



Parents' Corner

Surviving Sibling Honors Her Sister, Grace Maroney Lynagh

From the Remembering Our Children Memorial Service, December 11, 2016

Good afternoon. My name is Erin Trudell and every year for the past 20 years, my family has been attending this service to honor my baby sister.

Last year, I sat in this very church with a big secret that only my husband and I knew. I was 11 weeks pregnant with twins. I was more emotional than I even normally was in past years.

And now as a mother to 6 month old twins, I come to this service with whole different perspective. So I wanted to pay tribute to my mom and all the parents here who know despair like no one should ever know. I wanted to pay tribute to my sister and all the little ones taken from us far too soon.

Grace Maroney Lynagh blessed our family at 11:35 p.m. on Wednesday June 7, 1995, and we were fortunate to have her with us on this earth for the next 7 months, 1 week, 4 days and 5 hours. In those short 7 months, she was carted off to all of her sibling's sporting events; she wore a pink bathing suit on the beach; she was a pretty ballerina for Halloween; she laughed hysterically at her 1 1/2 year old brother on Thanksgiving and she sat with me at the top of the stairs with our 2 brothers on Christmas morning waiting patiently

to be allowed to go downstairs and see what Santa brought us.

She was this quiet blessing that brought tremendous joy to our family. As a 13 year old girl, I was so happy to finally get a sister! With 2 younger brothers, I needed some girl power. I imagined staying up all

night with her talking about boys, showing her how to put make up on and teaching her that girls can be strong and independent while also poised and feminine. I imagined asking her to be my maid of honor; asking her to be my son's Godmother. I imagined cheering for her at her soccer games; watching her walk across the stage at graduation and throwing her birthday parties.

What I love about this memorial service is that we all get to sit in an audience and hear our baby's name be called out loud. Most of us didn't get to hear their name be called at their high school graduation or at the end of the year awards ceremony. We never got to chance celebrate their achievements. But at this service, we gather to be the cheering section for our child. I know my sister has been present in spirit at all my lifetime milestones, and I am so grateful to get to be there for her at this annual event.



Grace Maroney Lynagh

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