



## Tyler Joseph Duncan

May 18, 1984 - August 31, 2023

Tyler Joseph Duncan, born May 18, 1984, died August 31, 2023

Tyler was born May 18, 1984, at Jane Phillips Hospital in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, to Ken Duncan and Patty (Dixon) Duncan.

He grew up in Bartlesville, and attended Wesleyan Christian School and Bartlesville Public Schools. Tyler was a very kind person and a staunch defender of people who couldn't stand up for themselves.

Tyler took an art class in high school where he discovered his love for art. His art teacher (who had previously worked for Jim Henson & the Muppets) showed up at his family's home out of the blue one day to discuss Tyler. He stated that Tyler had a real gift for art and asked his parents to encourage him as much as possible, which is what they did. Tyler was an amazing artist who continued to paint most of his life.

Tyler was also a talented musician. He took guitar lessons and from that experience, he taught himself to play the piano and the cello, and he loved to write music and sing. In addition, Tyler liked skydiving, water skiing, and riding motorcycles.

After graduating high school, Tyler attended the University of Oklahoma where

he majored in Film & Video, as it was his goal to make movies. Two years in, he decided he wanted to sell his car and go to Italy (which he did). After spending a few months in Italy, he returned home only to find the day he landed back in the States he had been offered a scholarship to The Art Institute of Florence, Italy. Since he had spent all of his money on his previous trip, he decided to move to Seattle where he believed his art would flourish.

After a while Tyler, being a southern boy from Oklahoma who believed in God and had deeply rooted beliefs, decided Seattle was not for him. He told his mother he wanted to be back around “his kind of people.” He moved to Austin, Texas, for a couple of years before moving to the Dallas area for his last years. Tyler never married, but had a “one true love” that he never forgot.

Tyler is survived by his mother and step-dad, Patty & Larry Wightman of Fulshear, TX; his dad and step-mother, Ken & Karen Duncan of Bartlesville, Okla; his brother & sister-in-law, Adam & Michelle Duncan of Katy, TX; his maternal uncle & aunt, Dave & Gloria Dixon of Bartlesville; maternal uncle and aunt, Robert & Debbie Dixon of Conroe, TX; Maternal Aunt, Shirley Notley of Dewey, Okla; paternal aunt and uncle, Connie & Clyde Mason of Miami, Okla; and host of other aunts, uncles and cousins. He is preceded in death by his brothers Joshua Craig Duncan and Kenny Duncan, his maternal grandparents Loyd and Emma Dixon, his paternal grandparents Dee and Pauline Duncan, his uncle Mike Notley, his cousin Melissa Dixon, and his second cousin Brooke Bibb.

A Celebration of Life Service will be Monday, September 11, 10:00 am, Stumpff Funeral Home Chapel. Tyler’s favorite pastor, Brother Sam Porter, will be the officiant.

To view the service via live-stream; please click the following link:

<https://view.oneroomstreaming.com/index.php?data=MTY5NDQ1ODQ2MjI3M>

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# Cemetery Details

## Memorial Park Cemetery

4200 Nowata Rd  
Bartlesville, OK 74006

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life Service

SEP 11. 10:00 AM (CT)

Stumpff Funeral Home & Crematory  
1600 SE Washington Blvd.  
Bartlesville, OK 74006  
(918) 333-4300  
[info@stumpff.org](mailto:info@stumpff.org)  
<https://www.stumpff.org>

# Tribute Wall

PW

“ One year ago tomorrow was the worst day of my life. You were the sweetest, kindest, most gentle person I know. I miss you and love you!



**Patty Wightman** - August 30, 2024 at 08:57 AM



“ Tyler Joseph Duncan

October 23, 2023 at 04:40 AM

CM

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



**Connie Duncan Mason** - October 06, 2023 at 09:45 PM



“ Tyler Joseph Duncan

October 06, 2023 at 03:15 PM

LM

“ [https://youtu.be/IFamN-oXRMQ?si=N\\_Jj2fO6zjgYbx43](https://youtu.be/IFamN-oXRMQ?si=N_Jj2fO6zjgYbx43)

