

January 2

Blessed to Have Been David's Mom

David was born on February 5, 1970. We were elated! Our daughter, age six, held him in her arms, thinking we had him just for her. She remained his protector and loved him like a second mother.

Five years later, David was diagnosed with Duchenne muscular dystrophy, a fatal disease that would take his ability to walk or do anything for himself. Although our sadness and hurt were unimaginable, David was a brilliant, happy child. His sweet disposition and sense of humor profoundly influenced many friends who stuck by him. He made us all better.

The day after David's funeral, I needed to see his grave, maybe to prove to myself it really happened. While at the cemetery, a beautiful butterfly landed on my hand and visited for quite some time. Friends who were close to David had similar experiences. I believe his spirit, free of the body that limited him, came to us in those butterflies to let us know not to worry.



If you've lost a loved one and watch the process, you must believe that the spirit only leaves the body. I believe David left to be with the Lord in Heaven, and we will all be together again.

Meanwhile, be very thankful for what you have been given and what you now have. I was blessed to have been David's mother. God also gave me two beautiful grandchildren, a boy with the same sweet personality of his uncle and a girl who lightens up my day. My daughter, a special woman with empathy, love, and a strong faith, married a wonderful man who understands our heartache and helps fill in our loss.

Sharlie Gates, David's Mom