



## Merrick Mavi Woldridge

June 23, 2005 - October 17, 2025

Merrick Mavi Woldridge, age 20, passed away leaving behind a legacy of joy, curiosity, and compassion that touched everyone who knew him. Merrick was the most positive person you could ever meet — full of energy, laughter, and kindness. In every moment and every situation, he radiated optimism and made those around him feel seen and valued. Always smiling, with his unmistakable dimple, Merrick brought warmth and connection wherever he went.

From a young age, Merrick's zest for life was unmistakable. He threw himself wholeheartedly into every new experience, eager to try everything at least once. An athlete with natural drive and enthusiasm, he played many sports growing up — wrestling, swimming, baseball, and soccer — before discovering volleyball, which became his greatest passion. He continued playing competitively with the Oregon State University Men's Club Volleyball team, where his spirit and encouragement uplifted everyone around him.

Merrick was deeply curious and loved learning about the world. In high school, he challenged himself academically, pursuing the International Baccalaureate program so he could earn college credit and broaden his understanding of global perspectives. His love of learning led him to Oregon State University, where he found his perfect academic home. As a third-year student majoring in Psychology with minors in Anthropology and Biology, Merrick's intellectual

curiosity and empathy shaped his dream of pursuing graduate studies in clinical psychopharmacology. He was especially fascinated by neurology, psychopharmacology, and cross-cultural psychology, and was determined to help others through his future work.

His curiosity extended beyond the classroom. Merrick loved to travel and immerse himself in other cultures — from exploring Germany, Switzerland, and Austria during high school to visiting Italy and England in college. He also expressed this love of discovery through food, finding joy in learning about different cuisines and recreating them for friends and family. Cooking was another way Merrick shared love — gathering people together with good food and laughter.

Above all, Merrick was a people person. He made friends effortlessly and cherished every connection. Whether you were a lifelong friend or someone he had just met, Merrick made you feel important. His compassion, openness, and genuine care for others left a lasting mark on everyone fortunate enough to know him.

Though Merrick's life was far too short, it was beautifully full. He lived with joy, curiosity, and courage — embracing each day with purpose and love. His light will continue to shine through the countless lives he touched, reminding us all to live fully, love freely, and see the good in everyone, just as he did.

A Celebration of Life is scheduled for 1:00pm, Thursday October 30, 2025 at the Memorial Union. Located at 2501 SW Jefferson Way, Corvallis OR 97331 13 MPR. There will be signs in the Memorial Union providing directions to the room.

Entrance to find MPR 13 : <https://tinyurl.com/Entrance-to-find-MPR13>

## Parking Information

General OSU Visitor Parking Information : <https://transportation.oregonstate.edu/parking/visitors>

General OSU ADA Parking Information : <https://transportation.oregonstate.edu/parking/ada-parking>

Parking Garage – has a Beaver Bus stop on 26th Street : <https://tinyurl.com/3w9hm9kb>

Reser Parking Lot – has a Beaver Bus stop on South side of Reser : <https://tinyurl.com/4p257utn>

Beaver Buses schedules and information : <https://transportation.oregonstate.edu/beaver-bus>.

In lieu of flowers, gifts may be made to the OSU Psychology Department NEST and SUN Research Labs, where Merrick focused their research studies, and/or the OSU Men's Volleyball Club, a community Merrick enjoyed being part of.

To donate to the NEST and SUN Research labs, checks should be made out to “OSU Foundation,” noting that the gift is in memory of Merrick Woldridge in the memo line and sent to OSU Foundation, 4238 SW Research Way, Corvallis, OR 97333. Gifts may also be made online at <https://osufoundation.org/give>. Please type “Psychology Department Unrestricted Fund” in the box that says “I want to give to” and note that this is a memorial gift when prompted.

To donate to the OSU Men's Volleyball Club, go to <https://give.foregonstate>.

org/PL1Uv3Fkug and follow these instructions:

- 1) Within the 'I want to give to' box, start typing 'OSU Sport Club Program Fund'.
- 2) Select it when you see it.
- 3) In the 'Comments or Special Instructions', a few screens later, the donor can add a note saying Men's Volleyball Club.
- 4) Complete the gift.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

OCT **30**. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (PT)

Memorial Union

2501 SW Jefferson Way

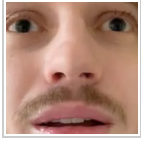
13 MPR (Multipurpose Room)

Corvallis, OR 97331

<https://tinyurl.com/Entrance-to-find-MPR13>

*There will be signs in the Memorial Union providing directions to the room.*

# Tribute Wall



“ I had heard about the accident in Corvallis months ago, but I hadn't realized that it was Merrick until just last night. I didn't know Merrick as deeply as I wish I had, and I think that realization makes this loss feel even heavier. I just want to say that every interaction I had with Merrick really mattered to me. He had a way of leaving you feeling a little lighter, a bit happier, just by being himself.

One of the last times I interacted with Merrick he was worried about a friend who was feeling lonely and encouraged me to reach out and connect with them. That small moment has stayed with me, because it encapsulated something essential about who Merrick was: someone who genuinely cared about others very deeply.

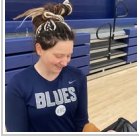
Merrick made a real difference in my life, even through our brief interactions. He showed me in such a genuine way the kind of person I want to be - someone who brings about such light and looks out for others without thinking twice.

