

Jan. 13, 1992 - Feb. 12, 2015

Kelley Raye Herman

Loved ones knew law student as selfless, devoted individual

By Trey Reeves

△ Kelley Raye Herman only attended Texas A&M for six months, but the Aggie spirit was present in her from the day she was born. Her kind heart and willingness to put others before her left those who knew her in awe of her compassion.

A first-year student at the Texas A&M School of Law, Herman placed education high among her priorities. In high school, she finished third in her class and earned three bachelor's degrees — one of them a special honors degree — and one graduate's degree in business administration by the time she was 22 years old.

Herman's mother, Darla Miller, said she valued academics.

"She was a huge reader, and won lots of awards for reading," Miller said. "She always wanted to write a novel, and I even found some pages of a book she had started writing about her illness. The number one thing that defined her was her education and how proud she was of it."

Miller said Herman's kindness extended to everyone she met.

"She had friends everywhere, and everyone that knew her loved her," Miller said. "She was always such a sweet, giving and kind person."

Sharla Holland, Herman's aunt and Miller's sister, said she'll remember Herman for her willingness to treat others equally, no matter how different they appeared.

"Fair" is a word that I always associate with her," Holland said. "She always did what was fair for people even when it wasn't the popular



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thing to do."

Herman's fairness transcended words. Holland said she had a powerful, lasting effect on people.

"She had a gift of making everyone feel like they were her favorite," Holland said. "It wasn't insincere, either, she wasn't trying to be a 'yes girl' that faked like she liked everyone, she just had a gift for making you feel so important, no matter where you came from."

Herman's selflessness was prevalent when she and her friends would make a weekly trip to the Finish Line Cafe in Paradise, Texas. When her friends did not have enough to cover their bills, Herman would let the cashier keep her change to cover their tab.

Even through countless surgeries and medical procedures, Herman's spirit was not shaken. Herman's older sister Lacey Sawyer said her compassion for others was especially prevalent in the weeks following her diagnosis with a rare form of cancer called myoepithelioma. When her doctors told her that they could switch the date of her surgery with someone in line ahead of her, Herman refused,

and said those people needed help more than she did.

From a young age, Herman was a devout Christian, and her family said she clung to faith in times of trouble, such as when her great-grandmother passed away.

"She was always very spiritual, even as a kid," Sawyer said. "You could tell something was different about her."

Herman found comfort in those close to her — among them her husband, Zach Herman, who stayed by her side constantly during her illness.

"We had a huge wedding for her in December that was planned before she became ill," Miller said. "I told them we could postpone it, thinking we could wait until she was better, but both of them said they wanted to have the wedding in December. He stayed right beside her the entire time she was sick, and I can't stress what a wonderful man she married — her best friend and soulmate."

Miller said Herman worked to stay content during her illness and treatment.

"None of us had embraced the fact that she might pass away, but she told me, 'Mom, I don't want to die, but if this is what takes me, I'd be okay,'" Miller said. "She felt like she had a full life, and had seen a lot of things, and that if she was going to go that she'd be okay."



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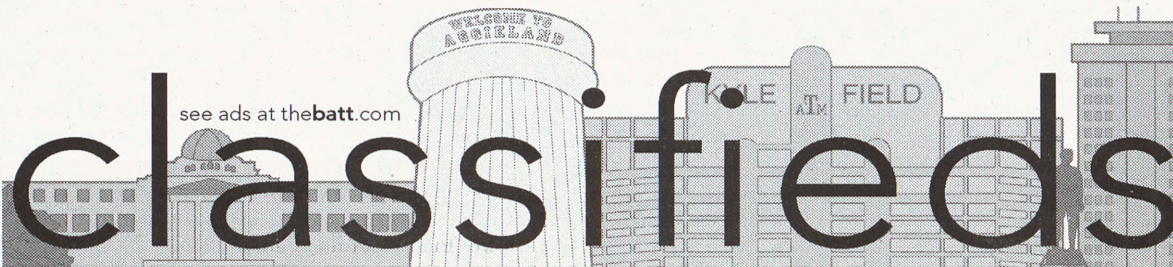
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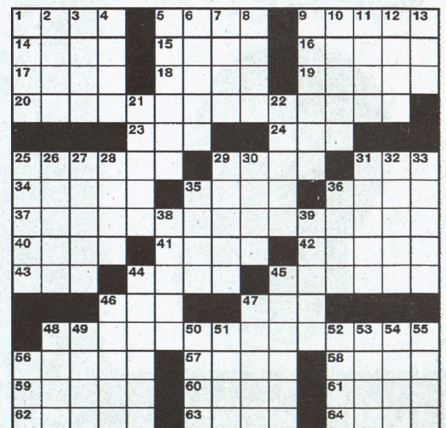
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USE YOUR HEAD by Sally R. Stein Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanwords.com

- ACROSS**
1 Matter-of- (straightforward)
5 Plant stalk
9 Foreheads
14 Apex
15 Tired-and- (well-tested)
16 Telecast's sound
17 Metal in steel
18 Be worthy of
19 Pretzel shapes
20 How Marc Antony said "Listen"
23 Billboards and classifieds
24 Gallery display
25 One's wife, informally
29 Nimble
31 Poke fun at
34 Showed on TV
35 Bagel center
36 Raton, FL
37 Think too hard
40 the line (behaved oneself)
41 911 responders: Abbr.
42 Lubricated
43 Come to a close
44 Numerous
45 Document certifier
46 Obtained
47 "The Raven" writer
48 Proceed instinctively
56 Be worthy of
57 Install, as curtains
58 Digital music player

- 59 Sharp part of a knife
60 Star of "M*A*S*H"
61 Sharp taste
62 Director Woody
63 Final or midterm
64 Otherwise
DOWN
1 Come up short
2 Farmland measure
3 "Hurry up!"
4 See (to)
5 Knights' horses
6 Cafeteria carriers
7 Money in France
8 Bistro listing
9 Place to buy fresh bread
10 Charge towards
11 Aroma
12 Clever people
13 Ship's distress signal
21 Gras (winter celebration)
22 Harder to find
25 Sample of food
26 Discover, as an idea
27 Goofed
28 Anthropologist
29 Margaret
29 Black, as a chimney flue
30 +
31 Aussie bearlike beast
32 More frosty
33 Fine and (wonderful) advantage
35 Religious song
36 Londoner, for short
38 "Peachy!"
39 Unhappy and loud spectator
44 Liquefied, as lava
45 Almond paste in candy bars
46 Move smoothly
47 Small lakes
48 Plumbeous
49 Word-of-mouth
50 "Huh?"
51 New Haven university
52 Evening, on marquee
53 Milky gemstone
54 Light children
55 Slight advantage
56 Finance deg.



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