

LYRIC of LIFE
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LOL

March 2007 • Lyric of Life • Issue 5
Terry Benson / LOL Director / Father



Film to show April 21

Doran Documents Lyric Tribute

He never met Lyric. This Irish-born videographer from Oceanside, CA, had heard many compelling stories through his work and by just being aware. A full-time job of editing for a television station was consuming. His hobby of creating prosthetic special effects kept him even busier.

Why was he drawn to Lyric's story? Ray Doran had seen an ABC *Primetime* special about Lyric's death. It impacted him more than he expected. "We see a lot of stories on TV about good people we lost at the hands of evil," Doran explained. "I must have seen thousands of such stories in my lifetime, but Lyric's image has had a profound effect on me from the moment I saw her on the screen."

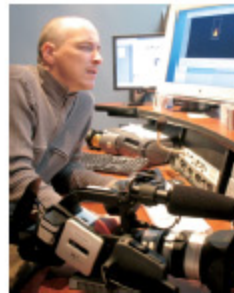
Ray posted a brief message-board comment on the Web in 2003. Not until late in 2005 did I notice that message board and its responses to Lyric's story. I answered them briefly, thanking each person for acknowledging Lyric. Doran responded to my e-mail. A correspondence began that ended in Doran offering to video the 2006 LYRIC of LIFE benefit, which he did. He has been invited for personal visits to the Kansas City area on two occasions.

But why did he want to do more? Doran cited, "It wasn't until I met Terry and Amanda (Lyric's aunt) and saw the videos (of Lyric) and heard the stories that I realized.....hey, I am a film maker.....why wait for someone else to make the film I want to see?" Doran's shorter 30-minute version of his video project will be presented for the first time April 21 at the LOL benefit. He has traveled numerous times, including NYC twice, to meet with people to interview. His mission is simple and heartfelt.....to honor Lyric's life and her major LOL cause for organ donation. The film is entitled "Finding Lyric."

It's difficult to understand sometimes that people like Ray Doran exist. A stranger from far away has committed a part of his life to showing how the beautiful life and tragic death of Lyric Marie Benson remains so important.



Ray to debut film



Ray-vision at work

Fourth Annual
LYRIC of LIFE
Benefit
April 21, 2007
Valentine Room
Uptown Theater

BOWMAN TRAGEDY BECOMES DONATION

Steven M. Bowman mentioned to his parents that he wanted to be an organ donor. He planned to have his next driver's license made to indicate that. With the combination of a gun and apparent feelings of despair that nobody will quite understand, Bowman took his own life on August 29, 2006.

Bowman's mother and stepfather, Halina and Daniel Gay, live in Lee's Summit. They are looking into grief-counseling groups to help them understand what they never anticipated. "He was a very loving and giving person," mentioned Halina as she recalled memories and wondered how this could have happened.

Bowman, 25, had been working at Quintiles, a pharmaceutical study company in Lenexa, KS. Because insurance would not cover the funeral expenses due to cause, family and other sources helped with those costs. LOL took care of a final balance to complete the transaction at Carson-Speaks Chapel in Independence, MO. And Bowman got his wish. He was an organ donor.

Wilson's on the Mend

Rick Wilson was thankful for the liver transplant he received in Omaha, NE, on October 2, 2006. Some post-op complications were not part of the plans, however. Rick's wife, Tara, drove him numerous times from their Leavenworth, KS, home to Omaha for further evaluations.

Because of the necessary follow-ups, Tara was

forced to miss time at her production job. Rick hadn't been able to work for over a year as a fast-food manager. To defray costs during the holiday month of December, LOL helped with a month's rent and a lingering gas bill.

When married, the Wilsons brought together five children, now ranging to age 21. Though employment has been disrupted and progress delayed by the complications, Tara and Rick Wilson are slowly getting back on their feet. A brighter and healthier future lies ahead.

