



Grant Jacob Reser

October 14, 1981 - November 27, 2004

Grant Jacob Reser, 23, Topeka, died Saturday, November 27, 2004 at the University of Kansas Medical Center.

Grant was born October 14, 1981 in Topeka, the son of Greg and Barb Esser Reser.

February 9, 1985, at the age of three, Grant received a heart transplant making him the 12th pediatric heart transplant in the world. He attended Wanamaker Elementary, Washburn Rural Middle School, and graduated from Washburn Rural High School in 2000. He attended Washburn University and was a senior at the University of Kansas with a 3.8 grade point average at the time of his death.

Grant participated in the World Transplant Games in 1993, and the U.S. Transplant Games in 1994, 1996, and 1998, winning medals in all of them. May 15, 2001 he received a kidney transplant.

Grant participated in the Knights of Columbus baseball. He had worked part time for the Topeka Capital Journal and the Dept. of Education at KU. He enjoyed music and was an avid guitar player. He was a member of Christ the King Catholic Church, Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, KC Heartline, and was a founding member of Topeka Organ Transplant Organization.

Grant leaves to cherish his memory his parents, Greg and Barb and his brother, Evan Reser, of the home; his grandmother, Tillie Esser; 12 aunts and uncles, and 16 cousins. He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Franklin C. "Bud" and Catherine L. "Kay" Reser, and Leonard Esser.

Friends may pay their respects from 4 to 8 Monday at Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road. Family visitation is from 6 to 8 with a parish rosary at 6 p.m. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11 on Tuesday at Christ the King Church. Cremation will follow. Inurnment will be at a later date.

The family suggests memorial contributions to Midwest Transplant Network, 1900 W 47th Place, Westwood KS 66205 and Christ the King Church, 5973 SW 25th St, Topeka KS 66614.

Tribute Wall



“ *Grant Jacob Reser*

January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM



“ *To the Reser Family,
My deep sympathy goes out to you. Grant is now in the care of the Lord. I remember the concern of the Wanamaker Elementary staff as Barb kept us informed of times for needed prayer. May the Lord's love and comfort enfold you all in the days ahead.*

Carlene Hutcheson - November 30, 2004 at 02:39 PM



“ *Dear Reser's, I just wanted a chance to give my condolences to you all. I very clearly remember Grant getting his heart transplant and my entire grade school (Sacred Heart) praying for him through that time. I also remember you bringing him through the school parking lot and all of us cheering for him. Over the years, I have continued to pray for him in my daily prayers. I adopted Grandma Kay for many of our school's Grandparents Days and kept up with his health through her. I think of her often. I will continue to pray for Grant and all of you. God bless you all.*

Terri (Everett) St. Clair - November 30, 2004 at 02:07 PM



“ *Although we never got to meet Grant, he was clearly a very courageous and generous young man, who used his physical challenges as a gift to himself and others. Your family will be in our thoughts and prayers.*

Jack & Anne Ryan - November 30, 2004 at 12:01 PM

GS

“ Dear Reser family:
My prayers are with you in your time of loss. I never got to meet Grant, but I sure could tell his daddy loves him a lot. May our loving God be with you all, now and forever.

Greg Skinner - November 30, 2004 at 11:53 AM

TM

“ Dear Mr. and Mrs. Reser, I am so sorry that Grant has passed away. I'm sure I have met you and Grant at some time. I am a Medical Technologist at the Midwest Transplant Network. I started here in July of 1982, just a short time after Grant was born. I feel like I have watched him grow up. I remember when he got his heart tx. It was pretty exciting for us at MTN. Grant's blood came to us on a regular basis so we could test his CSA levels. I always sent a little prayer to Grant. He was so young to be going through so much. Seeing his name appear on the kidney list was such a shock and sadness to those of us who have been with Grant since the beginning. We were all very excited when he got his kidney. When I saw his name come through as a Bone Marrow patient, my heart just sank for you. Grant has been so strong for so much I hoped this would be another bump in the road. I know Grant did a lot to promote organ transplants. I am very proud of Team MO-KAN and all they have done for transplantation. God be with you and your family through these difficult times. We are thinking of you.

