

Mollie Cecelia Tibbetts



Mass of the Resurrection for Mollie Tibbetts, age 20, of Brooklyn, will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 26, 2018, in the gymnasium of the BGM High School in Brooklyn with Bishop Thomas R. Zinkula presiding and Fr. Corey Close as the Homilist. The family will receive friends following the service for a reception and continued fellowship.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be designated to the University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital, mailed in care of the Smith Funeral Home, PO Box 368, Grinnell, Iowa 50112. Memories and condolences may be shared with Mollie's family online at www.smithfh.com.

Mollie Cecelia Tibbetts was born the daughter of Robert and Laura (Calderwood) Tibbetts on May 8, 1998, in San Francisco, California. She was raised in San Francisco and Brooklyn, Iowa, and graduated from BGM High School in Brooklyn with the class of 2017. She attended the University of Iowa in Iowa City, Iowa, and was majoring in psychology.

Mollie loved life. Her passion for it radiated from those beautiful brown eyes and the smile that she was so quick to share with everyone she met. She excelled in writing and speech where she shared her thoughts on some very difficult and complex subjects, mental health and self-esteem. Her talents were rewarded when she was invited to perform them three years at the Iowa All State competition. From her first musical appearance, she was hooked on theatre and enjoyed acting in the school plays. Mollie pushed herself in cross country and made running a part of her everyday life. Children are also something Mollie loved dearly. She began babysitting at an early age and worked the last two summers at the GRMC Day Camp where the kids adored her ability to make them laugh and the way she made them feel love. She was attending the University of Iowa to become a child psychologist to be able to work with children dealing with mental health issues. Dance Marathon, choir and singing were things she also loved participating in. But what Mollie did best was making friends everywhere she went.

Mollie is survived by her father, Robert Tibbetts of Lafayette and Fresno, California; her mother, Laura Calderwood of Brooklyn, Iowa; two brothers Jacob and Scott Tibbetts of Brooklyn; and maternal grandparent, Judy Calderwood of Brooklyn. Maternal family includes Aunt Kim Calderwood and Chris Sellers of Brooklyn, Uncle Erick Calderwood and Billie Jo Calderwood of Brooklyn, and Aunt Deb Column-Calderwood of Washington, D.C. Maternal cousins, of Brooklyn, include Morgan and Christian Calderwood and Vaughn and Joseph Irlbeck. Also included are Kelsie Sheets of Oskaloosa and Kiegan Watts of Altoona, Gabe Sellers of Rochester, Minn., and Sammie Sellers of Des Moines. Paternal aunts include Meg Tibbetts Williams of Des Moines, Iowa, Julie Tibbetts Eaton and Jeff Eaton of Denver, Colo., Clare Tibbetts Faulkner and Matthew Faulkner of Long Beach, Calif., and Laurie Craig of Des Moines. Paternal nieces and nephews along with families include Shaun Williams of Des Moines, Nicole and Ryan Mikluscak and children Lily and Maeve of Omaha, Neb., Jonathan and Brittany Eaton of Denver along with sons Patrick and William. Annie and Brian Wagner along with daughter Margot Maeve of Ann Arbor, Mich., Joseph Faulkner of Brooklyn, NY, and Emma Faulkner of Denver, Colo. Emily and Tim Heaston, and family Clare, Cate and Teddie, along with Jack Craig, all of Des Moines. Also included are very much-loved stepmother Kasey Auston-Tibbetts and her children Mallory and Scott along with grandchildren Zackeria Lovick and Pierce Carlson along with their extended family members. Most importantly Mollie is survived by the love of her life, Dalton Jack, and his family.

Mollie was preceded in death by her maternal grandfather, Charles Calderwood; and paternal grandparents, Robert Tibbetts and Clare Meng Tibbetts.

PCR 8-29-2018 Mollie Tibbetts

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Mollie Tibbetts' employer recalls her skill with kids

The search for Mollie Tibbetts, missing since July 18, ended on Tuesday, Aug. 21, when Cristhian Rivera, charged with her murder, led investigators to her body. Her family issued a statement asking for privacy. Chad Nath, director of the summer camp where Tibbetts had been working, shared memories of Tibbetts. Yarrabee Farms where Rivera had been working issued a statement regarding Rivera.