I feel grateful to have known Merrick. His warmth and positivity left a mark on me, and it's something I'll continue to try to carry forward.

He'll be deeply missed.

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**Toby McFarren** - April 11 at 01:24 PM



“ I had the privilege of being the head volleyball coach of the neighboring high school that Merrick attended. Merrick was part of the group of athletes that I refer to as “The Original’s” because they put men’s volleyball on the map. Men’s volleyball is now an OSAA sport and it was this class of young dedicated players that created a ripple that became a wave. Merrick can be best described as energetic, kind, passionate, and everything in this world that is good. I remember seeing the friendships that were held between the players of our school and Merrick, and as a people watcher, I got a primo seat to the show. Extraordinary young humans. They say you’re the average of the five people you spend the most time with and in the two seasons I got to be a fly on the wall, it was clear that Merrick had work ethic that is rarely matchable. No doubt Merrick lived and breathed volleyball as did the clan they rolled with. They were all funny but I remember it felt as though Merrick was part of our school after little more than 5 minutes of chatting with them. I extend my condolences to Merricks loved ones and everyone that played with them. I believe where there’s a volleyball in motion, Merrick is too. And now when Mens High school volleyball is in session, know the legacy of Merrick is alive!



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**April Wiggins** - November 11, 2025 at 11:09 PM

JP

“ We're missing Merrick walking down the street with Wrigley, one hand on the leash, the other on his phone, without a care in the world, as relaxed as his mop of hair, always friendly, always warm, Wrigley's stopping and sniffing never trying his patience. We grieve with the Woldridge family, our wonderful neighbors. — Joseph and LeeAnna

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**Joseph Palazzo** - November 02, 2025 at 02:52 PM

JX

“ An unimaginable loss. We are heartbroken. Such a loving and lovely human from such a loving and lovely family. Full of kindness, potential and light and their energy will always live on in everyone who knew Merrick. All of our love to you Marya, Eric and Aiden.

Jen, Don, Vega & Xavi - November 01, 2025 at 11:52 AM

KW

“ We have so many wonderful memories of Finn and Merrick playing together as young kids. Merrick was always so sweet and fun loving! We are thinking of you during this unimaginable time and will keep these special memories of Merrick in our hearts.



Kjersten Whittington - October 31, 2025 at 09:31 AM

KM

“ Although i only met Merrick a handful of times he meant so much to me. A sweet memory i have of him was when i was nearing the end of my pregnancy and was really craving brownies. Aiden and I were at the Woldridge house for dinner that night and were downstairs with Merrick where i couldn't stop talking about how much i was craving a good brownie. Later that night i came out of the bathroom to the smell of brownies in the oven. I came into the kitchen and Merrick was standing there with a smile on his face and said "i'm making brownies!" Merrick was always thinking of other people and even though we didn't know each other for long he never failed to make me smile. I wish i got the opportunity to know him better, he is such a special soul ☐

Kyra Mangold - October 31, 2025 at 12:20 AM

SL

“*Marya, Eric and Aiden. We just heard this news and our hearts go out to each of you. We still see Merrick as the little kid running around at Aiden's soccer practice and matches - wide eyed and forever smiling - petting dogs and laughing. We are so sorry for this tragic loss of a beautiful soul. -The Lattimores*

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**susan lattimore** - October 30, 2025 at 03:35 PM

JD

“*Merrick was a close friend of mine since our first year as freshmen at OSU. He and his family shared amazing hospitality with me during school breaks and made great memories. We often played video games together and I will cherish all the funny moments we had. Merrick was a joyful spirit and will I miss him dearly.*



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**Josiah Dees-Besas** - October 29, 2025 at 11:41 PM

CM

“ Completely heartbroken from Merrick’s passing. I was fortunate to know Merrick both as a student and an athlete. He was the perfect blend of sass, humor and intelligence. He was so fun to watch on the court and I’m so happy that he continued to play club volleyball at OSU. <3



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**Chelsea Muhs** - October 29, 2025 at 09:18 PM

WL

“ Dear Marya, Eric and Aiden,  
Merrick and I were friends when I was playing Basketball for St. Agatha in grade school and at Sellwood Middle School we shared some classes together and were friends then as well. He was always the goofball in practice along with myself and Nathan Taylor. Merrick was always so kind and sweet and someone who had nothing but love and positivity to give to the world. I’m praying for your family and all who have been affected by this tragedy.  
-Will Lundahl

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**Will Lundahl** - October 28, 2025 at 06:12 AM

DM

“ Merrick and I were very close in grade and middle school. He was such a bright, talented, and outgoing individual who brought laughs and smiles everywhere he went. Above all else, Merrick was my best friend and we did everything together, I cared for him deeply and he was like a brother to me. Albeit we grew apart, I never forgot the great times we had, including this memory in 8th grade at mt hood. I was the worst skier in the group, falling behind the rest of my friends but Merrick stayed behind while I struggled down the mountain. I am extremely sorry to hear about his passing and he will forever live on in our hearts. My thoughts and prayers are with Marya, Eric, and Aiden as they face this tragic loss. For a time, your place was like a second home to me, everyone was so kind, outgoing, and accepting. I can't imagine what you guys are going through.

