



Costello-Runyon Funeral Home
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Metuchen, New Jersey 08840
Phone: 732-548-0149

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Lee "Alex" Clarke Obituary

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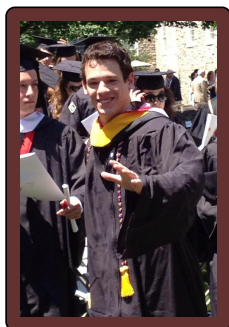


Photo Credit: Hal Clarke

Lee "Alex" Clarke

December 17, 1989 - May 11, 2015
Resided in Metuchen, NJ

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Obituary

Our beloved son Alex died May 11, 2015. He was a beautiful, smart, and funny guy. He spent his entire school life at Wardlaw Hartridge School, and received his BS degree in biology from Dickinson College in 2012. He was a gifted athlete and played varsity baseball at Wardlaw. Alex loved his Granny, EDM music, his dog Lexi, and eating sushi with his dad.

In his short life, Alex struggled with mental illness and drug and alcohol addiction. He fought them hard, sometimes winning a reprieve from the crippling anxieties and addictions that ended his life. If you have lived with the insanity of drug addiction, you well understand our sorrow. Alex recently talked with us about his new "three year plan," and he successfully carried out the first few steps of it, being re-admitted to Rutgers to complete his master's degree and finding a new sober living program, one that had a lot of promise and a year-long support structure. It was not to be. We try to remember the periods of tranquility in the past few years, and the joys and successes of his short life. For all of you who loved him, thanks for being there for him and for us.

Those of us Alex left are beyond heartbroken, including parents Lee B. Clarke and Patricia A. Roos, brother/cousin Hunter Clarke, sister/cousin Ginny Clarke, Lynn Clarke and Todd Moran (cousin Sara). Other loving family members include grandparents Miriam Roos and Ben and Mary Lou Clarke, Marianne Roos and David Bland (cousins Elizabeth and Greg), Elizabeth Roos, Christine and Matt Montague (cousins Audrey, Clara, Nicole), Bill and Mary Roos (cousins Bill and Eileen), Mary and Richard Kicklighter (Molly, Hampton, Russell), and Dolly and Homer Hand. We especially thank our local support structure, most notably the Meoni's, Nesi's, and Lewandowski's, the members of our Department who have been there for us, and the Saturday Naranon Serenity Group. We will need you all to help us reach a new normal, one without our beautiful, smart Alex. We hope that he's smiling down on us with Granny, Hal, Kathy, Grandpa Roos, and Lexi.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to Rutgers University Alcohol and Drug Assistance Program (ADAP), so that others suffering in recovery might live again.

Write checks to ADAP Recovery Program, and send to:


Lisa Laitman, Director
ADAP Recovery Program
Rutgers University
17 Senior St.
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

http://www.nytimes.com/2012/01/22/education/edlife/a-bridge-to-recovery-on-campus.html?_r=1

There will be a gathering to celebrate Alex's life on Sunday, May 17, from 11 to 1 (with a brief set of remarks at 12 noon).

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Guestbook

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18 Comments

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 **Pat and Steve Picou** · a day ago
We send our love in this time of sorrow. We mourn with you for your loss. You guys are in our light and thoughts....


Pat & Steve
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 **Ellen Idler** · 2 days ago
Dear Pat and Chip,
I'm so incredibly sad to hear this news. Our two baby boys named Alex were born just weeks apart. I pray that you'll be able to find some peace in this time of great loss and sadness. Ellen

^ | ▾ · [Reply](#) · [Share](#) >

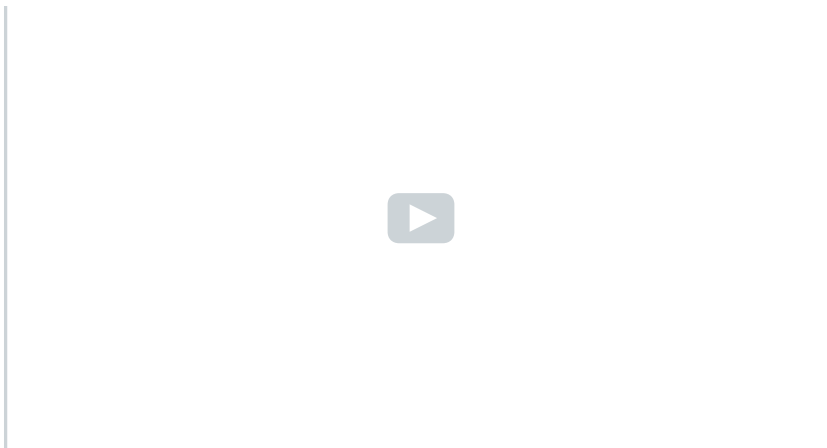
 **Dorothy Sue Cobble** · 2 days ago
Dear Pat and Chip,
I was so saddened to hear about your loss. My heart goes out to you. May you find some comfort in the love and support of the many friends and family who share your grief.
Fondly,
Dorothy Sue