Flashback Memory



Lyric w/Mom, Deborah



Lyric admires Ali during school visit

Hurricane Donor, Devan

Hurricane Katrina's impact in late August, 2005 caused enough devastation to the Leger family. But that was followed nearly a month later by much worse news. Needing to evacuate again, this time from Hurricane Rita, tragedy lay ahead. Christy Leger and a friend were in the front seat as they headed from New Iberia, LA, to Youngsville, a town not yet ordered to evacuate. Three-year-old son Devan was in the back seat.

It was crossing an intersection that the Leger vehicle was met by an 18-wheeler. Devan took the full impact of the collision. The gravity of the accident for Devan was soon evident as Christy's husband, Roger, joined the family at the hospital. Two days later, Devan was pronounced brain dead.

Devan was kept on a ventilator as his parents' wishes were on hold....to have his organs donated. His older brother, Tyler, had a difficult time with the absence of the fun and laughter he shared with Devan. Knowing that one day Tyler would better understand organ donation, Christy summed up the sad story by stating, "It all seemed so useless when he died. It has given us some peace of mind to know that it all hasn't happened for nothing."



Devan Leger

Representatives from Midwest Transplant Network traveled to New Orleans in October to help in the assistance of the Leger family. It was an outreach effort by MTN to help a donor family recover from the hurricane destruction. LOL contributed funds to that effort.

Lyric, Me, and Muhammad Ali

It was the mid-90's and Lyric was a prep school teen. She was aware of Muhammad Ali. After all, he had one of the most recognized names in the world. When he visited her school in Casablanca, Morocco, Africa, she was drawn to this international figure.

As an ambassador and advocate for children, Ali and his entourage were visiting Casa American School. While most of Lyric's classmates marveled at Ali from a distance, Lyric moved forward to be near the world icon. It was like two different, yet dynamic, personalities were meant to be seen in the same picture.

Lyric was born in September 1980. Ali fought his last bout a little over a year later. Lyric knew little about the evolution of Muhammad Ali. Obviously, I had that opportunity while growing up. I was amazed and filled with joy to know she had been in the presence of the powerful and caring Ali, who has given so much to the world since his heavyweight fighting days.

Then.....in July of 2006, I, too, had the good fortune of being next to Muhammad Ali. Well, does wax count? It was at Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum in NYC. Ray Doran had scheduled some video interviews for his film tribute to Lyric. I met him there. We visited this fun-filled "palace of likeness." My appearance with Ali may not have compared with Lyric's more meaningful and authentic close encounter, but for me it was one more way of connecting to Lyric's memories.....with a smile.



Waxing nostalgic

Jones Staying Optimistic

Enough is enough for Charles H. Jones, 45, of Kansas City, MO. Having suffered from kidney disease since 1998, Jones' diabetes resulted in his left leg being amputated above the knee. His prosthesis helps, but a kidney transplant would *really* help. A father of seven daughters, Jones has retired from carpentry and freight handling at KCI. A gastrointestinal workup bill was outstanding before LOL took care of it. Jones is now in a better position as he awaits a possible donor.

★ ★ Jesseka's Dreams Interrupted ★ ★

At age 10, she was just beginning to develop personal interests and grasp an understanding of life around her. What was thought to be an aneurysm ended that search for Jesseka Franklin on October 1, 2006.

A healthy and active girl, Jesseka loved school at Bertram Caruthers Elementary School in Kansas City, KS. She would often stay after school just to help teachers with anything. Besides enjoying reading and singing, Jesseka loved to dance. She was a member of her church drill team, Pleasant Green Jesus Steppers. Her vision for the future, according to her mother, Dionne, was to be an artist like her grammy (grandmother).

Dionne and her sister, Pamela McAfee, both agreed to Jesseka's organ donation. Services for Jesseka were carried out by Lawrence A. Jones & Sons Funeral Chapel in Kansas City, KS. LOL contributed to costs for the services.