*Dominic Molchan*



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**Dominic Molchan** - October 28, 2025 at 01:53 AM

CB

“ Eric , Marya and Aiden- I am utterly heart broken to learn of Merrick's death. Living across the street on 33 Place for several years I had the chance to see Merrick in action - basket ball, playing with your dog and rushing out the door to school . More than a few mornings I grabbed him on the way to Cleveland and enjoyed his dimpled smile and easy banter in the back seat with Hazel. Every one loved Merrick. Thinking of you. Chris Beard

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**Chris Beard** - October 27, 2025 at 04:28 PM

CD

“ Marya,  
*Ever since I heard the heartbreaking news of Merrick’s passing, I find myself thinking of you and realize there is nothing I can do to make this better. I was in Carbondale over the weekend and when I drove past St. Francis it reminded me of the early days of our friendship and the place where you and Eric started your beautiful family. From family/friend gatherings, Christmas Day golfing, Eric’s amazing dinners in the backyard, the twister on the river to Merrick’s piano recital my trips to Portland we’re blessed to include special moments with Merrick. Thanks for allowing me to share these special moments with your beautiful family. May Merrick’s light shine forever. Love and prayers to you, Eric and Aiden*❤️



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**Carmen Dedecker** - October 27, 2025 at 03:05 PM

EC

“ *Merrick was such a sweet soul. Everytime I saw them they would always stop to talk. Whether it was a quick wave when I biked past, a conversation on the sidewalk, or a compliment when playing volleyball, they were consistently the kindest person. I only have the best memories of Merrick <3*

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**EC** - October 27, 2025 at 12:20 AM

AM

“ We are thinking of your family, and so sorry to hear of Merrick’s passing. We were remembering the younger days of soccer with many of the Llewellyn kids. “The Rapids” they may not of won a lot of games, but they kept playing together, and always had a good time. Oliver recalled that they were always lucky to have Merrick on their team ‘cause he played hard and always scored at least a couple goals to put them on the board. He will be missed!  
- The Morrow Family

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**Angela Morrow** - October 26, 2025 at 11:12 PM

TD

“ Going through so many memories of time spent with The Woldridge's. As I prepare to hand out treats today at the Monster March I am reminded of Monster March 2009. That sweet little Viking with the Beatles obsessed older boys.  
You all continue to be in my thoughts!



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**Tammy Dean** - October 26, 2025 at 04:52 PM

BO

“ *Marya, Eric, and Aiden*

*No words can express the sadness we feel in our hearts. Merrick was a light that shined so bright. His smile and dimple lit up the darkest of rooms when he entered. We want to thank you for sharing your family with ours, as our lives are richer and more full because of it. Nothing can take away your pain, but take comfort in the fact that he brought joy and love to so many that he came in contact with. Every time we hear the song “Happy”, I can remember sitting at the table doing karaoke and Merrick doing his best!! We love you and your family beyond words and are sending our thoughts, hugs and prayers.*

*Brad and Becky O’Neal*



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**Becky ONeal** - October 26, 2025 at 12:32 PM

ED

“ *Merrick was such a sweet and kind person, I didn’t know him well but he always came to volleyball practice with a smile. I’ll miss the light he brought to everyone around him.*



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**Ella Dreke** - October 26, 2025 at 01:42 AM

AK

“ I’m so thankful every day that I had the privilege to call you my friend. You’re the kindest most genuine person I know and I will forever miss you. You left this world too soon but I’ll never forget the memories I made with you. I’ll hold onto them as tight as I can, until I see you again Merrick.



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**Alyssa Kapuniai-Ryan** - October 25, 2025 at 10:25 PM

KK

“ Merrick will be the kindest person I have ever met. Our first year of college I barely met the guy (met him through mutual friends), and he welcomed me to crash at his house for spring break, picked me up from the FlixBus station, and helped me see snow for the first time in my life. It was such a special trip that I will never forget for the rest of my life. Thank you for everything, Merrick.



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**Kamryn Kondo** - October 25, 2025 at 08:36 PM

JL

“ Marya & Eric,

*There are no words that anyone can say that will ease your pain at this time. It is hard to know what to say but know that you are being lifted up in prayer during these and the coming days. The times I remember were around holidays and vacation times. When I was visiting we were always in the kitchen making cookies or candies with the boys help.*

*One weekend we went to the coast and shared a large house. Tompoles, Woldridge, Cookie, Sally and I. We made sea salt caramels which were on the kitchen counter for everyone to enjoy. Later that evening some of the older crowd were downstairs watching the Animal Planet with the cute puppies. Merrick & Aiden joined us and we reminded them it was important for them to quiet down so we could hear the TV. They were mesmerized by the puppies and as quiet as could be. At bed time they were calmed down and settled in for the night. Marya wanted to know what we had done to calm her boys down - it wasn't us it was the puppies.*

*Merrick was loved and will be missed by many but his memories will always be with us. You are loved!*

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**Janet Litherland** - October 25, 2025 at 06:43 PM

AK

“ Eric, Marya and Aiden -

*There aren't words to express how sorry we feel for you and your family.*

*One of our favorite memories of Merrick will always be that day at your house, when he and Aiden stood by the front window, cash in hand, waiting for the tamale man. The two of them were so full of life! Faces pressed to the glass, eyes bright with excitement, shouting "Tamale!" over and over again. When they finally heard him coming, they lost their minds with pure joy.*

*That moment still makes us smile. To this day, whenever we order Mexican food, we still yell "Tamale!" - and we always will. It's our little way of keeping Merrick close, of remembering his laughter, his energy, and the light he brought into every room.*