^ | ▾ · [Reply](#) · [Share](#) >

 **Tamara Crawford** · 2 days ago
Chip & Pat, I'm sorry to hear about the passing of your son. I know he meant the world to you and your family. My thoughts and prayers of comfort are with you during this time. Tamara

^ | ▾ · [Reply](#) · [Share](#) >

 **Al Mollo** · 3 days ago



^ | v • Reply • Share >



Andi Hope • 4 days ago

Chip, Pat, Hunter and Ginny: We are so saddened by your loss and want you to know we are here for anything you need. Our thoughts and love are with you. And & Isabel

^ | v • Reply • Share >



Frankie • 4 days ago

On behalf of the Wardlaw-Hartridge Class of 2008, we will miss you and your warm smile Alex. May you rest in peace. With deepest sympathy and prayers to your family. Warm regards, Frankie, Class Dean of 2008

^ | v • Reply • Share >



Laura Stevens • 5 days ago

As no words could ever be adequate, please know that profound feelings of sadness for your loss reside in their stead. My thoughts are with you.

^ | v • Reply • Share >



Deborah Silver • 5 days ago

Pat & Chip,

I am heartbroken for your loss. Alex was a kind, intelligent and well spoken young man. He will be missed.

^ | v • Reply • Share >



Peggy Williamson • 5 days ago

I remember Alex so well and wished only the best for him and for his family. I'm sorry that it ended this way but I know he was loved and felt love from his family despite his struggles. I always admired your strength as a family and hope you have maintained that in this terrible time. Wishing you peace and only the good memories.

Peggy Williamson

^ | v • Reply • Share >



Dale L Bledsoe • 5 days ago

I am so sorry to hear of the loss of your son. I and your Glades family and friends share your sorrow on this day. My Prayers and condolences go out to you and your family for this loss and the many losses you have suffered over these past years.

^ | v • Reply • Share >



Lisa Klein • 5 days ago

Pat and Chip,



I am so sorry. Words escape me.

Lisa Klein

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Nancy DiTomaso • 6 days ago

Pat and Chip,

My sincere condolences to you and your family members in this time of terrible loss. I wish you strength and peace through your grieving and your remembering.

Nancy DiTomaso

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



JANINE RISPOLI (OYLER) • 6 days ago

Chip and Pat - -

I am deeply saddened to hear about the loss of your son. I will pray every day so that you can obtain peace and strength to endure this unbearable loss.

I will always remember Alex as a kind soul and hope that his heart is now at peace. Granny, Kathy, Hal and Alex are now angels watching over us.

God bless...please hug Hunter and Ginny for me and tell them I love them.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Tegan James • 7 days ago

The last time I spoke with Alex, he was smiling through his eyes, during a time of reprieve. He had a sense of hope. He was gentle, yet scared. He had questions. He had ideas, plans.

We watched him come and go. I held my breath for him and prayed daily for him.

Sometimes we follow the light to the rooms here on earth. Sometimes we follow the light to Heaven. Gnight, Alex. Much love.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Gail, Howarad and James Stein • 7 days ago

Pat and Chip. Please accept our heartfelt condolences and the loss of Alex. We are beyond devastated. James and Alex were so close when they were just boys. I can still see them (through my tears) standing together at the bus stop. We cannot imagine your pain -- and can only pray that Alex has found peace. Please call us and let us know what we can do for you.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Dani Scarmozzino • 7 days ago

Alex was a huge part of my childhood. Growing up in Metuchen, there were a lot of us who were a close knit group of friends. We lost touch somewhere along the way, but those days of endless fun will be with me forever.

Receiving the news of his death was heart breaking. I remember vividly his infectious laugh and infamous grin. He was so kind, funny, and always knew how to include everyone no matter what the plans were. His zest for life is something I'll always admire. I hope you've found peace Alex. You will be truly missed. If there is anything we can do, please let myself and my family know.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Noel Brusman • 7 days ago

Pat, you and your family have my deepest sympathy. When my youngest son David was deployed to Afghanistan, your Dad was a great support to him and to me. Your Dad was my mother's "favorite cousin." We are family and my

to me. Your Dad was my mother's favorite cousin. We are family and my heart aches for you.

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Visitation

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 Sunday, May 17, 2015
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

A Celebration of Alex's Life

Costello-Runyon
568 Middlesex Ave. (RT 27)
Metuchen, NJ US 08840

 [Map / Directions](#)

 Sunday, May 17, 2015
12:00 PM

Cemetery

Private

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Joseph V. Costello, III. Owner/Manager NJ Lic. No. 3670

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