**Lindsey June Miller** - September 20, 2023 at 01:10 AM



“ How you looked at me that one night, standing underneath my window, those four seconds, my dear darling Tyler, are as sharp in my mind as the lines of the peacoats you used to wear. This is my first real memory of us being friends. It was October and you were leaving our Saturday night get together with Joe, Kasey, Melton and myself. It was a bit early-- earlier and before anyone else wanted to leave. There was a pang of what felt like sadness when you stood up and announced that you were walking back to the dorms. (As we became friends, I learned that the “pang” I felt in that moment was normal and something to expect if I wanted to ride time on this planet with you and as our friendship matured through seasons I realized that the pang I felt wasn’t a stab of sadness, but a pinch of disappointment. Disappointment because, as anyone who was blessed enough to spend any amount of time with you, I learned that the pang was a visceral reaction to your impending absence and subsequently half of the excitement leaving the room with you.) It was 2002 and we were all very young and terribly naïve. Earlier that day, we got lost on purpose in the rain by Lake Thunderbird driving my Celica listening to Paul Simon’s Album “Hearts and Bones” on the tape player. It was you, me and Joey V. We parked and went hiking through the trees surrounding the water. It was one of those days that are bright and dark at the same time. The sky was a deep slate blue, and the grass went up to our knees, its bright caramel color popped in stark contrast. Everything was a touch more vivid because the colors of fall had just finished ripening and the reds, yellows and oranges zipped through without shadows. The forest squished with the sogginess of rain. We were taking pictures and Joe snapped a photo of you and me in the middle of a meadow sitting in the burned-out shell of an automobile. The 1950’s style truck was disappearing into the grass around it, we smiled, Joe snapped a photo and I felt like Bonnie and Clyde with their bandits. We smoked a cigarette and theorized how the truck ended up in the middle of nowhere-- bank Robbery, runaway teenager, a flood? I haven’t seen that photo, that car or you in years. The window to my room overlooked the front door of the house and as I heard you open the front door to leave, I popped my head out

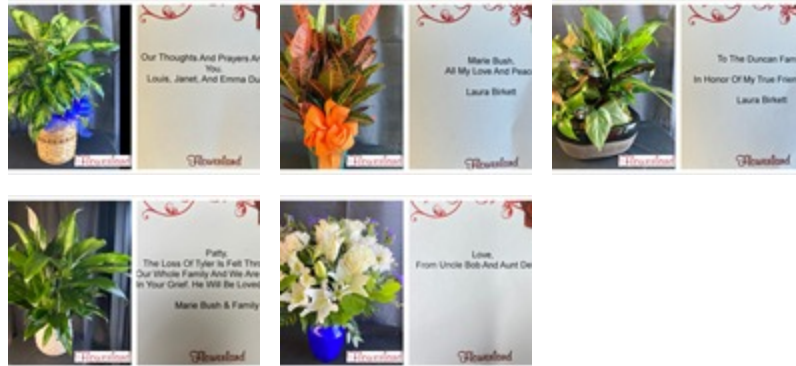
*and said, "Hey!". You turned and looked up with that big goofy grin, the leaves on the trees had fallen and you stood on them in a sea of yellow, your hands shoved into the pockets of your black peacoat. It was dusk and the porchlight was on, I wanted to tell you a million things. But all I could get out was "Good night!" You smiled a little bigger, took one hand out waved and with those sparkling blue eyes dancing, said "Good bye."*

<https://youtu.be/AT6n5ws4vWk?si=HfVdg7sYMdbc9wjd>

Lindsey - September 17, 2023 at 09:19 PM



“ 8 files added to the album Flower Pictures



Stumpff Funeral Home & Crematory - September 15, 2023 at 12:36 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Funeral Service



Stumpff Funeral Home & Crematory - September 12, 2023 at 09:28 AM

KC

“ I did not know Tyler but I worked with Ken at TCTC. The tributes indicate Tyler was a beautiful soul and I pray for comfort for his family and all who loved him.



Kathy Tierney Cain - September 12, 2023 at 01:46 AM

KD

Kathy, You'll never know how much this means to me. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for you thinking of us.

Ken Duncan - September 12, 2023 at 07:43 AM

TS

“ When I think back on my youth, Tyler is one of the first people I think of. From drawing on me to encouraging my crazy hairstyles. Tyler would take up pages upon pages in my notebooks filling them with wild stories and drawings. By senior year Tyler was someone I considered a true friend. He was accepting of my weirdness and always made me smile. He broke down the walls I had created around myself and taught me to accept love. I am forever grateful to have known Tyler. He was so good to me when I couldn't be good to myself. I hope you're up there riding around the big skate park in the sky my friend. ❤️



Tess S. - September 11, 2023 at 11:06 AM

CO

Thank you so much for posting this beautiful memory of Tyler and the photos! It all means so much to us.