*With deepest love - The Krummenacker's*

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**Ahnyah Krummenacker** - October 25, 2025 at 06:32 PM

SS

“ *I will always remember our family gatherings fondly and so grateful for the time we had together. May Merrick's beautiful light continue to shine in all our memories.*

*With love to the entire Woldridge and Mavigliano families.*

*Steven and Chris*



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**Steven S** - October 25, 2025 at 05:09 PM

ME

“ Dearest Merrick, I just learned this tragic news. Although it's been many years, you were always a shining positive light in our family. I'll always remember you bounding in the front door, greeting all the pets with that smile that seemed to be always on your face. Memories of our trips to Universal Studio and Las Vegas come across our photo carousel and they always make me smile. Although we lost touch, I always believed you would do great things in this world and make a positive influence on people's lives. All of these tributes and memories of you prove that you did just that in the short time you were here. My heart goes out to your parents and family in this terrible time.

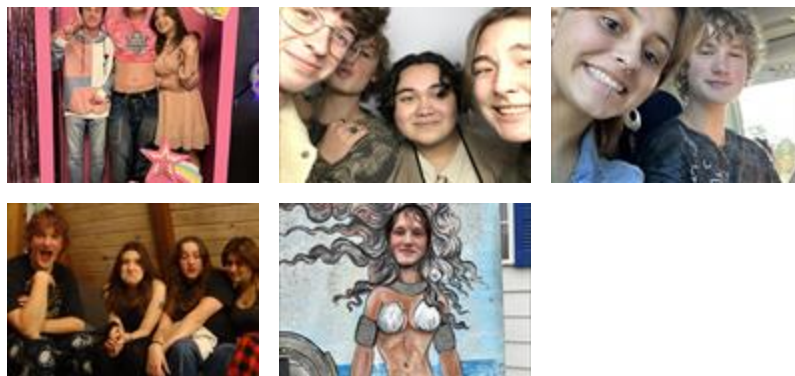
Much love,  
Melanie

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Melanie - October 25, 2025 at 05:03 PM

KC

“ i hadn't talked to merrick in awhile, but i'll never forget that guy. merrick made my first year of college so special. i didn't realize how often he was there until i realized that every great moment i experienced in my first year— merrick was there. i'll miss him so much.



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Kaia Chang - October 25, 2025 at 02:21 PM

KC

*sorry i used the wrong pronouns, last time we had talked they still used he/him sometimes. i can't find a way to edit my post.*

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**Kaia Chang** - October 25, 2025 at 07:55 PM

MR

“ *although i wasn't super close with merrick, he created such a fun and welcoming environment at open gym that kept me coming back and introduced me to some of my best friends.*

*i started my career as a nail tech here and he always appreciated my nails while also having the coolest nails himself. we bonded over the love of art and volleyball.*

*our community has truly lost such a kind soul, and he will be so deeply missed.*

*i was fortunate enough to meet him and play with him the times i got to, and for that i will be forever grateful. thank you for sharing your light with the world merrick. we miss you.*



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**miyana robertson** - October 25, 2025 at 08:45 AM

ST

“ *Marya and Eric,  
We’re so incredibly sorry and heartbroken to hear this news. It sounds like Merrick was growing up to be a testament to your values, and he will remain so.*

*Chris and I were remembering the time, many years ago, when we were at your house for dinner shortly after your boys had “painted” your basement – including floors, furniture, TV and more if I recall! I remember Merrick’s exuberance and definitely the dimple.*

*You are in our thoughts and we send all our love to your whole family as you grieve this tremendous loss.*

*The Tinker Family*

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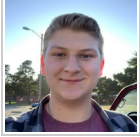
**Sarah Tinker** - October 25, 2025 at 02:55 AM

AC

“ *I am deeply saddened by the loss of Merrick Woldridge, who was a member of my research lab. I met Merrick last year when they were a student in my Brain and Behavior course. Merrick stood out as someone passionate about brain science, psychopharmacology and addiction studies. They were eager to join my lab, and I was grateful for their assistance and dedication to the research questions. Merrick’s passing is a profound loss for us and the OSU community. I will deeply miss Merrick’s enthusiasm, curiosity, and our research conversations. Sending my deepest condolences to Merrick’s family and friends.*

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**Anita Cservenka** - October 24, 2025 at 05:55 PM



“ *Merrick was one of my teammates last year. He always helped bring the best out in our team. Every game I got to play with him is a memory I’m happy I can keep. He helped me grow as a player and as a person. I’m gonna greatly miss him but I’ll never forget his impact*



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**Blane Winingham** - October 24, 2025 at 05:41 PM

MM

“ *Merrick always reminded me to have more fun and not take life so seriously. Whether it was doing cartwheels before the volleyball crossed the net or slingshotting each other across the court when we got bored, he always brought a smile to my face. Here’s to the conversations and experiences we shared, and to the ones that we might have had in the future.*

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**Mason Marske** - October 24, 2025 at 04:49 PM

CF

“ We are so fortunate to have so many fond memories of Merrick over the years. His laughter and warm smile could brighten any room. We always loved when he would knock on our door and ask if Dylan could play. We enjoyed cheering him along in all the sports and just having time with him and your family for so many years. Our hearts ache for the loss of such an amazing boy/man Merrick was in our lives. Our thoughts and prayers are with your family.



