

Teagan Neel 12/22/1994

Unconditional love! These are the first words that come to my mind when I think of my little brother Teagan Shea Neel. Teagan was born on December 22, 1994 the youngest of 18 into the Neel Clan. My parents James Sr. and Shirley Neel were ecstatic to welcome our newest little angel into the family.

The first few years of Teagan's life were definitely a test of strength for our family. With all of his health concerns and numerous doctor visits, surgeries, and medical needs he had endured, my parents were drained. However, it was a true testament as to why GOD had brought us this little angel to be a part of our family. Teagan showed us how to fight, how to love, how to smile, and what the meaning of true happiness is in just a short time. Just a few of the things that he has continued to teach us each day of his life! Our family drew closer together and found ways to make it all work despite the daily struggles that Teagan was going through. Teagan has brought us so much joy and happiness words cannot begin to describe how blessed we are!

About 3 years ago, we lost our mother to a long battle and fight with cancer. This has truly been the hardest thing to endure, especially for our Teagan. My mother and Teagan had a relationship beyond description. They were best friends and spent every moment they could making each other laugh and smile. As we all struggle with understanding why GOD took our precious mother away, Teagan struggles with this every minute of his life. However, during this time, he continued to be our rock! He held our hands, hugged us, and comforted us when we were trying to cope with all of it. His strength is insurmountable. He has a way of making things better just with his simple smile or strong hugs. He brings a huge amount of joy to any situation, even a very significant loss. He has been dad's best friend and confidant. They are two peas in a pod!! Just yet another indication as to why GOD gave us this special angel!

Teagan is now a sophomore in high school. He continues to work hard in school each day! He doesn't always enjoy getting up and going to school, but he does and ends up having a great day! He brings that same joy to the classroom as he brings to our home. He loves his mountain dew OR cherry limeades, his pizza, hamburgers, and peach pie! He enjoys pretending to be a priest and blessing us with music and worship! He loves to listen to music and to serenade us whenever he can. He is always one you can count on to check in on you. He calls at least once or twice a week, if not every day! He enjoys helping Sean mow and likes dogs.

On behalf of my siblings Jimmy, Jeff, Greg, Kristi, Kim, Brandi, Sean, Brooke, Shane, Erin, Ashleigh, Whitney, Chelsie, Shaeleigh, and Shamus and my daddy, I know they would join me in saying that we are truly blessed and honored to have Teagan as our little brother. He has taught us more about life than we could have ever imagined. WE LOVE YOU Teagy Tiger!!

By Sister Heather Isbell