



## Lauren Brooks Leija

November 5, 1984 - March 16, 2017

Lauren Brooks Leija

Knoxville, TN & San Antonio, TX

Lauren Brooks Leija was born on November 5th, 1984 in Charlotte, NC. A beautiful, exquisite, brown-eyed precious child was gifted to the world. Mom, Linda (mama, Mamasita) and Dad, Ernie (daddy, pops) never let her out of their sight. Lauren was a happy, carefree child who loved music, dance, soccer, friends and family. She brought joy to everyone she met and received love and joy with ease. Her magnificent little brother (Taylor, Tay Tay) instantly became her sidekick and they were inseparable, could not stand to be apart for even one second. Beaches, biking, picnics, outings, family trips, and holidays were filled with adventure, laughter and fun. Lauren was lucky to be have a universe filled with the greatest friends anyone could ever wish for. Lauren was a free spirit and was never burdened by any longing for material objects. Lauren graduated from Bearden High School in 2003 and proceeded to live her life exactly as she wished. While she spent most of her life in her beloved Knoxville, Lauren traveled freely and lived in several spots, always exploring. She loved the beach and found great peace and comfort near water. Her beautiful smile and infectious laughter were her trademark. She had the sharpest wit and could instantly make you happy and forget your worries. She just had that "way" about her. Everyone she ever worked with fell madly in love with her. Lauren had great compassion for all... young, old,

animals and "the underdog". She was crazy about her job at the Villas de San Antonio and everyone there was crazy about her. How couldn't they be?

Lauren died on March 15th, 2017 in a car accident in San Antonio, TX. She left the world a better place. Gone before and close to her, Grandfather and Grandmother, Everett Franklin Cox and Thelma Maxine Alley Cox. Uncle Jerry (Cox) and Uncle Albert (Leija). Great Aunt Helen Lucile Gustafson (Adventuresome, Old Hickory) and Great Uncles Gus Gustafson and Bus Alley. Finally a very rich, regal heritage from those who came before her and collectively made her the fabulous creature she was.

Those left on earth to love her forever are too many to list all, but a start includes: Fabulous Dad, Ernie Leija (the absolute love of her life), Doting Grandpa Dionisio Leija, Strong and wonderful Grandma Nita-Esmeralda Vargas King, Uncles Will Leija, Danny Leija, and Leonard Leija Incredible Aunt Jennifer Hughes and their sweet families. Luckiest mom in the world, Linda Cox-Collier and coolest step dad ever Rowdey William Collier (who adored Lauren, boy could those two cut up). Best brother in the world, Taylor Reid Leija, sweet sis-in-law Danica Leija and Lauren's favorite person of all time (sorry for the rest of you) the amazing Cameron Grey Leija. Handsome Step Brother, Jacob Patrick Collier. But wait, there's more. Aunt and soulmate, Virginia Louise Cox Croft and Uncle Charlie Croft. Spectacularly quirky and brilliant Aunt Lisa June Cox (and several exes that loved Lauren), Sir David Hogan, the one of a kind Evan Audrey Berry and the beautiful and talented Ayla Margrete Morris (Lauren loved these two cousins and spent a great deal of time with them). Cousins, April and Jim Hopper, Stephanie Cox, Miranda Ezell and their sweet families. Magical cousins Austin Pool and Kelly Robinson (and her sidekicks Brad and Jack). So many incredible friends who were always there for Lauren and who she reciprocated gladly include besties Beth Farrow, Angelique Gallager, Sumer Gerard Moore. Nancy De Jesus, Joe Moore, Ryan Gallager and a cast of characters that goes on and on.

She is here, she will always be here and the love for her will only grow and perpetuate more love. Several fun and interesting celebrations will occur shortly for close family and friends including 2 in San Antonio and a Lauren Brooks Leija Spring Fling in Knoxville, or thereabout. Love, Peace and Joy are the only needs, so plant something in your yard or donate to whatever trips your trigger, if you like. Ha! Love, Lauren.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

MAR 31. 10:00 AM (CT)

Mission Park Life Center at Stone Oak

23755 US-281

San Antonio, TX 78258

(210) 576-3377

<https://www.missionparks.com/>

# Tribute Wall

JS

“ *Lauren and I met at work, we became friends instantly!! We laughed all the time!! But we're there for eachother for the important things!! I miss her terribly its so hard to imagine this 1st Christmas wo her!! I hope she sees the love being sent up to her!! I love and miss you much LB!!!* 💜💜💜



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**Jenny Sturgill** - December 23, 2017 at 07:38 PM

JR

“ *Jesus Ramos lit a candle in memory of Lauren Brooks Leija*



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**Jesus ramos** - April 02, 2017 at 04:39 PM

DS

“ *Danielle Stewart lit a candle in memory of Lauren Brooks Leija*



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**Danielle Stewart** - March 30, 2017 at 05:41 PM

WL

“ *William Leija lit a candle in memory of Lauren Brooks Leija*



William Leija - March 27, 2017 at 01:02 PM



“ *Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Lauren Brooks Leija.*

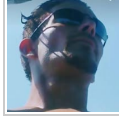


March 24, 2017 at 06:34 PM



“ *Ahh man this absolutely breaks my heart! I was very close with Lauren at one time but we lost touch when I joined the Marines. We had just recently caught back up only like 1 month ago and we talked for about an hour just laughing and telling old stories! I was so excited to have found my dear friend again, I cant believe this has happened :( RIP sweet lady, you will forever be missed! Til we meet again...love ya Lauren!*

Kenny Haynes - March 24, 2017 at 01:53 PM



*Lauren , you were my first true love. We have always stayed in touch. You had more energy and more love for everyone and everything that you ever came across. You could always surprise me with the amount of love that came out of your mouth and through your actions. And all anyone could ever do was smile and laugh when you were around. You are such a beautiful soul and you always will be. I don't know how I will move forward without you in my life. Keep them all busy up there with your dance moves girl. We will meet again. God bless you and I love you B.G.*

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**Justin Lee** - March 30, 2017 at 02:19 PM



“*Lauren was such a beautiful girl i worked with her for about 6 month and she always knew how to put a smile on my face. She was always there to help me through my problem with my guy and to hear that she's gone truly makes me sad. With her country accent and how she always called everyone boo. I will miss you. I'm so sorry for your loss. She was a wonderful young lady. My heart goes out to her family.*

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**Christie Owens Story** - March 23, 2017 at 11:08 AM