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## LAURA MARGARET WELCH



Laura Margaret Welch, 34, died Sunday, May 4, 2003, at a local hospital due to complications of diabetes.

Funeral: 8 p.m. Wednesday in the Chapel of Peace of Tetrick Funeral Home, Elizabethton, Tenn., with the Rev. Brent Seals and Dr. Jack B. Terry Jr. officiating. Denise Jones will be soloist. Private burial: Thursday in Happy Valley Memorial Park. Visitation: 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.

Pallbearers: Keith Raulston, Eric Raulston, Jonathan Raulston, John Parsons, Josh Welch and Nicholas Welch. Honorary pallbearers: Michael Heaton, Joseph Heaton, J.T. Welch and Pete Welch.

Memorials: Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Box 22000 Fort Worth, Texas 76122; Childhood Diabetes Foundation, 4004 Hillsboro Ave., Suite B-216, Nashville, Tenn. 37215; or National Kidney Foundation, East Tennessee Chapter, Box 1135, Blountville, Tenn. 37617.

Laura Margaret Welch was the daughter of Bob and Judy Hunnicutt Welch. Formerly a resident of Elizabethton, Tenn., Laura lived in Norman, Okla., for 11 years and had made her home in Fort Worth since 1999. She was an accomplished artist and an avid Star Wars collector. Laura accepted with grace the ravages of diabetes. Her zeal for life never diminished throughout those many years of pain and discomfort. She welcomed all with a broad smile. Her quick wit and generous attitude for all persons made her friends of numerous individuals. Despite her condition of loss of sight and kidney failure, her resolve led her to complete her degree at East Tennessee State University. She lived the hope of the passage of scripture that said, "Yet those who wait for the Lord will gain new strength; they will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary." Isaiah 40:31.

Laura was preceded in death by her maternal grandparents, Jim and Mabel Hunnicutt; her paternal grandfather, Robert F. Welch; one aunt, Margaret Ann Hunnicutt; and one uncle, Bill Welch.

Survivors: Her parents; paternal grandmother, Sadie Welch; brothers, Jim and Michelle Welch and sons, Josh and Nicholas, of Norman, Okla., and Doug and Debbie Welch and children, Megan, Tyler and Laura Kathryn, of Phoenix, Ariz.; uncle, Ed Welch and daughter, Christie, of Cary, N.C.; aunts, Jane Raulston of Elizabethton, Tenn., and family, Janie, Keith, Becky, Eric and Jonathan Raulston, Jimmie Lou and Ron Wilcox of Kingsport, Tenn., and family, Katy and John Parsons, Susan and Bill Heaton of Louisville, Ky., and sons, Joseph and Michael, and Carolyn Welch of Butler, Tenn., and family, Pete, J.T. and Sarah Louise; great-aunt, Billie Welch Thomas and Hamilton Thomas of Johnson City, Tenn.; and great-uncle, Wayne Range and Betty Range of Oakridge, Tenn., and Dorothy Range of Burlington, N.C. Published in the Star-Telegram on 5/7/2003.

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