

Wyatt Ferris North-Skelton

Born 7/10/2020 at 5:33pm

Died 9/17/2023

Wyatt was born early at thirty-five weeks and one day on July 10, 2020. From the time Wyatt was in utero to the day he left us, Wyatt continued to surprise us. When the nurses in the prenatal unit at University Hospital thought Wyatt was going to make his entrance at twenty seven weeks, and they were trying to get him to stay on the heart rate monitor, he was given the name Baby Shark, because he would always swim away. The day Wyatt was born he also had an unusual entrance into this world with thirty-three hours of labor and then an emergency cesarian that took about double the time as normal. Nothing was ever status quo with our boy. From the moment Wyatt was born he constantly surprised everyone with his strength and resiliency. Wyatt had endured countless doctors and physical, occupational, speech and feeding therapy appointments since his physical motor skills that just were not developing correctly because of his arthrogyposis. Even though he hated being poked and prodded by various adults, he was a special patient for those who got to work with him. He was resilient, he was incredibly physically strong for such a little guy and more than anything, no matter what, he was ALWAYS the happiest kid in the world.

Wyatt was a Disney kid through and through and loved going on rides. The faster the better for our Wy. He was such a good travel kid the few times we were able to do it and he was open to every new experience. He loved his daddy throwing him in the air or dipping him backwards. He also loved giving his mommy nighttime Wyatt kisses. He loved to play with beans in the bowl and dumping them all over the floor, his drums, pianos and music (Beach Boys and Disney songs). He loved his books – Chicka Chicka Boom Boom and The Going to Bed Book were his favorites. He loved running around in his walker and chasing his puppies Prairie and Gus much to Gus's chagrin. He loved being independent as much as he could. His favorite was sneaking up on mom and dad cooking in the kitchen and shutting us into the pantry as he stood guard outside. He loved to go outside in his walker and riding down the driveway in it. And he loved his movies. Wyatt got to watch a lot of movies during his long tube feedings. He loved the *Sonic the Hedgehog* live action movies, *Puss in Boots the Last Wish*, *Bad Guys*, *Turning Red*, *Paw Patrol*, and anything with the Minions. Again, the more action, the better. Just like Sonic – Wyatt just always wanted to GO FAST.

He recently started attending preschool this past month and even though he got sick twice as a result of being in school, because that's what happens at the beginning of the year, Wyatt absolutely loved school and loved being with other little kids and his teachers. He got other kids to dance with his little Wyatt Dance shimmy. Every time we dropped him off we would have various parents tell us how much their kids just loved our Wyatt. He was such a special kid. Unfortunately, when Wyatt got sick which was not too often luckily, it would throw his system out of whack so we would spend a lot of time at Children's Hospital getting admitted to receive a steroid treatment, give him more oxygen and the like. We were on our way to Children's in a non-emergency capacity to have Wyatt checked out after calling

the nurses line at Children's and them recommended having us bring him in for observation and just as a precaution. Wyatt fell asleep in his car seat on the way watching one of his favorite movies as it was his bedtime anyways. He was holding Ashleigh's hand and drifted to sleep peacefully with a smile on his face. As we were getting off the highway at 225 and Colfax, Wyatt let go of Ashleigh's finger and she noticed he was not breathing. Ashleigh tried to get him breathing again as Andy flew through the lights to get us to the hospital. Andy ran Wyatt inside and a wonderful security guard ran Wyatt as fast as he could to the doctors who tried to revive him but, were never able to get his heart started again. We lost Wyatt on Sunday, September 17, 2023.

Wyatt was incredible, he was a beautiful soul and brought light to any room he was in. Everyone who met him loved him. He was magnetic. People were just drawn to him. If Wyatt gave anyone one of his infectious smiles they couldn't help but smile back. He had the best characteristics of both Andy and Ashleigh but, he was his own person through and through. Most people called him Andy's mini-me and it's easy to see why. He had Ashleigh's eyes but, he looked just like his dada. He was so loved by his mom, his dad, his grandparents, Terri and Tim, with whom he spent four days a week for daycare. He was grandpa's best friend "Doodledoo" and grandma's snuggle bug. Wyatt became a snuggler around his first birthday and there was nothing like Wyatt snuggles, that's for sure. Wyatt's smile, his hysterical laugh and high-pitched squeal when he got excited are things that will be sorely missed. His hugs and kisses will be treasured memories forever. We know that Wyatt is with his great grandparents and great uncles now and they will be taking care of him until we get to see him again.

Andy and Ashleigh would like to thank everyone for the outpouring of support from Chief Wilson and the Lone Tree PD, especially Corporal Bryan Taylor and the wonderful people at Grandview High School, CU Anschutz Medical Campus Administration and Police, West Metro Fire, South Metro Fire, and Gilpin County Sheriff's Office. We'd also like to thank Wyatt's Uncle Matt and Aunt Mari, Wyatt's grandparents Terri and Tim, Danielle Prince, Phil LaConte, and Briana Jimenez as well as Andy's shift partners: Sergeant Kenny Medina, Corporal Dan Andreas, and Officer Mo Quezada for being with us at Children's that tragic night. We also thank Andy's parents Karan North and Gary Hall, Woody Skelton as well as his aunts and uncles along with Ashleigh's extended family for the amazing support. We couldn't do any of this without the love and guidance of Linda Worthey as we plan arrangements to celebrate our little boy's life. And of course, we appreciate everyone so much for coming by the house, sending well wishes through texts, phone calls and emails, as well as sending thoughts and prayers for our family at this time. Thank you for all of the love that you have shown us, we are truly humbled and speechless due to all of the support from you.