



Emily Catherine Dawson

February 6, 1995 - April 2, 2020

Emily Catherine Dawson, 25, of Voorhees, New Jersey passed away on April 2, 2020 after a long four-year battle. Cherished and beloved daughter of Amy (Connelly) Dawson, loving sister of Luke and Kitty Dawson, stepdaughter of William Eldridge, and mom to her adored Vizsla, Lily.

Emily leaves behind aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends, especially Mary Lou Connelly, Tim and Diane Oates, Sarah Connelly, and her much-loved "soup mom," Joann Devone. Emily is predeceased by her grandparents, Lawrence and Virginia Connelly of Sherborn, Massachusetts, and our family dog, Jimmy. Emily is joyfully reunited with them in heaven.

Born in Rutland, Vermont, on February 6, 1995, Emily grew up in Hillsborough and Lawrenceville, New Jersey. After graduating from Lawrence High School, she attended The College of St. Rose in Albany, New York.

Emily had immeasurable love for her family, and lovingly called us "Team Dawson." She absolutely adored her brother and sister, referring to them as her best friends, and they were. Emily was never far from her mother's side. She loved to dance and was a proud member of The College of St. Rose Dance Team. She modeled, was in a music video, and dreamed of a career in acting. Emily loved chicken soup and pretty spoons. She was a true friend, who most could only dream of finding in their lifetime. She will be forever remembered as one of the funniest people we've ever known. She was brave.

Those who knew Emily, even just a little, lost a sparkling light in their lives. Despite her illness, Emily was an early riser and made every day count. She fought with great courage and quiet dignity for four years. Her love for life, her family, and her dog kept her going. She had an energy that if you met her just once, you'd remember her forever. Emily had a gift of bringing people together and a sixth sense about others that was rarely wrong.

The person Emily was is what's missing in the world today: people willing to slow down, to take the time to speak kindly to strangers, to genuinely want to know others, their feelings,

and dreams. There isn't a store or restaurant in town where the employees don't know and love Emily. That is not by chance; it was purposeful. It was who Emily was... a person who took the time for others and only wished for their time in return. She believed in her mantra by Dr. Seuss, "A person's a person no matter how small." No one was "too small" to Emily. She knew that when you show love to others, you, in turn, feel truly loved yourself. Let her life inspire you to reach out to others no matter how small; in that way, our devastating loss of Em is not in vain.

Emily touched the lives of so many and was the light of ours. When you think of Emily, treasure the moments you had with her. Remember, life is fragile and to live yours to the fullest. It's what she'd want most for all of us. Rest in peace, Emmy. We count the days until we are with you again. We love you more.

A gathering of friends and family will be held on Saturday, October 10th at 3pm at Woodcrest Country Club, 300 E. Evesham Road, Cherry Hill, NJ.

Our family has designated Special Olympics of New Jersey for memorial contributions (<http://www.sonj.org>). Please check back on Emily's Facebook page or Givnish Funeral Home's website for further details.

Events

OCT **Celebration of Life** **03:00PM**
10

Woodcrest Country Club

300 E. Evesham Rd., Cherry Hill, NJ, US, 08003

Comments



“ We are thankful to have a new date to celebrate Emily. We hope you can join us Saturday, October 10, 2020, at 3:00 pm.



Amy Dawson - September 05, 2020 at 04:18 PM



“ Update on Emily’s Memorial Service:
“ Dear family and friends, We regret to inform you that we must postpone Emily’s Celebration of Life Ceremony. The latest travel restrictions placed on those traveling from North Carolina to New Jersey would prevent Luke from returning home for Emily’s service and our family being together. We hope you will be able to celebrate Emily’s life with us at a later date. Thanks for understanding.”
Amy, Luke, Kitty and Bill

Amy Dawson - July 23, 2020 at 05:25 PM



“ I had the pleasure of knowing Emily throughout high school. She was such a kind, energetic, loving spirit. She brightened any room. She loved singing and enjoyed every minute of choir class. Love, thoughts, and prayers.



