



Rachael Leigh Etheridge

May 9, 1991 - January 2, 2024

Rachael Leigh Etheridge, our bright shining light, our joyful and beautiful oldest child, passed away unexpectedly and entered into God's loving embrace on January 2, 2024 at the age of 32.

We, as her family members, are in deep mourning but through our tears we can thank God for the life we had with this remarkable young woman who touched the hearts of so many people.

Rachael was born on May 9, 1991 in Sarasota, Florida to her parents Jeffery and Lisa Etheridge. She was born five and a half weeks early which we soon discovered was a first glimpse into her vivacious and lively personality. She was a delightful and active child who made friends easily, and early on she developed a great love for animals. She was a protective and loving sister and served as a role model for her brother Evan and sister Natalie.

She moved with her family to Albany, Georgia at age six and quickly made friends and participated in a dizzying array of interests including tennis, art, running and church activities from the time she entered Lake Park Elementary School until she graduated with honors from Westover High School. While in high school she participated in Girls State, won countless art awards, ran cross country and was a regional doubles tennis champion. Upon graduation she attended The University of Georgia where she majored in Psychology and

was a member of Delta Gamma sorority. She not surprisingly graduated from UGA a year early and immediately began law school, graduating with a Juris Doctor from UGA in 2015.

Always curious, creative, gifted, enthusiastic, relentlessly determined, talented and possessing a heart of gold, Rachael was born to be a leader and a tireless advocate for the less fortunate. It was after law school she discovered her passion as a criminal defense attorney. She was employed at the Rural Public Defenders' Office, first in Terrell, Texas and later in Lubbock, Texas. There, she developed strong bonds with many of her colleagues as she learned to hone her legal skills. She was known as a devoted attorney who was there for her clients as she sought to defend their rights and highlight mitigating factors.

Rachael gave her all to anything she took on. She had varied and diverse interests from tennis to horseback riding to creating pottery and she was an amazing pet parent to her menagerie of beloved pets. She was also a loyal and giving daughter, sister and friend who enjoyed sharing her beautiful artistic gifts with those she loved.

Rachael was briefly married and was later engaged; she maintained friendships with her former husband Richard Nuskind and partner Afshin Zand.

Rachael was cherished and deeply loved "Infinity Times Forever" by her family, and we take comfort in knowing she is at peace with God.

Rachael is survived by her parents, Jeffery and Lisa of Tallahassee, FL; her siblings Evan Etheridge (Maria) of Tallahassee, FL; Natalie Abbott (Will) of Albany, GA; her grandmother Clara Etheridge of Tallahassee, FL; her aunts and uncles Michael and Lynne Traver of Sarasota FL; Scott and Bonnie

Etheridge of Cape Coral, FL; Darin and Carole Ann Chappell of Springfield MO; Eric Chappell and Ryan Lewis of Wilton Manors, FL; Laurie Etheridge and Jason Turner of San Rafael, CA; Dwight and Kara Amstutz of Strafford, MO; her cousins Anna Hietalati; Eric Traver; Sydney Etheridge; Mitchell Etheridge; Harrison Turner; Melissa Roberts; Sarah Shrable; Clayton Chappell; Kayleigh Amstutz; Kamryn Amstutz; Dawson Amstutz and Drew Amstutz; and several great aunts and great uncles. She also leaves a multitude of colleagues at the RPDO and countless friends including special friends Keri Mallon, Philip Wischkaemper and Scott Scarborough.

She is predeceased by her grandmother Donna Lou Traver Smith and her grandfathers Donald K. Traver and Marvin D. Etheridge.

There will be two services:

A memorial service will be held in Lubbock, Texas on Tuesday, January 9, 2024 at 10am at Sanders Funeral Home, 1420 Main Street, Lubbock.

A funeral service will be held in Tallahassee, FL on January 13, 2024 at 11:00 am at Pisgah United Methodist Church, 7000 Pisgah Church Rd, Tallahassee, FL.

