



## Gabriel J. Belak

December 5, 2002 - August 4, 2023

Gabriel Joseph Belak~

Age 20, of Monroeville, Pennsylvania, passed away on Friday, August 4th 2023, at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh.

He is the beloved son of Robb and Emmie Belak. He is survived by his maternal grandmother, Terry "Meem" Dick, Paternal grandfather, Paul "PapPap" Belak. Gabriel is also survived by many aunts, uncles, and cousins. He was preceded in death by his maternal grandfather, Ralph "Pete" Dick, his paternal grandmother Mary Eleanor Belak, and his beloved cat Theo.

Gabe was a student at The Western Pennsylvania School for Blind Children, where he especially enjoyed his Horticulture classes. He also attended The Children's Home of Pittsburgh, where he was a student at Child's Way daycare for most of his life, spending many happy days there.

Gabe was known for his infectious smile, his sense of humor, easygoing personality, and the twinkle in his eyes. He had many friends, and loved everyone he met. He courageously fought many health battles throughout his life.

Gabe had many interests, including his love for music - his favorite being The Dave Matthews Band.

He loved watching his favorite show - Dora the Explorer, and playing with his favorite toys.

He spent many Saturdays at Heinz Field, cheering on The PITT Panthers. Many weekends were spent with his family, which he truly loved.

Gabe also loved to sit under trees stretching his neck to watch the light filter through the leaves.

Gabe was an organ donor, with the desire to help others.

There will be no funeral services. A celebration of life will be announced at a later date.

Gabe's family would like to express their heartfelt gratitude to all his caregivers especially at Children's Hospital, Child's Way Daycare, WPSBC and Interim Healthcare, for always providing loving and exceptional care.

There have been so many wonderful, thoughtful and compassionate people who have helped in Gabe's care throughout his life.

If possible, please consider a donation in Gabe's memory to one of the following:

The Children's Home and Lemieux Family Center - Child's Way

Western PA School for Blind Children

Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh

Magee Women's Research Institute

Professional services trusted to D'ALESSANDRO FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY LTD., Lawrenceville

[DalessandroLtd.com](http://DalessandroLtd.com).

# Tribute Wall



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Gabriel J. Belak.

August 14, 2023 at 02:26 PM



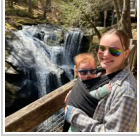
“ I was one of Gabe's nurses more many years. He stole my heart from the day I met him. As a toddler, I loved rocking and singing to him when he was little. Always smiling, even if he didn't feel well. Laughed at me often in the mornings as I'd get him ready for school. Truly a sweet soul! His parents loved him fiercely. They gave him the best life he could have possibly had! I would like to think of him now with no restrictions, dancing and singing, and laughing watching over all of us ❤️

**Lori O'Malley** - August 11, 2023 at 04:36 AM



“ The sweetest soul I've ever known! I have fond memories of doing his respiratory treatments (In the COVID days, we had to go to the treatment room) and I would play music to entertain us. Gabe's favorite was Classic Rock! I considered him my music buddy, and this was something that I looked forward to. He also made me laugh when he would listen to our adult conversations and crack up at what we were saying! You taught me not to take life so seriously! I love you and will miss you music buddy.

**Michelle Bertovich** - August 10, 2023 at 12:23 PM



“ I was Gabe’s nurse at Child’s Way for the last year. He was a joy to care for and his smile lit up the room. He would always smile so big when I caught him doing something mischievous like trying to take his oxygen tubing out of his nose. He laughed and smiled when the other children around him were doing so and when we talked to him in silly voices. He will never be forgotten and we miss him so much.

Love,  
Alex

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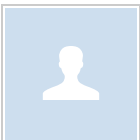
**Alex McDermott** - August 10, 2023 at 09:47 AM



“ Gabe....my Punkin, my buddy, my hero ❤️ I have so many memories...you laughing hysterically at me putting your oxygen on, you and I swimming in tiny circles in the pool on vacation, us playing with your toys, and you putting up with my singing...and on and on. We were so very blessed to have you in our family...no one will ever imagine how much I love you and how very much I miss you.....❤️

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**Terry Dick (Meem)** - August 10, 2023 at 09:22 AM




“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Gabriel J. Belak.