Connie - September 11, 2023 at 02:57 PM

KD

*Tess: I used to lay on my stomach with my shirt off and he would draw on my back. He was a hoot.*

Ken Duncan - September 11, 2023 at 05:22 PM

JB

“ I am so grateful for the memories and time I was able to spend with Tyler. He was one of the most unique and beautiful people I have ever met. Tyler was kind, smart, accepting, sentimental, spiritual and incredibly hilarious. It was always a blast being around him. He had a magical infectious joy radiating for him that would rub off on others. Tyler knew what a miracle it was just to be a part of life. Tuesday was his favorite day of the week. When we lived and worked together in Norman, Tyler would take Tuesday off. He told me he loved watching people simply doing their ordinary Tuesday tasks. He even had an idea for a film called Tuesday that was simply about that. Tyler didn't take simple things for granted. He saw the beauty that is so often overlooked by most people and if you spent enough time around him you would start to see the beauty as well. That's what made Tyler magical. I lost contact with him for most of his later years, but one day I was walking with my kids through a park in Austin when all of a sudden I heard "John! John Burke!" Being yelled from 50 yards way. I was shocked. I hadn't seen Tyler in 10 years and here in a different state our paths crossed once more.

*Tyler I am so grateful to have been able to be on this planet at the same time as you. Farewell my friend. I bet Tuesdays are amazing in Heaven and you were too good for this world anyways!*

John Burke - September 10, 2023 at 08:12 PM

CO

*Love your Tyler stories! Thank you so much for posting. I'll now and forever look at Tuesdays through Tyler's eyes.*

Connie - September 11, 2023 at 03:07 PM

KD

*I love to hear the stories about Tyler and his friends. Thank you for sharing*

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**Ken Duncan** - September 11, 2023 at 05:26 PM

TS

“ *Tess S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Tyler Joseph Duncan.*

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**Tess S.** - September 10, 2023 at 02:06 PM

JB

“ Tyler Joseph AKA Ace Ventura Pet Detective you have always been one of my favorite humans. We were raised together more like siblings than cousins and I feel so lucky to have years of memories with you. I remember looking for you as kids and you'd always be at the back of your closet in that toy box playing and all we'd see is your head pop out and when we got older we were always coming up with some scheme like the time Adam, you, and myself were at the kid table at Pappadeaux and we were going to take extra mints for later. Adam went first took two handfuls put them in his pockets then I went took a handful put it in my purse, then you went and took the mother load left about 3 mints total in the bowl when we got to the car you emptied your armful in the back seat of the car and Aunt Patty saw and made you take them all back and apologize to the hostess. She said you could not get your own mints until further notice and years later we were still getting you mints cause you couldn't get your own 🤔 but as I've been looking back at all the pictures and memories one thing I realized is how you showed up for me at all my major life events high school and college graduations, you were in my wedding, you were one of the first people I told about my pregnancy you were always there at some of the most important times in my life. I want to thank you and tell you how much you mean to me and how deeply I love you. Tyler you will be missed every single day and you will always have a special place in my heart. I pray you and Brooke are together in heaven. I love you to the moon and back times infinity!

XOXO~

Jennifer Bibb

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**jennifer bibb** - September 10, 2023 at 03:21 AM

KD

Hey Jennifer, It was so good to see you and family. Thank you for sharing your story with Tyler.

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**Ken Duncan** - September 11, 2023 at 05:27 PM

LD

*“ I am so terribly sorry that your life was cut short. I remember you as a beautiful and sweet child. Unfortunately, as our lives went different directions, I was unable to know you later. I hope that your passing will serve as a witness of your beautiful life and that you will find God’s peace. I love you, cousin.*

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**Lisa Duncan** - September 08, 2023 at 09:48 PM

KD

*Thank you for sharing Lisa*

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**Ken Duncan** - September 11, 2023 at 05:27 PM

CM

*“ I’m thankful for every smile you put on my face and every laugh we shared. The deep discussions about life, God, art to name a few. I was always touched by your gentle spirit. I’ve loved you every day of your life and will continue to love you every day of mine. You were a blessing to me Tyler.  
Fly high dear nephew until we meet again. ~Aunt Connie~*

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**Connie Duncan Mason** - September 08, 2023 at 04:22 PM

KD

*Beautiful.....*

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**Ken Duncan** - September 11, 2023 at 05:28 PM

MB

“ How often do you remember the exact moment you met a person who would, eventually, become a fixture in your life?