**Coe family** - October 23, 2025 at 08:38 PM

TF

“ Eric, Marya, and Aiden. I just heard this news and it's very difficult to find the words to express how sorry I am. I haven't seen any of you for several years but I know what warm, kind, and great people you all are. I have such great memories of our sideline chats while watching Aiden and William play soccer and tee ball. I didn't really know Merrick that well but he certainly was a guy with many, many gifts that all of you had a hand in nurturing. Take care of yourselves.

**Tom Findlay** - October 23, 2025 at 05:08 PM

NG

“ **Team Woldridge**  
I can't imagine your grief. I never knew Merrick when he was here but I did work with Aiden at Cleveland. My heart goes out to you all. Take care of each other and know there are lots of people thinking about you and Merrick right now.  
Neil Gibson  
CHS

**Neil Gibson** - October 23, 2025 at 04:59 PM

SM

“ We have so many memories of Merrick and all the Shenanigans Cam and him would get into.  
We are just heartbroken for you all and Merrick will be greatly missed. So very sorry for your loss.



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**Staci MacDonald** - October 23, 2025 at 04:43 PM



“ Anyone who knew Merrick was so beyond lucky. Merrick lightened every room they were in and was always so friendly and loving to everyone. I'm so lucky to have been Merrick's friend, and I'm so sorry for the loss of such a beautiful person.



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**Andrew Greene** - October 23, 2025 at 02:10 PM

SS

“Merrick was such a light on the boys volleyball team. His energy was contagious and I can't remember a time he didn't have a smile on his face when playing. His passion for the game was wonderful to see and I'm glad he got to enjoy the game on volleyball at Oregon State as well. It was a privilege to coach him and introduce him to volleyball.



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**Sydney Hammond (Coach Sydney)** - October 23, 2025 at 01:13 PM

TM

“Marya and Eric,

*We're just so sorry for this deep loss. It feels like there's nothing we could ever say that would be enough to console this kind of hurt. Hearing this news left our heads swimming and our hearts lost. We have such sweet and beautiful memories of Merrick coming over for play days and parties, in class at Llewelyn and events. We just want to let you both know we are thinking of you all. We're just so hurt so sad and so sorry.*

*Love the Mecham's*

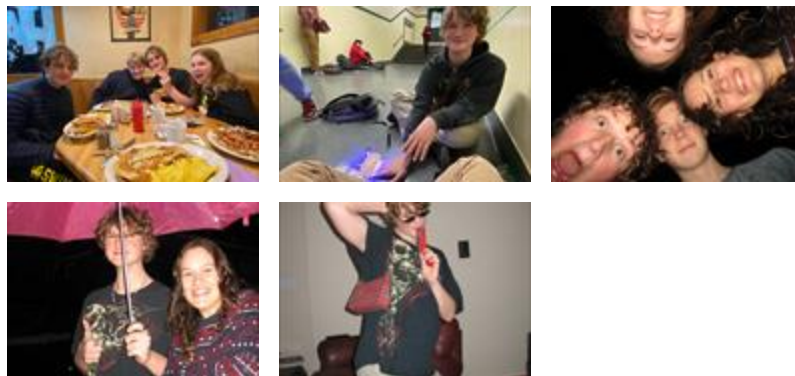
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**The Mecham's** - October 23, 2025 at 10:13 AM

EW

“ Woldridge Family,

*I was so fortunate to get to know Merrick very well senior year of high school. He played such an important role in my high school experience and I am forever grateful that our paths crossed. From carpools to swim practice, playing coed soccer together, and so many more memories, he brought so much joy and laughter to whatever room he was in. I don't think I was ever not laughing when Merrick was around. It's been breaking my heart every day that he won't be around to make people's days anymore, but he's already made an incredible impact on my life and so many others.*



Emily Welch - October 23, 2025 at 05:34 AM

AM

“ Merrick was a truly special person. He brought so much light and joy to the Cleveland volleyball team. It was a pleasure to witness. He touched so many lives and we will all feel the loss of this amazing human.



Amanda Greenvoss (Darwin's mom) - October 22, 2025 at 08:41 PM

KS

“ No. Not him. Not his family. Just no.

*Marya and Eric, you are shining examples of parenthood, family, and marriage, whom I've appreciated all these years. F@#k this unbelievable tragedy. Count me in our circle of love and support and folks who'll bring meals when you are ready. I'm sorry beyond words and furious on your behalf.*

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**Kristen Seidman** - October 22, 2025 at 07:35 PM

HS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Hayden Spurgeon** - October 22, 2025 at 07:21 PM

HS

*Wings*

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**Hayden Spurgeon** - October 22, 2025 at 07:43 PM

SH

*Dear Woldridge family and friends of Merrick, I feel fortunate for the time I had with Merrick, their curiosity and kindness, their love for learning and exploring. Merrick collaborated on a research study in my lab which examines mindfulness in nature, and we just recently went on a mindful fall exploration of our campus. Merrick, you will live on in our work, our hearts, and those beautiful nature spots we enjoyed and explored together. My deepest condolences.  
Sabine Huemer*

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**Sabine Huemer** - October 27, 2025 at 09:27 PM

JW

“ *Marya, Eric and Aiden,*

*To say I am in disbelief about the loss of Merrick is an understatement. I admit that it took me a couple of days to fully comprehend that our world has lost a great human being, who contributed so much and brought so much joy to his friends and family.*

*I regret that I did not know him better, but I am well aware of how much he was respected by staff and his friends. He made his mark at Cleveland and for that, we are thankful and honored to have known him.*