Amanda Toto - June 21, 2020 at 12:04 PM



“ I knew Emily for a short time while she did work study at Central Florist. She was a kind and gentle soul. She will be missed. Michelle Perry

Michelle Perry - June 21, 2020 at 02:44 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Givnish Funeral Home - June 10, 2020 at 01:29 PM



“ I'm so so sorry to hear about Emily's passing. Ive known her since I was a little girl. Always the sweetest girl, and such a light in the world. I'm praying for her family



Taylor Summers - April 16, 2020 at 11:19 PM



“ Amy, Bill, Kitty and Luke
During the last couple of years we were beyond blessed to have been allowed to become part of Emily's life. She always made us smile and feel such love and joy in our hearts. We will so miss her sense of humor and the visits, phone calls and texts. Fly away Emily where only angels sing.
Go now and find God's light
May God bless you and keep you by his side
We will never forget the abbreviated time we had with you
Our love to all.
Tim & Diane Oates

Tim & Diane Oates - April 14, 2020 at 08:18 AM



“ Amy and Family. I am so sorry to hear of Emily’s passing. She was so loved by her family and friends. I am thinking of you during this difficult time. Losing someone so close comes with unbelievable sorrow. Please be well.



Matthew Szuchy - April 09, 2020 at 04:09 PM



“ Emily at George Bush's desk.
-Bill



Bill Eldridge - April 07, 2020 at 08:44 PM



“ 5 files added to the album Memories Album



Givnish Funeral Home - April 06, 2020 at 11:38 AM



“ I met Emily in college we had a blast and she was one of my best friends. I always think about our times that we hangout.



Mollie McDahl - April 05, 2020 at 10:48 PM



“ My Deepest Sympathy to Amy and Family on the loss of their angel, Emily. Now she is peacefully in heaven looking down on each of us. You are always in my thoughts and prayers. May God Bless all of you.



Karen - April 05, 2020 at 01:33 PM



“ Emily is a gift to us all Her life on Earth and the relationship you shared as a mom and daughter was one that most don't achieve through a life time. You are an incredible mother and friend to all your children. Both your spirits soared in the face of unthinkable adversity and yet you both prevailed with such grace, dignity and strength. The greatest lesson you both taught me is to see the silver lining no matter the circumstances and to laugh and love always. Never forgotten

Diane Bedard - April 05, 2020 at 09:36 AM



“ I met Emily in my freshman year at High school. She was in my English class. Not only school, I found out she was also my neighbor the same year. She was such a nice, sweet, fun, caring, and understanding friend. She made my day every time I saw her. Emily and her family was one of the best neighbors I could ask for. She unfortunately moved after our freshman year together but I will never forgot the memories I had with her. I loved hanging out with her at school and also at her house. She made me feel good about myself and made me feel that I belong. I'm really upset and it's hard to believe the news! I'm going to miss her very much and going to miss messaging her! I appreciate every moment I had with her. I will never forget her. I'm praying for her family and friends as well. RIP Emily!



Alicia - April 05, 2020 at 03:29 AM



“ I met her last year in the grocery store. She was asking me about how sushi taste. I told her I like it and that she should try the vegetable one.

Toni Grant Howell - April 05, 2020 at 02:55 AM



“ Mari Arriola lit a candle in memory of Emily Catherine Dawson



Mari Arriola - April 05, 2020 at 12:44 AM



“ I am so sorry to hear the loss of your beautiful Emily. May she rest in peace. I'm happy to hear she enjoyed the beautiful cards that were sent to her. Healing for you and the rest of your family.

