



Mark DeMarrero

Died Age 19

Xanax & Marijuana

Mark DeMarrero, was born on September 19, 1983, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana to the proud parents of Captain Harold and Connie DeMarrero. Our son was the joy of our lives and our only child. He had a beautiful smile and gave the best hugs.

Our home in Baton Rouge was a garden home, with the entire yard enclosed by an eight foot wooden fence. It became obvious to us, that Mark would need other children around him as he grew up.

When he was one, we moved to Camp Springs, Kentucky to be near our family. It was a rural area and Mark could grow up with his cousins. He was a loving child, who always had God in his life and loved his family and friends.

Mark was diagnosed with severe asthma at age 4 and was on a lot of medication. He used a nebulizer (breathing machine) for 8 years. When he was in the 6th grade, he was diagnosed with Obsessive Compulsive Disorder and was put on anti-depressants. We took him to a psychologist and psychiatrist on a regular basis. He hated going to doctors all the time and tried to deal with his medical conditions. He just wanted to be like everyone else; fit in.

Mark loved sports. He played baseball, football, ice-hockey, snow skiing, and earned a junior black belt in karate. His

football buddies nicknamed him, "DeMo." He was a true friend to his buddies. He also enjoyed playing golf with his dad; they were best pals.

During his senior year of high school, Mark and his friends started hanging around with an older kid who was involved with illegal drugs. We discovered that Mark had stopped taking his prescribed medicines. We found Xanax in his room and reported this to his psychologist. He stated that Mark was trying to self-medicate. We enrolled Mark in an employee assistance program. It was then that we discovered that Mark had a drug problem. The therapist suggested an out-patient program for adults since Mark was 18. In the program, Mark informed us that he was shooting up heroin. During Spring break of his senior year, he signed himself in

an in-patient program. I contacted his psychiatrist, who informed me that he would no longer treat Mark, since he had taken heroin. Mark stayed 7 days; long enough to detox. He came home and asked to go back the following month. He tried to stay clean through the summer months, but struggled. To live with the stigma of the disease of addiction was devastating to Mark. He felt so ashamed and knew in his heart that his dreams were shattered. Mark died on October 20, 2002, of multiple drug intoxication (Pot and Xanax).

Our lives will never be the same without our son, Mark.



Remembering Lost Promise