*My sincere condolences,  
Jan Watt*

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**Jan Watt** - October 22, 2025 at 06:47 PM

HS

“ Dear Woldridge family,

*I was fortunate enough to be friends with Merrick in high school. We sat together in Biology class, played on the same soccer team throughout high school, and, after a mutual friend convinced each of us to join the swim team in our junior year, Merrick and I really hit it off. We carpooled together every day, and we had shared lots of fun moments in and out of the pool. One of my favorites was giving each other “wings” before our races (as shown in the red handprints in the photo) in hopes of making us faster in the water.*

*Merrick had this unintentional goofiness about him that could make anyone laugh and would brighten the mood in any room that he entered. He was kind, genuine, and the type of friend you knew that you could rely on for anything. I am so grateful to have known him and to be able to look back so fondly on the time we spent together.*

*With lots of Love,  
Hayden*



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Hayden Spurgeon - October 22, 2025 at 06:38 PM

HN

“ Marya, Eric and Aiden - and all your family -

*We've been gone from Portland for over 9 years, but Merrick is one young man who I remember so vividly and fondly. He befriended both Lara and Hanna early in our days there, and I know remained a favorite of theirs (and mine!!!!) throughout Llewellyn.*

*I can't find the photos from his Reptile birthday party right now, but what a fun memory!*

*As everyone is saying, he truly was a special "light" - I remember a young boy who was so grounded in himself, and so available and curious to and about other people and situations. He was so thoughtful, kind and funny. What a great smile - radiating the love that was his essence. He seemed the perfect combination of sensitive and strong at the same time. "Soft front, strong back" embodied in a little guy, as I remember him. Mature. Wise. So sweet.*

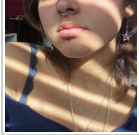
*He definitely made my world, my girls worlds, THE world - better by his being in it.*

*Words always fail in these horrible tragic moments. May you grieve freely and in your own ways. May you be surrounded by love and comforted in knowing he was loved, and his too-short life was deeply meaningful to many you'll never hear from. May you give yourselves the time and space you need. May you support each other as you grieve. It's unimaginable; and yet...*

*Sending huge hugs, love, and kindness from Hood River.  
Heather Nielsen (Clute)*

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**Heather Nielsen** - October 21, 2025 at 09:24 PM



“ Merrick was such a happy and beautiful person. I am so grateful to have been such a close friend of his. My life is so much better having known him and I will miss him every day. You are truly one of a kind ❤️



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**Sophia Sumile** - October 21, 2025 at 09:08 PM



“ Marya, Eric, and Aiden — what an amazing young man. Wishing you peace and comfort in all the beautiful memories.  
Love to you all- Erica Venneman and the Benton Family

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**Erica Venneman** - October 21, 2025 at 08:41 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Tammy Dean** - October 21, 2025 at 08:32 PM

SA

“ Dearest Marya, Eric and Aiden.

*Words cannot express how devastated I am for you. I remember thinking we hit the jackpot at Llewellyn getting to know your sweet family. Every year I would hope Merrick would be in class with one of my girls as I'd get to spend time with you both. I loved that Merrick would always say 'hi Sasha' when he saw me out and about. He was so happy and friendly and brought joy wherever he went.*

*We are here for you when you are ready and know you are in everyone's hearts.*

*Sending all our love*

*Sasha, Ben, Jonah, Madeleine, Olivia & Max*



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**Sasha** - October 21, 2025 at 08:31 PM

JK

“ Man I loved this kid. His Cleveland family is mourning this loss greatly. The teachers who had him are in disbelief and remember him for the smart, goofy, sweet, determined, engaged kid that he was. He was one that was going to do great things; all his teachers have said as much. His happy, outgoing, passionate soul will live on because he was just that kind of person...one you won't forget. So much zest for life and such gratitude. I remember him doing the W'update (Warrior Update), which is our school's video version of announcements. He and his co-anchor would sit behind a desk with their "news" notes in front of them and Merrick would be hilarious without even trying. He had that subtle smirk and that dimple...a complete natural. This kid was truly one of a kind. Still in shock myself but want to say that knowing Merrick was an honor, as was watching Marya and Eric parent. Heart is broken but this boy will live on because he had such an impact on everyone who knew him. Sending so much love your way Marya, Eric and Aiden.

---

**Jennifer Van Kopp** - October 21, 2025 at 08:17 PM

KP

“ Dear Marya, Eric and Aiden,

*I can't express how sorry I am for your loss. Merrick was a beautiful person. I can still see him running wild on the play ground with Rade and Jake and Aiden and Jonah, playing their funny game of tag (which I think they called PPR). The initials stuck with me, as well as the image of Merrick defying gravity, sprinting across the playground, no coat, seemingly no thought of anything but the game and his friends. Elia, Leo, Rade and I offer our love and support as you move through this sorrow. He was treasured and loved and he will be sorely missed.*

*Much love, Kat*

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**Kat Popovich** - October 21, 2025 at 06:28 PM

RB

“ Dear Marya, Eric and Aidan, I am so incredibly sorry for your loss. This feels impossible. Merrick was such a bright light and a sweet soul. I loved running into him and having a chat when he was walking the dog, and catching up with him when we'd see each other. I've known him since he was in elementary school and I got to see him grow up to be an amazing young man who made his parents incredibly proud. His loss will be felt far and wide. I'm here for you and I'm just a stone's throw away. With love, Rachel

