



## Melissa Evans

September 11, 2007

Melissa Beth Evans, 21, of Lawrence, passed away Sat. Sept. 8, 2007 at the University of Kansas Medical Center as a result of injuries suffered in a vehicle accident caused by weather conditions. She was born Sept. 19, 1985 in Amarillo, TX, the daughter of Donald E. and Coralee Wilson Evans. Melissa was a 2003 graduate of Washburn Rural High School and a 2007 graduate of the University of Kansas where she earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Latin American Studies and a second BA in History. She was a member of many campus organizations including Latin American Solidarity of which she was president in Spring of '07 and Alternative Spring Break in Nicaragua in March of '07. Melissa studied in Costa Rica from Jan. to July of '06. and traveled extensively in Latin America where she never met a stranger or saw a "chicken bus" that she was afraid to ride on. She was also active in the Fair Trade Movement as well as Delta Force at KU. Melissa was a lifelong dancer, beginning at the age of three and participating at Dance Factory for many years where she was awarded the Quinn Dauphin Memorial Scholarship in 2003. She was greatly loved and will be missed by her many friends both here and abroad who called her "Spike". She is survived by her parents, a sister, Emily Schnee (Lee) of Holton; a brother, Nathan Evans (Liz) of Auburn; a grandmother, Jane Wilson of Oswego; her enamorado (boyfriend) Greg Hill of Nashville, TN; three nieces and one nephew. Melissa will lie in state from 3:00 until 6:00 pm, Tuesday, Sept. 11 at the Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Rd, Topeka, KS 66614. Funeral services will be at 11:00 am

Wednesday, Sept. 12 at Susanna Wesley United Methodist Church, 7433 SW 29th St with burial to follow in Mt. Hope Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be given to the Ecumenical Christian Ministries and sent in care of the funeral home.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Melissa Evans*

January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM



“ *Im sorry for your loss. I wen't to wrhs with her, I didn't get to know her that well but she will be missed.*

**Brandon Sanders** - September 19, 2007 at 12:44 AM



“ *I was very sorry to hear of your loss. Melissa was a great kid and I enjoyed very much getting to know her. I will be in prayer for all of you. I can not imagine the loss of someone so close. Please know that we will be lifting you up through prayer in these tragic times.*  
*Don Gifford*

**Don Gifford** - September 13, 2007 at 07:14 PM



“ *I am so sorry about your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you. God bless you and your family.*

**Duane Richey** - September 13, 2007 at 05:53 PM

RH

“ *Don & Family,*

*On behalf of the VS Arkansas Area, you all are in our thoughts and prayers. If we could be of any help during this time of bereavement, please let us know.*

*Roger Holley, AVIC AR*

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**Roger Holley** - September 13, 2007 at 08:27 AM

KN

“ *Emily and Evans family. We are so sorry for your loss. You are in our prayers. Luke and Kari*

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**Kari (Schone) Naylor** - September 12, 2007 at 10:45 AM

JD

“ *I grieve with you for the physical loss of your beautiful daughter, yet praise the Lord that He has promised her a place at His side. I pray that you are comforted and have joy in this truth.*

*I work with Gregg's dad in Nashville. All of us at Sabre are sad at this time and want you to know that you are in our thoughts and prayers.*

*Judy Downes*

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**Judy Downes** - September 12, 2007 at 08:44 AM

SW

“ i know you do not know me, but i was friends with Melissa in high school and our freshman year at KU. she has always been a vibrant and outgoing person who lived the way she thought she should have lived. i wish i could have stayed in contact, i was hoping to see her soon..but i know she is in heaven now. My prayers go out to you. god bless.

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**shamara winchester** - September 11, 2007 at 09:38 PM

BN

“ *Evans Family,*  
My prayers are with you at this time of sorrow. Your Melissa was such a vibrant, wonderful young woman. I'm sorry I won't meet her until we meet in Heaven. Many of us from Emily's Sonlight family are remembering you in daily prayer.

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**Beth Nichols** - September 11, 2007 at 08:55 PM

NW

“ Your daughter was a vibrant, vivacious, enthusiastic and positive force here at CFCA. She was a joy to be around and always had a smile on her face and in her voice. Her very presence lit up the room, she was a special light that burned brightly for such a short time. We are saddened by our loss, she will be truly missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with your family.

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**Neveda Wayland** - September 11, 2007 at 03:47 PM

M(

“ I am very sorry for your loss. I graduated from WRHS (as Meredith Ballantyne) with Melissa, and worked briefly at Sheridan's Frozen Custard with her. Even though she was a small person her energy filled a room in an instant. I hope all of you can find peace and reflect on all the wonderful memories you have with her. Other than those basic words, I know there isn't much that can console you in this tragic time and I am also very sorry for that.

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**Meredith Eden (Ballantyne)** - September 11, 2007 at 03:43 PM

KW

“ Melissa is simply unforgettable. Her smile and bright personality were contagious. Her energy, enthusiasm, and charisma will always be remembered. I remember Melissa best through youth functions at the church.