Mari Arriola - April 05, 2020 at 12:43 AM



“ Amy and family I am so sorry to hear of the loss of your beautiful Emily. Thoughts and prayers to you during this difficult time



Lisa McMahon - April 04, 2020 at 08:12 PM



“ Hi, I met Emily and her mom at St Rose at the end of the year dance show. My daughter Lizzie danced with Emily in Emily's senior dance. Emily touched lizzie with her determination and courage. I am so glad that I was able to meet You both.
I send my deepest condolences to you all.



andrea fitzpatrick - April 04, 2020 at 06:36 PM



“ I was lucky to have danced with Emily at St. Rose. Her passion for dance and the love for her team was evident in everything she did. A truly beautiful human being. All my love to her family.



makenzie wicks - April 04, 2020 at 11:28 AM



“ Amy, my heart breaks for you and your family. I was so lucky to have met Emily at several of our Triton events. I feel blessed to know you and her. Your strength is well admired by all your colleagues.

Dawn Milavsky - April 04, 2020 at 07:46 AM



“ Dawn Milavsky lit a candle in memory of Emily Catherine Dawson



Dawn Milavsky - April 04, 2020 at 07:42 AM



“ I am sorry for your loss Emily was my best friend.i miss her so much



krystyne anderson - April 04, 2020 at 06:33 AM



“ Amy and all of the family, I am so very sorry for the loss of this light Emily in the world. I could clearly see your love for her, and her love for you and team Dawson. You’ve given everything and it shows. I am sure the love was known and there’s no greater gift. Sending you heartfelt wishes for moments of comfort.

Janet Walsh - April 03, 2020 at 11:28 PM



“ Amy and family, My thoughts and prayers are with you at this most difficult time. May Em rest peacefully. God Bless. Love, Donna LaMacchia Kachadorian

Donna - April 03, 2020 at 11:18 PM



“ Emily was a cheerful and fun spirited young woman who I had the privilege to be her mentor (guide) for her overnight for the College Experience Program (at the College Of Saint Rose). She will always be in my heart and I was so blessed to visit her home in NJ and she was a die hard [Justin] Bieber fan and that’s when I knew she and I would be best friends for life.

Abby Griffing - April 03, 2020 at 11:13 PM



“ Amy, I am so sorry for the loss of your beautiful daughter. My deepest sympathy and heart felt condolences go out to you and your family during this time.



Kristen Moderski - April 03, 2020 at 08:54 PM



“ Emily was one of my students at the College of Saint Rose. I remember sweet Emily and her radiant smile. I am so very sorry for your loss and I wish your family love and peace always.

Gloria Ottavio - April 03, 2020 at 08:12 PM



“ Dear Dawson Family,
I had the honor and privilege of meeting Emily when she went to Sant Rose and she was a true friend toward me. she will be dearly and deeply missed . she touched many lives and I will miss her Rest In Peace Emily, I love you

nicole - April 03, 2020 at 07:30 PM



“ Sending my deepest condolences to the Dawson Family during this difficult time. I was assigned to shadow Emily during my overnight for the College of St. Rose and knew her during my time at the College. I will never forget how she made everyone felt welcomed and how outgoing she was!

Lauren Wasielewski - April 03, 2020 at 06:14 PM



“ Emily and I only talk for brief moment on the 4th of july, we had a great convo with each other and good laugh in the convo and she was very sweet and beautiful girl. I'm so sorry for loss dawson family! She will never be forgotten!

RIP emily

Dale K Goldston - April 03, 2020 at 06:14 PM



“ Sending healing prayers your way. So sorry for your loss. Thinking of you.

Angel Dugan - April 03, 2020 at 05:16 PM



“ I am so sorry. Em was truly a bright spot in the world.

Kevin Smith - April 03, 2020 at 05:09 PM



“ What a beautiful obituary of your beautiful girl. Sending much love and prayers to you all during this ridiculously complicated and sad time.

Mary Spence Smith - April 03, 2020 at 05:13 PM



“ I remember all the fun times at Saint Rose. Emily was a good friend and house mate. She was always there for me.



