

SAMANTHA "SAM" NICOLE DENNY OBT.

01-16-2007



SAMANTHA DENNY Samantha "Sam" Nicole Denny, 15, of Land O' Lakes, Fla., born July 25, 1991 in Tampa, Fla., passed away Jan. 16, 2007 after a three year battle with cancer at All Children's Hospital in St. Petersburg, Fla., with family members at her bedside.

She was preceded in death by her paternal grandparents, Sam and Hazel Denny of Loudon; and by her maternal grandfather, John "Buck" Galyon of Roane County.

She is survived by her maternal grandmother, Thelma Galyon of Roane County, her father, Ernie Denny (formerly of Roane County) and by her sister, Haley, both of Land O' Lakes, Fla.; her mother, Lisa Galyon Perez, formerly of Roane County; her stepfather, Al Perez; her step-brother, A.J.; and by many uncles, aunts and cousins.

Sam was awarded the 2002 "Student of the Year" at Lake Myrtle Elementary School in Land O' Lakes and was a starting member of the 2003 Pasco County Coed Basketball League Champion "Warriors" and won the "Student/Athlete" award that year. After her diagnosis, she was awarded the 2005 "Student of the Year" award at Pine View Middle School in Land O' Lakes, and was a starting member of the Pasco County Coed Basketball League "Cool Beans" and won the "Heart of a Champion" award that year. In 2005-2006, she was a member of the High Honors program at Land O' Lakes High School and was the only ninth grader to make the Land O' Lakes High School Dance Team.

In 2004 she traveled to Budapest, Hungary to participate in the experimental cancer treatment program at the United Cancer Research Institute. This treatment involved the use of a cancer-killing virus that stopped the growth of her tumor for 14 months, at which time her body built immunity to the virus. In lieu of flowers the family requests donations to the Samantha Denny Shooting Star Foundation by contacting Amy Schwartz at Florida Capital Bank in Tampa, Fla. At 813-901-4857. "Nothing burns as bright for a brief instant, as a shooting star."

*Stories by Sam Denny, Sam Denny & Hazel Lambert wedding vows & Sam Denny Obt. at: <http://www.ajlambert.com>