---

**Rachel Brown** - October 21, 2025 at 06:27 PM

TH

“ Lots of Love to Eric Marya and Aiden. I loved watching Merrick grow up such a Renaissance Man. He had a lazy voice, hearing him talk made everyone feel at ease. For someone so young he really listened and was curious about the world. When I came over to hang out it was so fun to hear about what he was diving into and cooking for family dinner. He inspired me to cook more. At my house warming he wrote a note that said I should “ have more parties.”  
Good Advice. Wonderful!!! Tammy Hodgson

*Also Jesse and Clint and Alvin were very sorry to hear of your loss.*

---

**Tammy Hodgson** - October 21, 2025 at 06:17 PM

DT

“ *This photo of Merrick is everything to me. He wasn't afraid to wear a turkey hat while singing karaoke during one of our many joined family Thanksgivings. Always willing to go first, with a bright smile and full of energy and enthusiasm. This is how he lived his life.*

*Words can't explain the devastation I felt and continue to feel when I heard the news of his passing. I'll never make sense of the world losing such a fine young man.*

*Love and sympathy to all the family.*



---

Derek Tompoles - October 21, 2025 at 06:17 PM

CT

“ *Marya, Aiden, Eric*

*Merrick was such an amazing and positive person. His positivity and curiosity that he carried through life will be forever missed. As a young child I always looked up to Merrick and was ecstatic whenever I knew our families were getting together. He always inspired me to live life to the fullest and brightened the day of everyone around. He will be truly missed and will always live fondly in our hearts and memories.*



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Cash Tompoles - October 21, 2025 at 06:14 PM

VA

“Merrick was so full of energy! My greatest memories are of him, and Adian walking on their slackline, bouncing on a pogo stick and playing soccer until they were completely muddy with sweaty heads. This is my favorite picture of Merrick. He was wearing my shoes and hat and we had so much fun that day at the polo match. Marya, Eric and Adian I do not have the right words, please know my thoughts are with you and my heart aches. Your family is beautiful, filled with a life time memories that will NEVER be forgotten. Xoxo Victoria



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**Victoria Averett** - October 21, 2025 at 06:09 PM

MI

“ Marya and Eric,

*From the beginning, you have been our example of what it means to be extraordinary parents, raising kind, curious, and independent thinkers, each filled with creativity, humor, and heart. Your sons are a reflection of your love and spirit.*

*The world was brighter with Merrick in it. He carried a rare beauty, inside and out, and there is no doubt he would have gone on to do remarkable things. His absence will always be felt, but so will his presence. We will forever hold a space for him, and every time we gather, we will honor the joy, laughter, and light he brought into our lives.*

*Thank you for letting him and Aiden be brothers to Cash, for the years of friendship, laughter, and memories that will stay with him forever.*

*We love you.*



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**Misty** - October 21, 2025 at 05:48 PM

MB

“ Dear Woldridge family,

*The Beedles are absolutely heartbroken to hear of Merrick's passing. We are ready and willing to support you in any way you need.*

*May you eventually find peace in the memories. Holding you all in our hearts.*

---

**Melissa Beedle** - October 21, 2025 at 05:36 PM

CH

“ Marya, Eric and Aidan

*I am so sorry and heartbroken to hear about Merrick --- I am sending prayers to your entire family ! -- although I only knew Merrick for about 10 years, he often came up in conversation when gathering with friends and telling stories - I will always remember the Easter Weekend beach trips and playing catch in the park and watching the kids hunt for eggs -- I was so proud of him for choosing Oregon State and becoming a Beaver ! - you are all in my thoughts and prayers and if I can do anything at all please reach out !! Love you all*

*Chuck Heitzhausen*

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**Chuck Heitzhausen** - October 21, 2025 at 04:10 PM

MP

“ Dear Marya, Eric, and Aiden,

*I was heartbroken and brought to tears to hear of Merrick's passing. What a beautiful, bright light he was in my 5th grade class. He had a great sense of humor and I have fond memories of him during our class's morning meetings and on our big 5th grade overnight at the beach. I am so sorry to hear of your unbearable loss and please know the Llewellyn community is grieving with you. Sending love during this unimaginable time.*

*Madeline Mininger Prelosky*



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**Madeline Mininger Prelosky** - October 21, 2025 at 03:56 PM

KH

“ Marya, Eric and Aidan

*I am deeply saddened to hear about the heartbreaking loss of Merrick. I have such fond memories of him growing up throughout the years, I remember his quiet sweetness, kindness, and funny things he would say. Looking back, your family was always out having adventures -so many fun times and experiences some of us were lucky enough to share with you all. <3*

*Sending heartfelt condolences,  
Kathryn*

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**Kathryn Hanson** - October 21, 2025 at 03:38 PM

JB

“ Dear Marya, Eric and Aiden, our hearts are heavy and no words can describe how so very sorry we are for your loss. Patrick said, there's not a single kid in Sellwood who doesn't know Merrick. He was loved and has been a part of our community and the kids' upbringing. He was such a sweet boy. Please know we are sending all our love.

