Zealand for a study-abroad semester during college. While there she spent time studying the Maori culture, including being invited to visit a Maori reservation, and took a long bus ride on her own to watch the All Blacks play South Africa in a rugby match. Her return to the States included a side trip to Australia where she did a dive trip at the Great Barrier Reef and attended a Cold Play concert in Sydney. Other memorable trips include Hawaii for her 25th birthday, the Canadian Rockies and traveling across the country by car starting in New York City, stopping at Churchill Downs to see the horses, visiting friends and family along the way and driving up the Pacific Coast on her way back to Seattle.

Erica is survived by her parents, Susan and Jim Hayes, her sister, Erin, grandfather, Roger Duba, aunts and uncles Jim and Joy (Duba) Reid, Laura (Duba) Piotter and Bob and Diane Hayes, and her dear cousins Katie Reid, Olivia (Piotter) and Peter Arnegard and Amelia Piotter. She was preceded in death by her grandparents Phyllis Duba and James and Betty Hayes.

Erica left us far too early. She was a kind and compassionate soul with a strong sense of social justice and she cared deeply for the less fortunate, especially children and animals. We will remember her great smile, her beautiful red hair and her contagious laugh. We will remember the good times we had together and the kind person she was. We will miss her dearly and she will remain in our hearts forever. She is at peace.

We request you not send flowers or anything similar; your thoughts and

prayers are enough. If you are so moved, please leave a memory of Erica and/or donate in her name to one of Erica's favorite charities:

Salem Friends of Felines www.sfof.org

Rainier Scholars www.rainierscholars.org

Facing Homelessness www.facinghomelessness.org

Tribute Wall

SH

“ August 3rd was Erica's 27th birthday. We had a lovely remembrance party for her with close family in California.

*Erica,
You are loved.
You are missed.
You are remembered.*

*Love,
Your Family*



Susan Hayes - August 07, 2019 at 10:16 PM

JR

It was a beautiful celebration of her life. You put together a wonderful display of her photos and mementos of her many travels. The scattering of ashes outside of the Golden Gate was lovely. Erica is loved and we will miss her and remember her. Susan, Jim & Erin - we are always thinking of you and sending you our love & hugs.

*Those we love don't go away
They walk beside us every day
Unseen, unheard, but always near
So loved, so missed, so very dear*

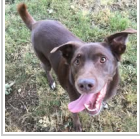
*Much love,
Joy*

Joy Reid - August 08, 2019 at 08:33 PM

AW

Thinking of her this month and holding her in the light ❤️

Alyssa Winchell - August 16, 2019 at 02:35 AM



“ *I am so very sorry and saddened to learn of Erica’s death. I had the honor and pleasure of having her in my psych of learning class at Willamette, and recruited her to work on a paper with me (Koger, Leslie and Hayes, 2012). Her research and writing skills were exceptional, but more important was her enthusiasm, passion, and good natured-ness. She was also kind enough to bike out to our home to dog-sit for our 3 fur-babies who absolutely adored her. I offer my deepest and most sincere condolences on your loss, a tremendous loss to all who knew Erica. Sue Koger*

Sue Koger - May 22, 2019 at 12:06 AM

JG

“ *Jim & all,
My prayers are with you all and Erica. I always remember her coming in to The Neenan Company office to visit you and her various fundraising activities.*

Peace

Joe

Joe Glaze - May 10, 2019 at 02:14 PM



“ It has taken me a while to sit down to write this message. Similarly to Erica, I suffer from depression and the news of her death has been devastating. I lived with Erica in Seattle at our happy home in Beacon Hill--a home that she made beautiful and full of life. For a year, I got to spend most week nights eating dinner with her, playing with my dog together, and laughing at TV shows in the basement. We also got to have our fair share of deep and meaningful conversations. There is no one like Erica. She was so deeply thoughtful, observant, and caring. She cared so much for the children in her care, the people around the world suffering, and people experiencing homelessness in Seattle. It's that caring, I think, that sometimes weighed a heavy burden on her although you'd never know from her pleasant smile and willingness to listen to my stories and problems. Having Erica in my life was a cosmic coincidence and one I am so happy to have had. I am so sorry for your family's great loss... no parent should ever have to say goodbye to their child. Please accept my deepest condolences and sincerest wishes for peace. In her honor, I have raised \$265 for Suicide Prevention Coalition of Colorado.

