

KENOSHA NEWS

[Print](#) | [Close](#)

Family, friends remember fun, active teen

BY IAN THIBODEAU

ithibodeau@kenoshanews.com

TWIN LAKES — Boy Scouts from Troop 236 in Genoa City stood at the funeral home doors Monday evening, silently nodding to family and friends entered the parlor.

They were there to honor their fellow Scout Nathaniel “Nathan” Walter, who died last week, and remember the active, community-minded teen whose life was filled with sports, electronics and Scouting.

Nathan, 16, of Twin Lakes died Thursday evening due to brain injuries sustained in an accident June 14.

On that day, he was driving a riding lawn mower on 344th Avenue at 116th Street when he was struck by a car.

Nathan’s father Scott said Nathan was headed home after mowing the lawn for a family friend. Normally, the mower would have been loaded onto a trailer and driven home, but that day Nathan decided to drive it home — a distance of less than a mile.

On the night of the accident, the family was getting ready to leave for vacation the next morning.

“He thought he’d save us the trouble of coming back to get him and (having to) stop packing,” Scott said, a gesture that reflected Nathan’s personality.

Striving to serve

Nathan was like most teen — he played sports, had a pair of Beats by Dre headphones and had a little trouble with math.

But he was also a bit different — he had a thing for serving the community.

According to accounts from his father, fellow Scouts and church members, he was an Eagle Scout, active at Wilmot United Methodist Church and at Wilmot High School, where he was a wrestler, pole vaulter and computer technician.

His varsity jacket, adorned with various medals, hung next to his casket at the funeral home Monday.

Nate had earned his varsity letter for wrestling.

“He loved it,” Scott said. “I don’t know if he was the greatest wrestler in the world, but he certainly loved doing it and would put the effort in to get better. That’s the only sport he knew he wanted to do when he got to high school.”

Helping the team

Nathan had a knack for electronics, taking after his father who is an electrical engineer, and he used those skills to repair the scoreboard in wrestling gym as his Eagle Scout project.

Last summer, he and his father overhauled the old board, cleaning it from the inside out and replacing broken parts.

Always a Scout

Nathan attained the Eagle Scout award on May 19, and he intended to continue his participation in Troop 336.

He had been involved in Scouting since kindergarten, and he wanted to continue, even after attaining Scouting's highest rank.

"He said 'Dad, I can't remember a time when I wasn't a Scout,' so it meant a lot to him," Scott said. "I asked him what his favorite part about Scouts was, and it was teaching the younger Scouts. ... That's the kind of kid he was."

Fellow Scouts remember

Fellow Eagle Scouts Casey Burmeister and Daniel Dertz said they'd miss their fellow troop member.

Burmeister, 15, remembered Nathan as a fun person who brought many good qualities to the troop.

Dertz, 19, was a bit closer to Nathan, and he hoped that Nathan would overcome injuries and awake from his coma.

When he heard Nathan was getting worse and had ultimately died, Dertz had one way to describe his reaction.

"It sucked," he said. "Nate was a pretty good part (of the troop). He was always energetic. We're gonna miss him."

Scott said Nathan was unsure of his path after high school, but he — with interests ranging from joining the military to studying psychology — but he said his son could have done many things.

"Nathan was a great kid," Scott said. "He's a kid anybody would love to have as their own. He'd do anything for anybody."

© Copyright Kenosha News.