The family of Mollie Tibbetts issued a statement, saying "Our hearts are broken.

"On behalf of Mollie's entire family, we thank all of those from around the world who have sent their thoughts and prayers for our girl. We know that many of you will join us as we continue to carry Mollie in our hearts forever.

"At this time, our family asks that we be allowed the time to process our devastating loss and share our grief in private.

"Again, thank you for the outpouring of love and support that has been shared in Mollie's name. We remain forever grateful."

Chad Nath is director of the ten-week summer camp at which Tibbetts was working this summer. When she did not arrive at work the morning of July 19, Nath sent her a text message and called her phone. Neither communication was answered.

Knowing it was not like Tibbetts to not arrive or call, Nath says, a family member was contacted to learn if a family emergency had kept Tibbetts away from work. The call from summer camp was the first indication Tibbetts' family had that she was missing, Nath says.

Tibbetts first worked for the summer camp in the summer of 2017 just after she finished high school. She worked at a winter camp over the December break from school and for the 2018 summer camp until she disappeared.

Nath explains that the camp is a partnership between UnityPoint Health-Grinnell Regional Medical Center, Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company, Grinnell College and Grinnell-Newburg school district to provide summer camp for their employees. Enrollment in 2018 is 143 children, ages 4 to 13, with an average of 76 children attending each day. In addition to Nath, the camp has nine full-time and two part-time employees. Tibbetts was one of the full-time staffers.

The camp designs activities to help prevent summer learning loss, Nath says, and many staff plan to be teachers, so lesson planning is part of the staff's work. Activities include crafts, reading, math and art. Nath says Tibbetts worked well with all ages of students and was particularly good with the younger

Mollie C. Tibbetts

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children.

"She was definitely someone who had a really good sense of humor," Nath says. "She was always joking around, always smiling, always happy. She was really, really good at calming children, working with them one on one, making them feel comfortable.

"She was a dependable, happy person," Nath continues. "There's not a job out there that the employer wouldn't want someone like that, someone with a can-do attitude, a positive outlook, willing to roll up their sleeves and get to work."

Nath says Tibbetts' father, Rob Tibbetts, came to the summer camp to visit while Mollie Tibbetts was still missing. Rob Tibbetts said his daughter had spoken highly of the summer camp, and he wanted to meet people who worked with her and see what work she was doing.

Nath says he tells silly jokes like asking why the skeleton didn't play music in church. The answer: Because he had no organs. He told Rob Tibbetts that Mollie always said those kind of jokes were "dad jokes." Rob Tibbetts in turn told Nath that when Rob told Mollie those kinds of jokes, she called them "Chad jokes. Nath and Rob Tibbetts got a laugh from Mollie's blaming each for the other's jokes.

Nath says he will always remember Mollie Tibbetts singing and dancing down the hallway.

"She was always singing, always dancing, always acting in a goofy way just to keep the kids at ease," Nath sums up his strongest memories of Mollie Tibbetts.

State investigators declined to release where Cristhian Rivera, charged with murdering Tibbetts, was employed. Yarrabee Farms, the Brooklyn-area dairy farm owned and operated by several generations of Lang relatives, released a statement indicating that Rivera had worked there for four years.

The Yarrabee statement says: "First and foremost, our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of Mollie Tibbetts. This is a profoundly sad day for our community. All of us at Yarrabee Farms are shocked to hear that one of our employees was involved and is charged in this case.

"This individual has worked at our farms for four years, was vetted through the government's E-Verify system, and was an employee in good standing. On Monday [Aug. 20], the authorities visited our farm and talked to our employees. We have cooperated fully with their investigation.

Yarrabee Farms follows all laws related to verifying employees are legal to work in the United States, and we regularly seek outside counsel to ensure we stay up-to-date on employment law matters. We keep records on all employees and have shared that information with authorities.

We appreciate the hard work of law enforcement officials. We will continue to cooperate with authorities as the investigation moves forward."

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