



Joshua Michael Daywalt

April 7, 1989 - February 7, 2025

It is with a shattered heart that we announce the death of my son & our brother, Joshua Daywalt whose life was marked by a battle he never chose—one that was relentless, isolating, and devastating. Born on 4/7/89, Joshua was a son, a brother, a father, a nephew, a grandchild and a soul who once carried light and laughter before the weight of severe mental illness dimmed his spirit.

From a young age, Joshua was kind, intelligent, and full of life. He loved animals and was a brilliant artist. He loved to fish. Loved History. He was an amazing baseball player. Once he told his mother that he wanted to be a vegetarian and when she questioned him because he loved chicken nuggets, he stated "No I want to take care of animals". He wanted to be a veterinarian.

As Joshua grew older it became clear something was overtaking him. He suffered from a total of 7 mental illness diagnoses the most difficult being Schizophrenia. This took a strong hold on him, altering his reality and making each day a fight for survival. Despite our endless love and constant desperate attempts to get him the help he so desperately needed, the system that was supposed to protect him failed time and time again. It is a heartbreaking truth that resources for those with severe mental illness remain woefully inadequate, and too many families know the helplessness we have endured.

His mental illnesses stole so much from him-his peace, his potential, and his sweetness. Each day was a fight, not just against the torment in his own mind, but against a world that does not understand and too often looks away. As his family, we tried to save him from the chaos that had become his existence. But the system meant to protect him is broken. The resources were not there. The doors kept closing.

On 2/11/25 I was notified that Joshua's life was stolen from all of us. Joshua was taken from us in a cruel and senseless act of violence. He was shot and left in the river in Philadelphia-a tragic and undeserved end for a man who had already suffered more than any human being should. He was found on 2/7/25. His death is not just our loss, but a reflection of the countless others who are fighting this battle. The injustice of his life, and of his death, should shake us all.

In lieu of flowers, we ask that you honor Joshua by offering kindness to those who struggle as he did. If you pass someone on the street, lost in their own mind, screaming into the void-don't look away. Give them a smile, a moment of dignity, a reminder that they are still seen. Educate yourself on severe mental illness and **ADVOCATE** for change, so that no other family has to endure this pain, and no other soul is lost to the cracks in a broken system. Be the voice for those that are silenced and ignored.

Joshua was more than his illness, more than his struggles. He was loved, and he mattered. And he always will.

I, as his mother, will forever hold onto that little boy in his popcorn costume, his face lit up with happiness, untouched by the weight of the world one Halloween day. That is my son. That is who he was before mental illness overtook him. And that is who I will always remember.

Joshua is survived by his two children: Anthony (16) and Charlotte (11); by mother: Jennifer (Hill) Daywalt; brother: Jesse Daywalt and wife Leah; sisters: Brandi Daywalt, Nikki Myers, and Amanda Myers; his maternal grandparents: Christina (Mesi) Pennock and James J. Hill; niece and nephew: Jackson and McKenzie Daywalt; as well as aunts, uncles, and cousins. He was preceded in death by his father: John C. Daywalt; his aunt: Christina Hill; his paternal grandmother: Charlotte Daywalt; and his paternal grandfather.

Rest now, my sweet boy. You are finally free.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend Joshua's funeral service on Monday, February 17, 2025, at 11:00 am, at GraceCrossing Community Church, 248 Church Street, Phoenixville. Officiating will be Rev. Dan McDowell. Interment will follow in the Washington Memorial Chapel Churchyard, Valley Forge. Friends will be received from 9:30 - 11:00 am.

Arrangements are being handled by the Campbell - Ennis - Klotzbach Funeral Home, Inc. Condolences may be offered online at www.PhoenixvilleFuneralHome.com.