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**Jonalyn Brown** - October 21, 2025 at 03:13 PM

CS

“ There are no words to express the deep sorrow that is our hearts for you and yours. Please know that Merrick is loved and I will hold the many memories that I share with him and your family in heart. Love to your family

---

**Cookie Sturgeon** - October 21, 2025 at 02:29 PM

AV

“ Merrick, you are forever remembered as a sweet, funny pre-k kid with a backyard full of adventure and a costume box that was the envy of all. You and your family have always held a special place in our hearts. Much love to you all. Amanda, John, Parker, and Bridget Valley

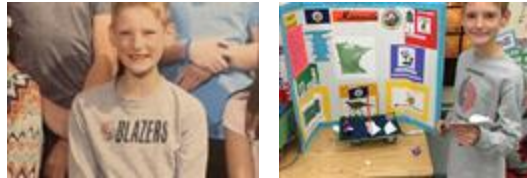


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**Amanda Valley** - October 21, 2025 at 02:26 PM

AS

“ Dear Marya, Eric and Aiden, Learning of your loss here at Llewellyn Elementary has been difficult for our whole community of educators. This school is like a family and our collective memories of Merrick are strong. For myself as his 4th grade teacher, I can remember his vivid smile and his willingness to engage in whatever we studied. Our memorable trips down to Oaks Bottom or the overnight when he got to laugh and have fun outdoors. His ability to make and keep such great friends, he was a gentle leader. I feel a profound sense of loss for your family and struggle to make sense of such a tragedy. Here are a couple of pictures that warm my heart as I remember him. With love from our Llewellyn Family to yours... Mrs. Anna Streano and his teacher family here.



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**Anna Strean** - October 21, 2025 at 02:14 PM

TD

“ Dear Marya, Eric and Aiden,

*I know there are no words that can ease your pain. I was so sorry to hear the news of Merrick's passing. He was such a bright and caring person.*

*I have so many fond memories of him when he was a young child. My heart goes out to you and all that love Merrick.*

*With love,  
Tammy*



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**Tammy Dean** - October 21, 2025 at 02:02 PM

MA

“ Marya, Eric, and Aiden,

*I am so sorry to hear about Merrick's passing. There are no words for this pain. This beautifully written tribute truly shows what a sweet soul he is. Holding you all in my thoughts and wishing you strength.*

*All my love,  
MaryBridget*

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**MaryBridget** - October 21, 2025 at 01:54 PM

CT

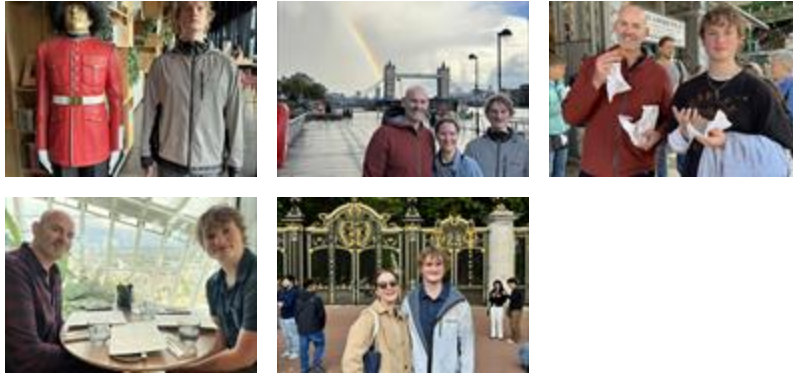
“ *We never had the opportunity to meet Merrick but he sounds like a great young man. It appears he began every day trying to be a better human being.*

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**Chad Tompoles** - October 21, 2025 at 01:33 PM

EW

“ *We feel blessed to have had this time with you in London.*



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**Eric Woldridge** - October 21, 2025 at 12:04 PM

TO

“ *Dear Marya, Eric, and Aiden,*

*I am so sorry to learn of Merrick's passing. My heart goes out to all of you. In my memories of Merrick, he was always smiling, kind, considerate, and so respectful. He was such a sweet boy. I am thinking of you all in this difficult time.*

*With love,*

*Tosha*

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**Tosha** - October 21, 2025 at 12:26 AM

MA

“ One of Merrick’s senior pictures and my favorite. He often had conversations with this body language. Totally in it 100%



Marya - October 20, 2025 at 09:36 PM

TD

He got the totally in it 100% from both you and Eric. Such a beautiful person.

Tammy Dean - October 21, 2025 at 12:48 PM

JJ

I remember this face and pose often displayed in TOK as he and his classmates discussed how we know what we know. I am so heartbroken that we won't get to see him listening with his whole self anymore, or get the gift of seeing all he would have done for the world. Sending you so much love, Eric, Marya, and Aidan. And hopes that the treasure of your memories with him will help soften this incredible pain.

Jamie Incorvia - October 21, 2025 at 04:30 PM

MB

Handsome young man. My heart is with you all.

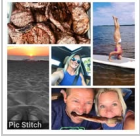
Melissa Beedle - October 21, 2025 at 05:30 PM

AM

The Baro on OSU's campus would love to include a tribute from the family, and the family can use this link to do so, because Merrick's impact was important and crucial to the welcoming and loving community on campus.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/12eJVe-jNJgqDfQxBIbOmQWSGFpt5C4qK9bVvsqRe2pE/viewform?edit\\_requested=true](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/12eJVe-jNJgqDfQxBIbOmQWSGFpt5C4qK9bVvsqRe2pE/viewform?edit_requested=true)

Aurora Miller - October 24, 2025 at 01:07 PM



“ Oh Merrick...the sweetest most kind and caring soul...we will miss you deeply. No words xoxox 📄📄



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**Cristi Woldridge** - October 20, 2025 at 06:21 PM