If you wish to make a donation in Rachael's memory, you may do so to one of the following charities:

The Open Door Homeless Day Shelter in Lubbock, Texas

The Carpenter's Kitchen at Broadway Church of Christ in Lubbock, Texas

Morris Safe House Animal Shelter in Lubbock, Texas

Cemetery Details

Miller Crematory

202 Avenue Q
Lubbock, TX 79415

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JAN **9**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Sanders Memorial Chapel
1420 Main Street
Lubbock, TX 79401

Memorial Service

JAN **13**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Pisgah United Methodist Church
7000 Pisgah Church Road
Tallahassee, FL 32309

Tribute Wall



“ Sanders Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Rachael Leigh Etheridge



Sanders Funeral Home - January 09, 2024 at 10:27 AM

ME

Such a beautiful, inspiring memorial service

Maria Emert - January 09, 2024 at 09:01 PM



“ Sanders Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Rachael Leigh Etheridge



Sanders Funeral Home - January 08, 2024 at 07:33 PM



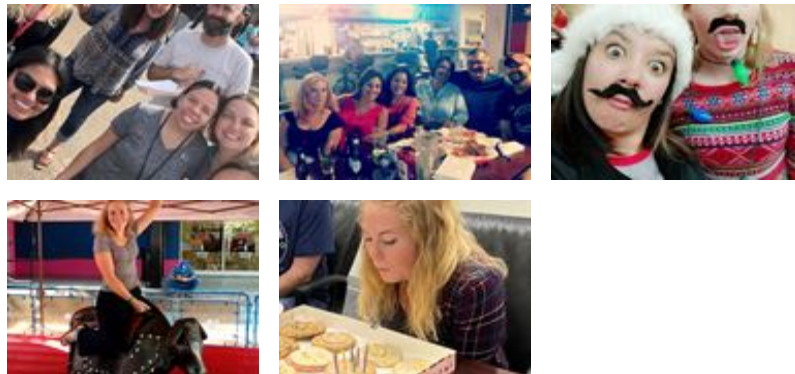
“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Rachael Leigh Etheridge.



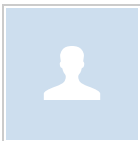
January 11, 2024 at 05:55 PM



“ 105 files added to the album LifeTributes



Sanders Funeral Home - January 08, 2024 at 07:27 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Rachael Leigh Etheridge.



January 08, 2024 at 04:37 PM



“ Such a wonderful person.

Hope - January 08, 2024 at 10:27 AM



“ We all had such a great time with Lisa, Jeff and the kids when they all came to Missouri for the first time. Rachael was always beautiful, even in that awkward stage of tween, early teen years. She was a sparkling personality and we all loved her. Rachael's passing will leave a hole in each heart that knew and loved her. With love, Carol Chappell

Carol M Chappell - January 07, 2024 at 01:26 PM

TG

“ Todd Greenwood planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rachael Leigh Etheridge.

Todd Greenwood - January 06, 2024 at 11:28 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Rachael Leigh Etheridge.



January 06, 2024 at 11:28 PM

LA

“ What a privilege it was to have known Rachel. Honoured that our paths crossed at very formative times in our lives. The laughs and smiles we shared will not be forgotten. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam (May she rest in peace)

Laoise O'Driscoll

laoise - January 06, 2024 at 12:12 PM

AN

“ Remember
Christina Rossetti

*Remember me when I am gone away,
Gone far away into the silent land;
When you can no more hold me by the hand,
Nor I half turn to go yet turning stay.
Remember me when no more day by day
You tell me of our future that you plann'd:
Only remember me; you understand
It will be late to counsel then or pray.
Yet if you should forget me for a while
And afterwards remember, do not grieve:
For if the darkness and corruption leave
A vestige of the thoughts that once I had,
Better by far you should forget and smile
Than that you should remember and be sad.*

Andy Nogueras - January 06, 2024 at 12:04 PM

VE

“ My condolences
Vernon Etheridge

Vernon Etheridge - January 06, 2024 at 03:22 AM

IB

“ ITB - Morgan McNabb and Ronnie Barrow planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rachael Leigh Etheridge.

ITB - Morgan McNabb and Ronnie Barrow - January 06, 2024 at 12:04 AM



“ *Fiery Lily and Rose was purchased for the family of Rachael Leigh Etheridge.*



January 06, 2024 at 12:04 AM



“ *Racheal was the true meaning of an Earth Angel. She touched the lives of every path she crossed. Her smile was so contagious and I admire everything about her. It was such an honor to work with her and I'm just really going to miss her, I already do. My deepest condolences to her family. Thank you for sharing her with us.*

Sherri Griffith - January 05, 2024 at 06:45 PM



“ *Racheal was a light in the darkness for many. She will be missed tremendously by many. It was an honor to work closely with her and I am better for it. Thoughts of love and peace for us all.*

Kim Brown Pierce - January 05, 2024 at 03:23 PM



“ *So many memories of a strong and passionate spirit who made everything around her, and everyone, just better.*

Gary Taylor - January 05, 2024 at 02:31 PM