Tracy Morris

Tracy Morris - November 30, 2004 at 11:37 AM

CW

“ Dear Barb, Greg, Evan and Tillie,

So sorry to hear about Grant. I know this is a great loss to you. You have all endured so much. Maybe Grant & Phil are playing music in heaven. We are very fortunate that we were able to have had them in our lives on earth, even if only for a short while. Sorry I can't be there ...Gina called me to let me know last night. I live in Newton now.

Connie Willett

Connie Willett - November 30, 2004 at 12:32 AM

KP

“ Dear Barb, Greg and Evan,

What a devastating loss...it was such an honor to have known Grant and to have seen him undertake and accomplish so much. He lived a truly amazing life and taught everyone so much about courage, hope and joy. My thoughts and prayers go out to you and I wish healing upon your hearts.

*Love,
Kalle Pierce*

Kalle Pierce - November 29, 2004 at 11:08 PM

AT

“ We are thinking of you during this difficult time. Grant was such a fighter and a very amazing young man. We will always remember the Wanamaker Elementary school years - what a great bunch of kids from the class of 2000. May the Lord uplift and sustain you in the days ahead knowing that Grant is no longer suffering and at peace with the Lord.

Alan, Denise, Kari and Scott Taylor - November 29, 2004 at 06:07 PM

LT

“ Grant was and continues to be a great source of strength and inspiration to everyone he came in contact with.

I feel so blessed for every moment we shared and I wouldn't trade those memories for the world.

Grant was my best friend in the world for 4 wonderful years and that even after we parted ways I still always thought of him as my best friend and will continue to. I just hope he knows that my love and admiration for him never ceased and his memory will live on in my heart forever.

Not a day has gone by in the past 6 years that I didn't think of Grant in my prayers.

Grant and his whole family gave me so much and I feel blessed that God gave me the opportunity to know him the way I did.

We are all truly blessed for having Grant in our lives.

Lacey Tramill - November 29, 2004 at 06:04 PM

GS

“ Just want you to know Barb that our sincere condolences go out to you and your family in the loss of your son Grant. Even though I never met your son, I feel like I know him just from working with you and talking with you. He was such a fine young man, an inspiration to all who knew him and touched many lives. Our hearts go out to you and your family during this time. May God Bless You. Greta, Bob, Lindsey & Grant Stephens

Greta Stephens - November 29, 2004 at 05:14 PM

TS

“ Like the wings stolen from an angel
Like petal gone from a rose
Like a dove caught in a storm
Tonight he is in the Lord's arms

The wind blows straight through us
And whispered to me
God has taken another one to soon
Tonight he is in the Lord's arms

Travis Schultz - November 29, 2004 at 04:24 PM

TS

“ Grant Jacob Reser

Travis Schultz - November 29, 2004 at 04:22 PM

SP

“ Just wanted you to know my heart is with you all. - Sue Prickett

Sue Prickett - November 29, 2004 at 02:39 PM

SP

“ Sincere condolences go out to your entire family during this difficult time. May the Lord bless and comfort you in your grief.
Susan Sherburne, Ed and Catherine Pfannenstiel

Susan Pfannenstiel-Sherburne - November 29, 2004 at 01:33 PM

MW

“ *Mr. and Mrs. Reser and family,*

I did not know your son or you. My son and family recently became members of CTK church and I attended mass with them and remembered praying for your son.

Upon reading his obituary, I thought how extremely saddened and yet proud you must be of him. He accomplished so much and many times more in his short life than some people attain in a long life.

I was suddenly widowed a few years ago and know how difficult the holidays are without your loved one. I take comfort in the fact that now given the choice; I think our loved ones would choose to stay with God rather than return to us, because they are truly home and at peace.

Please accept my sincere condolences as I remember you and your family in my prayers.

Mary Wahlmeier

Mary Wahlmeier - November 29, 2004 at 12:25 PM

MD

“ For the brief time of meeting Grant at the BB KING concert 9/22/04, he has had a special place in our hearts..being a very special person. Our prayers are with him and his family thru this trying time.

*Marleen Davis
with Big Woodys Blues Band*

Marleen Davis - November 28, 2004 at 09:21 PM

TS

“ I wish so much that I could be there for you guys especially with all the support we received when Mom died. Just know that we are thinking of you and praying for you. Grant was a special individual and we are all better for having known him. Love you all.

Terry

Terry Sheppard - November 28, 2004 at 03:14 PM