XOXO

Priya

Priya Walia - March 25, 2019 at 12:51 PM

KR

“ Susan, Jim and Erin, I am so sorry for your loss. I have such amazing memories of all of the cousins hanging out together and spending our time playing cards and board games. Erica and I bonded over our love for horses when we were young. I remember us dragging our fathers on trail rides with us. It will be hard not to have her at our next family gathering. You are all in my thoughts, please reach out if you need anything.



Katie Reid - March 14, 2019 at 09:27 PM

BS

“ Susan, Jim and Erin, We are so sad to hear of Erica's passing, we remember her as a smiling, beautiful little girl. Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time and hope peace and comfort will find you in the days ahead.
Pat and Bob Smith

Bob and Pat Smith - March 13, 2019 at 01:17 PM

 Kim Olsen

“ Coach Jim, Susan, and Erin we were shocked to learn of the passing of your daughter and sister Erica. We cannot imagine the anguish you are going through and wish there was something to say or a word of encouragement. No parent should ever have to bury a child. Praying for your family as you go through this journey and may you find comfort in memories of your beloved Erica.
*Sincerely,
The Olsen Family (Dan, Kim, Rachel, Mark and Natalie)*

Kim Olsen - March 10, 2019 at 12:40 AM

LK

“ Jim, Susan, and Erin - I remember a beautiful girl actively engaged in life at Traut.

Sending love and prayers in this incredibly difficult time. My sincere condolences!

Linda Kingham (Linscott)

Linda Kingham - March 06, 2019 at 07:40 PM

AG

“ Hayes Family,

I am heartbroken to hear about Erica's passing. She and I played softball together in high school. She was not only a great teammate but an incredible friend. It's been ten years since we graduated but I'll never forget her contagious laugh. Her smile lit up the halls - I can picture it now. I'm thinking and praying for you during this difficult time.

Alex

Alex Groeger - March 05, 2019 at 11:26 PM

DP

“ Joe and I are so sad to have just learned of the passing of Erica. Her smile was contagious, and I always loved her beautiful red hair. She was a wonderful student and a great friend to her classmates, May many wonderful memories fill your hearts with peace. You will be in our thoughts and prayers. Diana and Joe Parker

Diana Parker - March 05, 2019 at 10:45 PM

AP

“ I think about Erica every day and how amazing of a person she was. I have such fond memories of spending time with her at holidays and family visits. Her laugh and beautiful smile was contagious. I smile just thinking about the times we'd share as cousins finding humor in the silliest things. She was encouraging, adventurous, and kind-hearted. I will never forget the moments and the laughs we shared. Susan, Jim, and Erin, I am holding you in my heart and prayers daily and I am here for you in any way you need.



amelia piotter - March 05, 2019 at 06:55 PM

PW

I'm so sad to hear of Erica's passing. While I didn't have her in my class at Traut, I couldn't help but notice this fun, friendly, happy girl. She was always outgoing and smiling. I'm so sorry for your lost and will keep you in my prayers.

Pamm Wick - March 06, 2019 at 08:01 AM

VP

“ Dear Susan, Jim & Erin,

We were very saddened to hear of the untimely death of your lovely daughter & sister, Erica. May precious memories bring smiles as you remember the many good times together. Our prayers continue to be with you, that God in His tender mercy will lighten the burdens of your sadness & sorrow and console your grieving hearts.

Sincerely,
Ginny & Warren Piotter

Virginia Piotter - March 05, 2019 at 02:51 PM

EH

“ Dear Hayes Family,
I am so sorry to read of the passing of your beautiful and very bright daughter, Erica. She was in my classes at Fort Collins High School. She was an amazing student and I have very fond memories of having her in my Advanced Placement Psychology class. I am wrapping you in love and prayer. Let me know if you need anything from me.

Sincerely,
Elaine Holmes

Elaine Holmes - March 05, 2019 at 11:04 AM



“ Erica was my very first friend when I moved to FCHS our junior year. She was such a bright and sweet spirit who knew how to make everyone always feel included and joyful. I hold many sweet memories of her, including our Senior Trip to Europe where we roomed and travelled together for 2 weeks. She taught me so much from pre-calculus (which with my math skills was a miracle in itself) to how to throw a softball correctly. Though we lost touch as adults I hold our high school memories close to my heart and I will never forget her. You were a true friend, Erica Hayes.