Cemetery Details

Washington Memorial Chapel Churchyard

2000 Valley Forge Park Road
King Of Prussia, PA 19406

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 17. 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

GraceCrossing Community Church
248 Church Street
Phoenixville, PA 19460

Funeral Service

FEB 17. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

GraceCrossing Community Church
248 Church Street
Phoenixville, PA 19460

Tribute Wall



“ *Campbell-Ennis-Klotzbach Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Joshua Michael Daywalt*



Campbell-Ennis-Klotzbach Funeral Home - February 15, 2025 at 10:28 PM

KM

I don't know you or your family but may your son rest in our father's hands and I know he is looking down on his family saying how grateful he is to have spent the time he had with u guys I bet he met our savior and he just so happy but may he rest in peace God bless u all

Kathryn Myers - December 20, 2025 at 06:32 PM

TF

“ *I donot know you and I did not know your son, but I just want to send prayers for peace and comfort in this tragic time of loss. My sister also had the same illness and I can tell you first hand how hard this mental illness is. My heart goes out to anyone struggling with this illness. I'm so sorry for what happened to your son. My prayer is the ones responsible are found and punished to the fullest extent of the law. May your son rest in peace.*

Tina Fulkroad - March 05, 2025 at 07:53 PM

NM

“ I just read about your beloved son online and came to learn more about him. His obituary is beautiful, clearly just as he was. So very sorry for your loss.

Nicole Michalik - March 05, 2025 at 03:45 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Joshua Michael Daywalt.

February 18, 2025 at 08:34 AM

ST

“ Jennifer and family,

I'm so sad your son went through all these struggles and now has passed. So many families search for answers and help that is just not there. I'm heartbroken for you and your family, I know you all did everything possible to keep him safe and well.

My sincerest condolences. Thank you for sharing his story, it is all too common these days.

Shelly Temple - February 14, 2025 at 04:45 PM

BM

Dear

*Dearest Daywalt Family and all who loved Joshua!!
I believe your 3 precious children who are now adults , came to
Kindercare when I was working there when Brandi was a baby and
your sons there I believe after school... They always made me smile....
I am sooo very sorry to hear of your dearest son s passing. Yes
there is soomuch that needs to be changed with mental illness and
help for those precious ones affected and their families.i have also
seen this happen to other men and women and my heart is very sad to
see it continue. So many people I ve seen do not understand or even
try to have empathy for those that suffer each day and those that love
them sooo much and in many many ways feel helpless please hold
onto the hope of seeing Joshua again in perfect health, happiness and
love. All of you are in my thoughts and prayers. And will continue to be.*

Barbara Madsen - February 14, 2025 at 10:19 PM

BM

“ I do not know you nor did I know Joshua, but my heart goes out to
you because I know what a failed mental health system we have
and know how we struggle so desperately to help our children. It's
beyond devastating and difficult for both the individual suffering and
those who love them. I'm so very sorry.

Blenda Mourar - February 14, 2025 at 02:18 AM

PG

“ Jennifer,
Sincere condolences to you ! You are in my prayers.

penny Gatcha - February 13, 2025 at 11:08 PM

LJ

“ Josh will always be remembered for his sweet smile, shy laugh and kind heart. He was seen, past the difficulties and challenges, and for what was lying underneath and in his soul. We will remember the laughs, dinner meals talking about life struggles but also joys, and willingness to lend a hand to anyone at anytime. He will be missed and always remembered and we are grateful to have been part of his life. May God be with his family and friends and comforted to know he is healed, safe and loved in the arms of Jesus. Of that, I am sure.

Here's one last, I love you kid and I'll wait until we meet again to hear you respond, love you too, Ms Lori.

Lori Jennings - February 13, 2025 at 09:55 PM

KC

I REMEMBER JOSHUA AS A HANDSOME HAPPY LITTLE BOY.....JENNIFER YOUR A GREAT MOM AND IM SO SORRY FOR THIS LOSS...I WILL PRAY FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY EVERYDAYRIP JOSHUA FLY 🕊️ HIGH ANGEL BOY AND BE FREE...WATCH OVER YOUR BEAUTIFUL FAMILY 🙏

Kimberly Capparella - February 14, 2025 at 02:16 AM

JP

Losing a child is an unspeakable tragedy, a sorrow so profound that it seems almost impossible to find the right words to convey our compassion and sympathy. The love between you and your son is eternal and now he is in peace and in the hands of God until the two of you meet again. May you find peace in the love that surrounds you and the memory of his smiling face gives you the strength to go on. You are in my thoughts and prayers. Charlotte's Aunt Joie

Joie Piermani - February 14, 2025 at 09:24 AM

JB

“ *Joanne Beauregard lit a candle in memory of
Joshua Michael Daywalt* ”



Joanne Beauregard - February 13, 2025 at 09:42 PM