



Odessa Anne Black

June 28, 1987 - April 6, 2021

Odessa Black was born June 28, 1987 in San Leandro California, to Lynne and Dan Black. She was a happy baby with big blue eyes, long eyelashes, and strawberry blonde hair. She loved rainbows, butterflies, and koalas. She loved making her younger sister, Valerie, laugh, and teaching Leeloo, her childhood golden retriever, new tricks. She enjoyed playing UNO, watching women's professional (and Valerie's) soccer games, and telling jokes. Odessa always had an affinity for babies and children and enjoyed playing with the neighborhood kids. Odessa was sassy, quick witted, and had an impeccable memory. She loved to tease her family and friends and was never afraid to share her opinion. She had a pure soul, was loving, and cared so deeply.

At age six, Odessa was diagnosed with Hydrocephalus and Neurofibromatosis (NF). These conditions remained in check until she turned 14, when tumors were discovered on her spine. For the next 10+ years, Odessa had numerous surgeries to remove the tumors, had shunt revisions, and removed a malignant tumor in her left leg. The results of all these surgeries and the continual growth of the tumors on her spine left Odessa without the ability to walk, move her arms, or use her hands to any large degree for the last several years of her life. After a truly heroic fight, Odessa succumbed to her NF on April 6th, 2021, at 4:22pm. She was surrounded by her loved ones and went peacefully and painlessly to heaven.

Even with the adversities brought on by NF over the years, Odessa was a happy person. She loved being a new aunt to Piper Anne Hill, to whom she shares a middle name, giving her kisses whenever she could. Odessa took joy in cuddling with Milla, the family goldendoodle, playing on her iPad, and interacting with friends on Facebook. She enjoyed going on adventures to arboretums and butterfly gardens with friends, family, and her caregiver/friend Yessenia Sandoval. She loved asking "Grandma Angel" to bring snow in the winter and smiled ear to ear while we complained of having to shovel it off the driveway. She was a force to be reckoned with, uniquely her own, and truly unforgettable. We will all miss her greatly. We love you, with all our heart, to the moon and back, our rainbow girl.

Odessa is survived by her Mother, Lynne Black, her Father, Dan Black, her Sister, Valerie Hill, Brother-in-Law, Colby Hill, and Niece, Piper Hill. Her Grandparents, Peggy and James Black, Richard and Lucy Gould, Aunts and Uncles, Charlotte and Ted Lass, Kimberly and David Tackett, Jeff and Linda Black, Cousins Gracie Lass, Allyson Lass and Rebecca Black. She was preceded in death by Grandmother Edith Gould.

Odessa Black's Memorial Celebration of Life is at Grace United Methodist Church in Manassas, VA. on June 12, 2021. Odessa's favorite color was "rainbow", please wear colorful clothes in her honor. All are welcome to attend the visitation at 10:00am. The service will begin at 11:00am.

Due to local COVID guidelines, capacity is limited to a maximum of 150 people in attendance for the service and masks are required. The service will be LIVE streamed for those who cannot attend. To watch the LIVE stream, follow this link www.umcgrace.org

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the Children's Tumor Foundation in Odessa's memory at: www.ctf.org/donate or by mail to: The Children's Tumor Foundation, Mail Code: 6895 P.O. Box 7247, Philadelphia,

PA 19170-001.

Tribute Wall

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Connie Sorman - April 14, 2021 at 04:48 PM

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“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Connie Sorman - April 14, 2021 at 04:48 PM

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“ Odessa,

You will be missed more than words can express. You were so kind, funny, open, and interesting and Megan and I always had a great time with you. We loved watching movies with you, having girl talk, and talking about our animals. I am so grateful you are not suffering anymore but selfishly, I wanted more time with you.

We are thinking about your parents and Valerie during this difficult time. I know how much you adored your family. Rest in peace, friend. You will never be forgotten.

Love,

Kelsey Betz

Kelsey Betz - April 14, 2021 at 04:31 PM