Kim Montano Zeledon - March 04, 2019 at 11:48 PM

RH

“ Jim, Susan, and Erin ~ TCKS is mourning the loss of an incredible light that we all loved and admired, Erica! She will be remembered as a bright young lady, one who had the gift of laughter, a prolific reader, gifted writer, amazing student, and a dear friend to so many. I loved reading her deep and thoughtful writing manuscripts that were published and posted in the halls, and recall always being inspired by her words. She thought deeply and loved deeply. You all have our love, thoughts, and prayers during this incredibly difficult time of loss. It has been a blessing to share many years and memories with the Hayes Family. You are greatly loved. Reenie (Maureen) and Dave Hollen

Reenie Hollen - March 04, 2019 at 10:11 PM

AW

“ Erica was incredibly thoughtful, bright, funny, and kind. I've been thinking of her all day, remembering trips to the old Discovery Center, talking about our favorite books, and staying up late playing video games. She taught me not to be afraid of cats and how to be a better friend. She will be missed by everyone lucky enough to know her.



Alyssa Winchell - March 04, 2019 at 09:32 PM

KW

Kevin, Erica, and Alyssa playing soccer at 5 yrs. old, I think. So cute and the beginning of an amazing friendship.

Karen Winchell - March 04, 2019 at 11:34 PM

RD

“ Susan,
I was shocked and so sad to hear about the passing of your beautiful daughter. My heart is heavy for you & your family. Sending hugs and prayers.
Rita Davis

Rita Davis - March 04, 2019 at 07:10 PM

MW

“ Dear Susan, Jim, and Erin,
I am shocked and deeply saddened to hear of Erica's passing. I remember with fondness her beautiful smile, infectious laugh, and what an incredible student she was. I feel very blessed to have had her in fourth grade many years ago. My heart aches for your family. Sending hugs and prayers for all.
Michelle Whitcomb

Mrs. Michelle Whitcomb - March 04, 2019 at 05:31 PM

BA

“ Susan, Jim and Erin, *I am heartbroken to hear of Erica's passing, and I know there are no words that can really express that or bring you comfort. You are dear to me, and you've done so much as parents and volunteers over the years. Erica was so readily absorbed in a great story-- whether in a book or in history-- and it was always a joy to watch as she articulated her thoughts into vivid writing... a delight to her old 5th grade teacher. Erica has always represented a uniquely creative gift, and she was such a rich part of her class at Traut. She is missed, and our thoughts and prayers are with your family at this most difficult time.*

Bonnie Adams - March 04, 2019 at 04:45 PM

SK

“ Susan, my heart is heavy for you and your family today. You will be in our prayers.

Susan Kordis - March 04, 2019 at 03:47 PM

LS

“ Jim & Susan -
We are just heartbroken to hear about Erica. I remember how silly Jesse and Erica could be on and off the softball field. Hopefully her and Coach Juan are practicing grounders and popups.
Linda & Jesse Solis

Linda Solis - March 04, 2019 at 02:09 PM



“ Susan-

I think I remember you telling me that you had planned, during your pregnancy, to name Erica something else. However, after seeing her when she was born, you just knew that first name was wrong and that she should be named Erica. I never forgot that story or her name, and was so saddened to read about her death in the paper today. I know she will be missed so much and my heart goes out to you and Jim and Erin.

Kate Malers

Kate Malers - March 04, 2019 at 12:12 AM

MR

“ Susan, Jim and Erin - My heart goes out to you on the loss of Erica. She had such a bright smile. I will always remember her helping hand out little bottles of bubbles at our wedding. My thoughts are with you.

Marsha Robinson



Marsha Robinson - March 03, 2019 at 10:43 PM

MS

“ Jim, Susan and Erin: We wish there was something we could say or do that would comfort you in this time of loss. All we can offer is our own experiences coping with the loss of our child. We are here for you always.

Mike & Carol Stajduhar

Michael L Stajduhar - March 03, 2019 at 08:23 PM

BW

I am so sorry for your loss. My heart goes out to you and your family. Carol and Mike are amazing people-they can provide comfort like no one else.