Chris Schlosser - April 03, 2020 at 05:06 PM



“ I remember fondly sitting at the kitchen table in Rutland, VT shortly after your mom brought you home from the hospital. I have either participated in or watched from afar your many milestones. I had the pleasure of being your stricter and brother's elementary school principal and was frequently with you in your home. I am so proud of the advocate you became and the strength and confidence required to be a model and in music videos! Your many strengths and talents give me pride and provide very fond memories that make me smile! I love you and your family and wish you all peace! Love, CathyWoods

Catherine Woods - April 03, 2020 at 04:32 PM



“ Will miss you terribly Em. Fly high. Will cherish our friendship forever. Can't believe you're gone. #madeforever love you always

megan seider - April 03, 2020 at 04:28 PM



“ So very sorry to hear of Emily's passing. Always a highlight in my FB feed to see the wonderful stories and videos you posted Amy. What a beautiful, bright shining light for those blessed to know her. Thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Debbie Henry - April 03, 2020 at 04:06 PM



“ My deepest sympathies go out to you and your family. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

Vicky Burr - April 03, 2020 at 04:02 PM



“ Oh our little Em. We loved her so much. Years ago when she was a student with us, we did a play and she sat on a swing holding a jar with "moonbeams" as the other students sany would you like to swing on a star... Oh too sad. Our prayers are with you Amy and the rest of the family. My heart is breaking!!!

Cheryl Lentini - April 03, 2020 at 03:45 PM



“ Oh, Amy, Bill, Kitty and Luke, I am so saddened by this news of Emily's passing. I know that the happy memories you have are numerous and I hope those ease the pain during this difficult time. Abby Cohler



Abby N Cohler - April 03, 2020 at 03:30 PM



“ Amy and family I am so sorry for the loss of your beloved Emily. She is a peace watching down over you. Love you Joanne LaMacchia McCarter

Joanne Lamacchia McCarter - April 03, 2020 at 03:25 PM



“ She very nice persona Alaway good Friends smiling

José Santiago - April 03, 2020 at 03:53 PM



“ Hope well away to Sky now god

José Santiago - April 03, 2020 at 03:54 PM



“ Our hearts are truly broken for you, Emily’s family. Emily was truly a bright light and beautiful spirit and we will miss her dearly. We send our deepest condolences to you and pray that you find strength in the love that surrounds you and the love that so many people had for Emily. May her memory be a blessing.

Amy, Don, Danielle & Ethan Koehler

amy koehler - April 03, 2020 at 03:18 PM



“ Oh Amy, this sudden? I am so sorry! This is so upsetting! My thoughts and prayers are with your family! Janene Goudreault Sherborn, MA

Janene Goudreault - April 03, 2020 at 03:14 PM



“ My condolences to you and your family.



Francisco Olaya - April 03, 2020 at 03:07 PM



“ Dear Amy, Bill, Luke & Kitty, I am so terribly sorry for your loss. There are no words. I will pray for Emily and for your family. My sincere condolences.

Tracey K - April 03, 2020 at 03:06 PM



“ Amy, Bill, Luke, and Kitty, I am very sorry for your loss. You are in my family's thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. Treasure her memory and the good times and she will never be far away.

R. Baumgartner

R. Baumgartner - April 03, 2020 at 02:53 PM



“ 14 files added to the album Memories Album



Givnish Funeral Home - April 03, 2020 at 02:17 PM



“ Amy, I'm very sorry for your loss. I so enjoyed meeting your daughter at NHS a few years and I treasure the story she related to you about one of the kids. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

MJ Chambers - April 03, 2020 at 02:15 PM



“ Amy, Luke, Kitty, and Bill, My heart hurts for you. Emily had a special ability to make anyone smile and brighten their day. To know her was to love her. I miss her kindness, wit and determination. I always felt Emily was lucky to be born into a fiercely loving family and you were each gifts to one another. Even through your tears and grief, Emily would want to see you smile when you think of her. Lean on each other knowing Emily is with you. All my love to you.

Penne Lynch - April 03, 2020 at 01:32 PM



“ Prayers to you and your family.



Jessica Floyd - April 03, 2020 at 01:31 PM



“ I am so very sorry for your loss



Natalie Winch - April 03, 2020 at 01:30 PM



“ Hillary Katz lit a candle in memory of Emily Catherine Dawson



Hillary Katz - April 03, 2020 at 01:25 PM



“ Amy, I am so very sorry for the loss of your beautiful girl.



