



Leigh Haney Brill Singh

January 26, 1970 - May 15, 2019

My dogs have taught me to define myself not by what I must overcome, but by what I have the courage to become.”

Leigh was born in Greenville, NC on Jan 26, 1970 to Susan Crowder Brill and David Brill. Little did they know what a special soul they had brought into the world. Leigh’s physical limitations were a constant challenge from the start; however, from an early age, she developed unbelievable courage, determination, and a stubborn drive to make her light shine. She earned her Bachelor’s degree in Psychology from Roanoke College, was awarded the prestigious Fintel Scholarship for academic excellence and was part of the choir that traveled all over the US and the Bahamas. She went on to earn her Master’s degree in Psychology from James Madison University with a specialization in Community Service.

Leigh first worked in the Community Services Board in Harrisonburg and then at The Ronald McDonald House of Southwest Virginia in Roanoke. But her true love was writing. Leigh published her first story at the age of 15; since then, her writing has reached international audiences through publications including Chicken Soup to Inspire the Body and Soul, the Guideposts book, Soul Menders, and national magazines Just Labs and Pets: Part of the Family. But her greatest work was the story of her partnership with her first service dog in a book titled A Dog Named Slugger. Years after its publication, Leigh still receives a steady stream of messages from strangers all over the world talking about how inspired they feel after reading it.

Leigh developed a deep friendship with Carol Willoughby who founded St. Francis Service Dogs in Roanoke, a friendship that lasted almost 2 decades. Leigh took great joy in being part of the organization as a partner, a board-member, an advisor, and most of all, a friend.

Through the course of her life, Leigh had four service dogs – Slugger, a big yellow lab from Caring Canine Companions, Kenda, a cute yellow lab, Pato, a gorgeous Golden Retriever, and Piper, a sleek black lab all from St. Francis Service Dogs. Each amazing dog was her constant companion and in addition to daily activities, accompanied her to Disneyworld, Disneyland, Lake Tahoe for the Community of Writer’s workshop at Squaw Valley and to New York City to work with her publisher. She combined her writing skills, eloquent public speaking, and love for dogs to be an advocate for people with disabilities. She spoke at schools, libraries, hospitals, churches, and fund-raising events raising awareness of service dogs and people with disabilities.

On May 15th, 2019, God reached down and drew Leigh to Himself. Although she is no longer with us, her spirit burns brightly through the people she has touched, and the people she will touch through her writing. Her life embodies the essence of Matthew 5:16

She is survived by her husband, Pranav, her service dog, Piper, her parents, David and Susan, her sister, Courtney, her nephew, Allen and her grandmother, Dickie. Leigh loved her many aunts, uncles and cousins. Leigh was predeceased by her grandfather, Harry Crowder, and her grandparents, Kenneth and Frances Brill.

A celebration of Leigh’s life will be held at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Roanoke, VA on June 15th with visitation at 11:00 a.m. followed by a memorial service beginning at noon.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers, a donation be made to St. Francis Service Dogs (www.saintfrancisdogs.org)

Leigh’s website will remain active at www.myservicedogbyside.com

Tribute Wall



“ Leigh Haney Brill Singh

January 30, 2023 at 03:03 AM



“ Leigh Haney Brill Singh

January 30, 2023 at 12:44 AM



“ I am very sorry for your loss. Pranav and Leigh's family will be in my prayers. I worked with Pranav at Advance Auto Parts and met Leigh a few times when she would stop by work or at an AAP event. A wonderful person and will be missed by all. Pranav, if there is anything you need or just need someone to talk to please do not hesitate to reach out at anytime.

Tim Divers

Tim Divers - May 23, 2019 at 09:18 AM



“ I am very sorry for your loss. I'm as close as next door if I can be of any help to you, please don't hesitate to call.

Jim Scott

Jim Scott - May 22, 2019 at 11:50 AM

NH

“ My deepest condolences to Pranav and all of Leigh’s family including her beloved Pi. A shining light has been taken away from us . I will always remember her wonderful attitude and smile.

Nancy Hack - May 20, 2019 at 03:32 PM

BL

“ I knew Leigh and Courtney as they grew up in the school system in Shenandoah County. What delightful young ladies!! There will be a hole in your family but please know that you have friends and family to help you keep Leigh's memories alive!

Becky Lytton - May 18, 2019 at 11:48 AM

LM

“ I am so sorry. I will always love that she had Pato, of whom I was so proud. I will never forget her and send my very best thoughts to her family and friends. She had so many friends, she spread joy to whoever she touched.

Lynda McGarry - May 18, 2019 at 09:07 AM

JM

“ Pranav and the family of Leigh, I can't begin to tell you how sorry I am for your loss. I am also so very happy that I had Leigh in my life. She was truly one of the most remarkable people I have met. My thoughts and prayers go out to all of you. It will get easier but never easy. Remember all of the good and special times. Judy Martin



Judy L Martin - May 18, 2019 at 08:21 AM



Sharon Ritter

“ David, Susan, Courtney and family, we are so sad to read about Leigh’s passing. I have wonderful memories of watching the girls at running events at Central and all the activities they participated in with Tricia. Please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers. Love, Sharon & Preston Ritter

Sharon Ritter - May 18, 2019 at 07:30 AM



Vicki Kibbe

“ I worked with Pranav at Advance Auto Parts where I met his beloved wife Leigh. She was an amazing individual living life day to day. After her publication of her book "A dog Named Slugger" I asked her to sign this book in her memory. The past several years I have kept in touch with Leigh through social media. I own a beautiful/loving therapy dog that reminds me of Slugger. My prayers are with Pranav and Piper!

Vicki Kibbe - May 17, 2019 at 11:08 PM



“ I only met Leigh a few times when she was with Pranav at AAP events but I know she was a beautiful person. Pranav, your AAP family is thinking of you.

Susan Haisley - May 17, 2019 at 02:32 PM