*I am deeply saddened to hear of your loss. Your family is in my thoughts and prayers.*

*--Kate Whitney*

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**Kate Whitney** - September 11, 2007 at 12:13 PM

CW

“ Evans Family, We have never met, but we are related through the Wilson family. I'm Opal Wilson Morfords' granddaughter, Cindy. Cousin Marcia Ratclif told me of your families loss. I'm so sorry. I know there are not sufficient words to comfort you. I know the grief of losing a child is so immense, and I want to encourage you to seek the Lord and cling to Him. Through the last 6 months of being without my daughter Logan, God has continued to be faithful to comfort and hold me, even when I felt like I was holding on by a thread. I know we are distant relatives, but if you ever felt like you needed to talk to someone who can understand, I would be glad to. I know by experience that at this moment, I may just be another person trying to help, to ease your pain. Right now, you may think the only thing that will help is to have your precious daughter back. I understand completely. Please contact me for anything! I will pray for you and your whole family in the days and months ahead. Much love and sympathy to your family. Sincerely, Cindy Waldeck  
[www.logansrace.com](http://www.logansrace.com)

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**Cindy Waldeck** - September 11, 2007 at 12:00 PM

KD

“ I knew Melissa a bit through our work together at CFCA. What a bright light. We had a memorial service here at work yesterday and everyone talked about her smile, her joy, her humor, and how she made people feel good just by being around them. I cannot imagine what this must be like for you all. It is just so wrong. Not how the world is supposed to work. Please know that everyone here is praying for you and thinking of you. It may be cold comfort but just know that she will be deeply missed by everyone here who knew her.

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**Kelly Demo** - September 11, 2007 at 11:00 AM

MS

“ I met Spike (as I knew her) in Peru this summer while she was visiting Greg. I was travelling in the country with a mutual friend. We all had a good time that day in Lima. Spike seemed full of energy and life and I was saddened to hear the news. My thoughts are with your family.

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**Mike Stites** - September 11, 2007 at 10:43 AM

RA

“ I am so sorry for the loss of Melissa. I was one of her high school teachers and I remember how happy she always was, and that attitude always brightened the classroom. She gave me a senior picture and on the back wrote "Don't forget me!" I never did, and I never will. This is such a loss for she had so much to give to this world. My prayers are with your family.

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**Ryan Arnold** - September 11, 2007 at 09:21 AM

AR

“ *Evans Family,*  
*I am so sorry for your loss. No parent should ever have to bury their child (we lost our eleven year old son in May).*  
*My prayer for you is that you will know the constant presence of the God of all comforts.*  
*(I know Emily through Sonlight)*  
*Sincerely, Amy*

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**Amy Rayson** - September 11, 2007 at 08:58 AM

PD

“ Dear Don and Carolee,  
I am Quinn Dauphin's mother and I want to send my condolences and special thoughts and prayers. I certainly know what this is like. I am so sorry that you will have this long hard road ahead of you. May God be with your family.

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**Pam Dauphin** - September 11, 2007 at 08:34 AM

JS

“ Evans Family, I am really sorry about your loss. I am also a WRHS graduate. In high school I was friends with Melissa and she will be deeply missed.

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**Jo Ann Story** - September 10, 2007 at 11:12 PM

KG

“ Coralee, Don and family,  
Life is not suppose to be like this. There are no words that I can say to ease your pain and sorrow at this time. Our thoughts and prayers will be with all of you.

*Ken and Sheri Keller*

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**Ken and Sheri Keller and girls** - September 10, 2007 at 07:35 PM

EI

“ I'm so sorry about Melissa. I graduated from WRHS with Melissa, and I'll always remember how excited she was about life and everything it had to offer! Whenever I saw her, she was smiling, and I can only imagine what a positive impact she has had on all those she came in contact with. Your family is in my prayers and thoughts.

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**Emily Wilkes (Rexburg, Idaho)** - September 10, 2007 at 06:56 PM

DC

“ Coralee and Don, We only had the pleasure of meeting Melissa one time. We just wanted to let you know our hearts and prayers are with you. There is nothing we can say to express how sorry we are. God bless you both.

*Daryl Hendrix & Chris Mehrens*

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**Daryl and Chris** - September 10, 2007 at 04:26 PM

TE

“ There are no words to express how sorry I am about your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

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**Tammy Elliott** - September 10, 2007 at 02:58 PM

JB

“ Coralee and Family

*Desma told me Monday about the accident. I know there are no words that can express how sorry I am. You have always been there for me and I will never forget that. If I can do anything now or later, please let me know.*

*Even though I never really new your Mellisa, I did through you. "Look at Me! My little tiny arm". We laughed alot about that one!*

*Take care and you are in my prayers.*

*Luv,*

*Joyce Brown*

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**Joyce Brown** - September 10, 2007 at 10:56 AM