Michele Grunza - April 03, 2020 at 01:25 PM



“ Amy, so very sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. God bless Emily forever.

Janet McCarthy - April 03, 2020 at 01:20 PM



“ I am very sorry for your loss, Amy. Sending prayers for strength, comfort, and peace during this difficult time. I will always remember Emily as a beautiful, delicate flower with the spirit of a warrior.



Sherrie Erickson - April 03, 2020 at 01:18 PM



“ Oh my dearest Em , the world will be a little darker now without the endless brightness, enthusiasm, optimism, and love that you brought with you to share with the rest of us..But as I look to the heavens I know God has cradled you until we met again... we love & miss you Em ! may your memory be eternal...

Michelle & Dino Demetriou - April 03, 2020 at 01:17 PM



“ Amy, I am so incredibly sorry for the loss of your beautiful daughter. She was a wonderful light in this world that left a positive mark on everyone she met. I will be praying hard for you and your family. - Maria Clements

Maria Clements - April 03, 2020 at 01:15 PM



“ Dottie Deich-Barneetz lit a candle in memory of Emily Catherine Dawson



Dottie Deich-Barneetz - April 03, 2020 at 01:10 PM



“ Amy and family, I am so sorry for your loss. Emily was a beautiful soul and I am so glad I got to meet her. Sending you prayers during this difficult time.

Gail Shelly - April 03, 2020 at 01:06 PM



“ Amy, I am thinking of you and your family as you process this. I am praying that God will grant you all the peace and comfort that only HE can give to you. Emily was a BEAUTIFUL person. She will always be remembered and loved greatly. Love you, Linda Cammarata

Linda - April 03, 2020 at 01:04 PM



“ Donna Lacovara lit a candle in memory of Emily Catherine Dawson



Donna Lacovara - April 03, 2020 at 01:01 PM



“ I'm so sorry for your loss, and will send prayers of comfort to you and your family.



Robert Adams - April 03, 2020 at 01:00 PM



“ The first time I went to Jersey to visit Emily and spend time with her and her family. Emily is my best friend and sister , we went threw alot together and each challenge and new experience are friendship grew stronger , we known each other about 7 years and they've been the best 7 years of my life , she is and will forever will be the best part of my life .



Matty Odinson - April 03, 2020 at 12:59 PM



“ There is nothing stronger than Team Dawson! No matter how scattered the family was be it NY, NJ, PA or over seas, there was never any doubt that Em, Kitty and Luke were there for each other. Amy is a fantastic mom to foster such closest amongst her children. Emily’s spirit of unconditional love and acceptance will live on in us all. My deepest condolences to Team Dawson. Emily will be missed.

Clare Connelly McDonagh - April 03, 2020 at 12:54 PM



“ Brooke Krisch lit a candle in memory of Emily Catherine Dawson



Brooke Krisch - April 03, 2020 at 12:52 PM



“ Emily was a beautiful soul. She touched the heart of everyone she met. She was true in her friendships, and the sweetest person I have ever known. I'm so glad that I had the opportunity to know her for so many years. Her friendship with Matt was the greatest treasure.
Emily will forever be in our hearts.
You have my condolences.

Karen Bauer - April 03, 2020 at 12:47 PM



“ Every morning I would wake up and see a "good morning Jo" text from Em. She started my days off with a smile. And throughout my day, Em would always check in to ask about my day. She truly cared and loved with all her being. And she was truly loved by Jo.

JoAnn Devone - April 03, 2020 at 12:30 PM



“ Dear Amy and Family, I am blessed to have known the light and beauty that your beloved Emily brought into the world. Her life inspires us to love fully the ones around us and to recognize the humanity of all people. I am heartbroken for your loss. The love and prayers of my family are with you during this painful time.

Bridget Jaensch - April 03, 2020 at 12:26 PM