*For us, it was 7th grade at Madison Middle School and we were both in detention. I'd brought some candy to help stave off the boredom and a cute boy I'd never seen before walked right up and asked me for some at the beginning of the period. The rest of the hour passed quickly as we passed notes back and forth through the makeshift particleboard walls of the detention cubicle.*

*When he told me his name was Tyler Duncan, I was instantly impressed. His reputation preceded him as the 13-year-old skater doing boss moves, enough to get printed in Thrasher magazine.*

*Time went on and, though we ran in some of the same circles, we only shared a few more words and memories until we both got to college at OU in Norman. We were both romantically involved with other people, so we had the good fortune to form a deep connection as very good friends and spent countless hours listening to albums, pondering the mysteries of the universe, and trying to dazzle each other with some creative new idea or epiphany.*

*In those days, there was a never-ending stream of parties and gatherings and he was a master with people, the most charismatic person I'd ever seen and I'd watch in awe as he could manage any situation and seamlessly finesse it to achieve his desired outcome with the confidence of someone who always got what they wanted and leave everyone smiling.*

*Soon after, I left Oklahoma to spend a year in Italy. He never wrote me a single letter, but he called me exactly five times, and each time we'd talk for about two hours. This was back in the days before skype, etc. and I later found out each of those calls cost him about \$200. He was just like that.*

*Finally, after years in the making, we upgraded our friendship and*

*blessed each other's lives so tremendously. When I ran away and left for Italy a second time, without skipping a beat, he followed me and, six months later, brought me back to the US, where we settled in Seattle to continue to delight each other by making food (me) and art (him) and raising our precious kitty, Fiona. Neither of us was anything close to perfect, but the depth of our love was profound, genuine, and unbreakable.*

*Time went on and though the love never faltered, our circumstances changed and changed again and changed again, and now, on this Earthly plane, things have come to a close.*

*Tyler, my T-Bone, I know these last years weren't easy for you and I only hope with all my heart that you've now found the peace you always deserved. There will never be another you and I will love you as long as I'm alive.*

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**Marie Bush** - September 08, 2023 at 02:12 PM

KD

*This is a very beautiful and touching story of you and Tyler. Thank you so much for sharing it.*

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**Ken Duncan** - September 08, 2023 at 02:25 PM

P(

*Marie, you are the "one great love" I wrote about. Tyler told me many times how much he missed you and how much he loved you. Thank you for giving him that great love story. Patty*

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**Patty Wightman (mom)** - September 08, 2023 at 03:13 PM

MB

*We are dazzling each other together forever in the cosmos*

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**Marie Bush** - September 08, 2023 at 03:37 PM

CM

*We all loved you from the day we met. You are one special lady and I'm so thankful and not at all surprised the two of you were ornery enough to end up meeting in detention. There was something very special about the two of you together. God bless you Marie.*

**Connie Duncan Mason** - September 08, 2023 at 03:47 PM

MB

*Thank you, Aunt Connie! And I agree.. a match made in heaven. We will be together again 🌸*

**Marie Bush** - September 08, 2023 at 06:58 PM

KD

*I remember telling Tyler: "You can either have Marie as a wife or a sister. Because if you don't marry her, we are going to adopt her. "*

**Ken Duncan** - September 09, 2023 at 07:46 AM

MB

*It always felt like I'd known everyone in Tyler's family for my whole life. It was so easy and joyful to be all together, just as Tyler was instantly loved and accepted into mine. We both cherished every moment with our families.*

**Marie Bush** - September 10, 2023 at 12:58 AM

CA

*“ I hope there's a Heaven, I hope you're there, I hope you are at peace and I hope you experience joy. Your kindness helped me adapt and adjust to my new culture as an angry, angst, traumatized teenager. Simple acts of kindness go a long way and you were proof of that for me.*

**Caitlin** - September 08, 2023 at 01:43 PM

KD

*Thank you for sharing your experience with Tyler. I wish I could meet you.*

**Ken Duncan** - September 09, 2023 at 07:58 AM

MB

*Beautiful words*💕

**Marie Bush** - September 10, 2023 at 12:57 AM

MB

“ 3 files added to the album Tyler



**Marie Bush** - September 08, 2023 at 01:36 PM

TF

“ *Thomas Fugett lit a candle in memory of Tyler Joseph Duncan*



**Thomas Fugett** - September 08, 2023 at 12:54 PM