

Our Story

A Fathers Point of View

On February 20, 1996, my life changed beyond comprehension. I am now a father.

The birth of Harrison was the most incredible miracle I have ever witnessed. I immediately fell in love and was the ultimate proud father. Even from day 1, Harrison was a great baby. We were told many times to enjoy Harrison because we will never get another like him.

Harrison brought so much joy to our lives, even at 3:00 am. Our lives changed so much, but it was all for the good. I remember telling many people, "Harrison was the meaning of life." Anytime I would get frustrated with trivial, day-to-day problems, I would think about Harrison, and everything would be better. He could always put a smile on my face.



Harrison's first pacifier had a football on the end. It would soon be known as his football binkey. We tried others but none filled the void like his football binkey. I still have it and will cherish it forever.

We went to a few high school football games and his cousin's basketball games.

I was amazed at how long he would sit and actually watch the game. He was definitely going to be a sports nut like his dad.

Harrison was intelligent and had a sense of humor. I would flip through television channels and stop at a hockey game and ask Harrison what sport it was. He would say, "hockey". I would keep going to a basketball game and ask him what sport it was. He would say, "basketball". Then I would stop at a baseball game and ask him what sport it was. He would say, "hockey", then immediately look at me and laugh. I would ask him what sport it was again and then he would say, "baseball".

Kentucky Derby Day, 1998, we went to watch the race at Fairmount Park in Illinois. We bet on the #2, Real Quiet. As the horses came down the stretch, Real Quiet had a good lead but Victory Gallop was closing furiously. I was holding Harrison as we watched the race and was yelling, "hold on baby, hold on baby!" After the race, Harrison turned to me and said, "hold on baby".

We took quite a few trips to the zoo. Our favorite animals were the polar bears. It was fun to watch them swim in the water. He got a kick out of them splashing around. He also loved the elephants and the giraffes.



I have so many vivid memories of Harrison. He was always the center of attention and knew how to work an audience. Anytime he saw a camera he would immediately pose and smile. He brought so much joy to everyone that knew him. Harrison was the meaning of life.

On May 30, 1998, my life changed beyond comprehension. I am now a bereaved parent.

You can never imagine the horror and deep, agonizing pain when the doctor comes into the room and says, "I'm sorry but we did everything we could!" At that very moment, your life ends. The wonderful life you knew is over. No parent should ever endure the hell of holding his baby one last time. You never want to let go but you are being told you have to leave because your wife needs you.

Michele is in surgery for five hours. I keep repeating, "she doesn't even know about Harrison." I never allowed myself to think Michele could die, but that was reality. I guarantee without Michele I would not be here today. I feel a life without Harrison is unbearable, but a life without both would be impossible.

The only time I can truly laugh is when we tell stories about Harrison. One thing hasn't changed, for people who knew Harrison, he can still put a smile on your face and warm your heart when we talk about him.





Not a day goes by I don't think of him a million times. Everywhere I turn, there is a reminder of the electricity he gave when we were together. I miss him so much and would give anything to hold him once more.

What I miss most is being his dad and watching him grow as a person, sharing every moment with him and being there for him. There are so many things we didn't get to experience.

Though his life on earth was very short and everyone was cheated, I still feel lucky we got to know him and experience all the joy he offered. I truly know in my heart we will be reunited and he is still with us as we journey through life.

Harrison's death was so preventable. Please learn from our tragedy and do not wait until it happens to someone you know to heed our warning. One way we can prevent this from occurring again, is if children are never left unattended in vehicles. Please be responsible before it is too late.