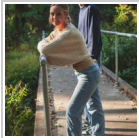
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August 09, 2023 at 02:18 PM

JR

“ I was a monitor on Gabe’s bus. It was my job to make sure the wheel chairs were secure and the children were comfortable. I’m into exercise and there was a seven step that I did. We sang it as we stepped very fast. The first time I brought Gabe on the bus. I locked his chair and loudly sang..1 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7.  I’m Italian, so I’m loud and as I did this as I buckled this seven buckles. He burst out laughing. So he thought I was goofie. So. The world does not matter to me, I’m me!! Daily. 2 X a day I did this dance..just stomping feet, and he giggled. He was a thrill. Be with God Gabe. My love and prayers go with you.  
Judie Ribic

Judie Ribic - August 08, 2023 at 07:53 PM



“ I’ll never forget his smile! He is a great reminder for all of us to smile more. I’m going to miss him seeing him at CW. He truly made my day when I would see him. Sending prayers for the family and loved ones at this difficult time.

Diane DeCarlucci - August 08, 2023 at 07:22 PM

BB

“ Bill & Ann Bravick purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Gabriel J. Belak.



Bill & Ann Bravick - August 08, 2023 at 04:36 PM

PA

“ So sorry for your loss. AJ and Gabe were good buddies while attending school and Child's Way. It's very hard, but know that Gabe is healed and in a better place and I'm sure AJ and him are having the time of their lives.

*Patty*

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**Patty & AJ** - August 08, 2023 at 02:26 PM

ER

“ We are so sorry for your loss. Gabe always made us smile. He will be greatly missed by everyone at Child's Way. Love, Erin and Child's Way staff



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**Erin** - August 08, 2023 at 12:22 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Gabriel J. Belak.

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August 08, 2023 at 11:07 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Gabriel J. Belak.



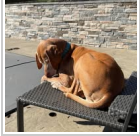
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August 08, 2023 at 11:07 AM

MR

“ Michele R. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gabriel J. Belak.

Michele R. - August 08, 2023 at 10:51 AM



“ Dear Emmie and Robb, Gabe is missed. Everyone here at The Children's Home & Lemieux Family Center sends there heartfelt condolences and prayers of support. Gabe attended Child's Way for so many years and was loved by everyone. He had a beautiful smile and sweet disposition. If you need anything please know that we are here for you. With love and sympathy, Pam and staff

Pam Keen - August 08, 2023 at 10:16 AM

JE

“ I'm so very sorry for your loss. Gabe was so happy & cheerful. I worked with him at WPSBC in Jennifer's preschool class & Lisa's secondary class. He loved to be part of a small speech drama group in secondary. With deepest sympathy.  
Jen Ellenberg





jen ellenberg - August 08, 2023 at 09:41 AM

BM

“ Emmie n Robb sincere sorrow for you. Gabe had that smile that even the saddest person in the world had to smile. God couldn't have given him better parents or given you a special child. Prayers n hugs ❤️


Bonnie McGregor - August 08, 2023 at 08:28 AM

LP

“ I never had the pleasure to meet Gabe in person but I always hear stories of his infectious laugh and always saw beautiful pictures of his amazing smile from his loving Auntie Ros. She was so proud of Gabe being a part of her life and he helped to keep her positive given everything he had to go through with all his trips to Children’s Hospital. I loved to share the love of PITT football and I always saw his pictures at the game all decked out in his PITT gear. H2P!    
  . Hope your parents and the rest of your family know that they are in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. Gabe you will be truly missed.




Linda Pokos - August 08, 2023 at 02:40 AM

BB

“ My last memory of Gabe is visiting him in the hospital in July and Robb saying , “oh you’re laughing for Aunt Brooke and not me.” That giggle and smile will be dearly missed. You were loved by so many. I hope you’re dancing in the sky. Love, Aunt Brooke 

Brooke Belak - August 07, 2023 at 08:09 PM

AO

“ Gabe was loved by everyone who knew him. What a pure and amazing accomplishment! He had the best sense of humor and a million dollar smile. I’ll never forget our communication lessons of listening to DMB, comedy stand up videos (even the ones with a few swear words that I’d let you listen to since you promised not to confirm that I did), spooky Halloween things, and competitive games. You and your friends helped me stay positive during some of the darkest times of Covid- you were ones of the brightest lights! I can’t thank you enough for that Gabe. I’ll miss you always, my student and friend.   

Alison Oniboni - August 07, 2023 at 07:40 PM

MH

“ *What a wonderful, brilliant smile he had. Besides his smile, the best laugh. His mom, always made sure he was dressed for every holiday. What a snappy dresser. He was a true fighter. He will forever remain in our hearts* ❤️

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**Margie Honeycutt** - August 07, 2023 at 07:28 PM

MS

“ *I have so many memories I couldn't pick just one, but I can say this, Gabe made our family better, and happier, and he never had to say a word. His spirit spoke for him. He was a beautiful, positive person and I'm going to miss him like crazy. " Love you Chappie"*



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**Mitzi Sinclair** - August 07, 2023 at 07:25 PM