Sincerely,
Barb Wallner

Barb Wallner - March 04, 2019 at 12:15 PM

OA

“ Erica was a wonderful cousin. She was very sincere and kind hearted. She spoke with eloquence and everything she said was thoughtful and meaningful. I will remember the time she spoke kindly about me and Peter at our wedding rehearsal dinner. It meant a lot to us. She had a beautiful soul and loving heart for others around her. I will always remember her laugh and how contagious it was. We had many great laughs with her. She will be deeply missed. Susan, Jim, and Erin- praying for you and holding you all close in our hearts. Olivia and Peter Arnegard



olivia arnegard - March 03, 2019 at 06:59 PM

LP

“ Susan, Jim, and Erin - I cannot remove the heartache you are feeling on the daunting path of grief and mourning. Please know that I will love and support you every step of the way. Erica had such a thoughtful and generous presence and her absence will be deeply felt by family and friends. Her beautiful smile and contagious laugh will be missed.



Laura Piotter - March 03, 2019 at 05:33 PM

KW

“ Such a terrible shock to learn of Erica's passing . I will always remember her and Alyssa having so much fun together from Elementary to high school days. I called Alyssa today to tell her . She is in Santa Barbara at school. She was heartbroken to hear about Erica. There are no words to express our sorrow. Sincerely, the Winchell family

Karen Winchell - March 03, 2019 at 02:34 PM

SP

“ So sorry to hear of Erica's passing. She always had such a beautiful smile. You are in our thoughts and prayers,
Sharon and Eric Petty

Sharon Petty - March 03, 2019 at 12:08 PM

BK

“ Jim and Susan and Erin - a long week, lots of stress about work, etc. melted into tears this morning. Desiree and I send our love and prayers for comfort during this time and the years to come. I cannot imagine this, so just know we care immensely. Sometime when you are ready you have a friend with a caring heart to do whatever I can.

Bob Klick - March 03, 2019 at 10:30 AM

PD

“ My thoughts are with you!! I remember Erica's bright, compassionate presence at Kinard. I loved being her teacher; she always made any space she was in better with her ever present smile. She was such an excellent student, too, always diving in to any assignment with joy. I am so saddened to hear of her passing; truly, the world has lost a special person. Mrs. Pam Downing

Pam Downing - March 03, 2019 at 10:29 AM

JC

“ Sweet precious girl. She stood out at Traut w such qualities. As do you all. Sounds like she had such a wonderfully meaningful young life!! Sending our love and Gods peace to soothe the pain of your loss.

judy castri - March 03, 2019 at 09:25 AM

JR

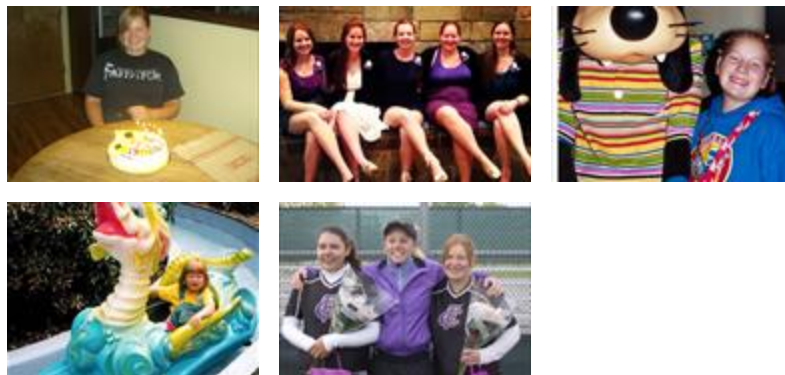
“ We want you to know that we are thinking of you daily. Our hearts are broken and we will miss Erica very much. This is such a difficult time and we want you know that we are sending your our love and thoughts. We are thankful that she was with us over Christmas. Am glad that she was able to come out and visit Grandpa and all the cousins. We will remember the laughter looking at old photos during the holidays.



Joy Reid - March 03, 2019 at 12:48 AM

SH

“ 8 files added to the album Erica Hayes



Susan Hayes - March 02, 2019 at 09:19 PM

SH

“ 9 files added to the album Erica Hayes



Susan hayes - February 26, 2019 at 06:50 PM

JR

Wonderful photos of Erica!

Joy Reid - February 28, 2019 at 02:13 PM

LC

“ *I always enjoyed seeing your kids when they visited work. While Erin was a firecracker and had a knack for asking me inappropriate questions, Erica was quiet and had a beautiful smile. I had occasion to speak to her and our conversations revealed her to be so smart and so shy. She was a good heart who I just wanted to hug. And Erin too, of course! My thoughts and prayers are with you Susan and Jim. I am so sorry for your loss and I'm sending you good vibes.*

Libby Crowell - February 26, 2019 at 12:00 PM