

## Derek Ellerbeck, 7

Nov. 14, 2004 - March 16, 2012

**GRIMES** — Derek Ryan Ellerbeck, 7, earned his wings on March 16, 2012 at his home with his family by his side.

Derek was born November 14, 2004 to Kory and Michelle (Wilwerding) Ellerbeck in Des Moines. He was currently in 1st grade at South Prairie Elementary in Grimes. Derek enjoyed playing soccer and was nicknamed "Rocket Foot". He had also earned the nickname "Big Guy" from his family. Derek was delighted by Cars, Scooby Doo, Angry Birds, playing video games and riding his go kart. He also had a fascination with duck tape, and never went anywhere without his best friend, "Eagle". Derek



most recently took a trip to Florida with his family, and built castles in the sand. Derek was honored at the June 2008 Relay for Life ceremonies in Harlan by lighting the torch. October 23, 2011 Derek was honored as a Junior Cadet Fireman with the Harlan Volunteer Fire Department. He was presented with his official fire helmet with his name on it by 1st Asst. Fire Chief Tom Butler and Fireman Mike Butler. The Harlan Fire Department Honor Guard members Tom Butler and Mike Butler with members from the Grimes and Johnston Fire Departments were present at Derek's funeral.

Survivors include his parents, Kory Ellerbeck and Michelle (John Harryman) Ellerbeck; sister, Jenna Ellerbeck; paternal grandparents, Clifton and Marjorie Ellerbeck; maternal grandparents, Gene and Jan Wilwerding; and many cousins, aunts, and uncles. He was preceded in death by his paternal great-grandparents, Dick and Catherine Voas; and maternal great-grandparents, Melvin and Edna Boll.

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. on Monday, March 19, 2012 at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Grimes. Visitation was held from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Sunday at the church. Soloist was Brian Phaltzgraff and wife, Carita (Derek's aunt and uncle) was pianist. Music was "On Eagle's Wings" and "He's My Son". Pallbearers were Steve Ball, Kyle Ellerbeck (uncle), Tim Boll, and Mark Wilwerding (uncle). Burial was in the Sunny Hill Cemetery in Grimes.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to the Children's Cancer Connection, Ronald McDonald House, Make a Wish Foundation, or Tori's Angels. Online condolences may be expressed at [www.hamiltonsfuneralhome.com](http://www.hamiltonsfuneralhome.com)

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