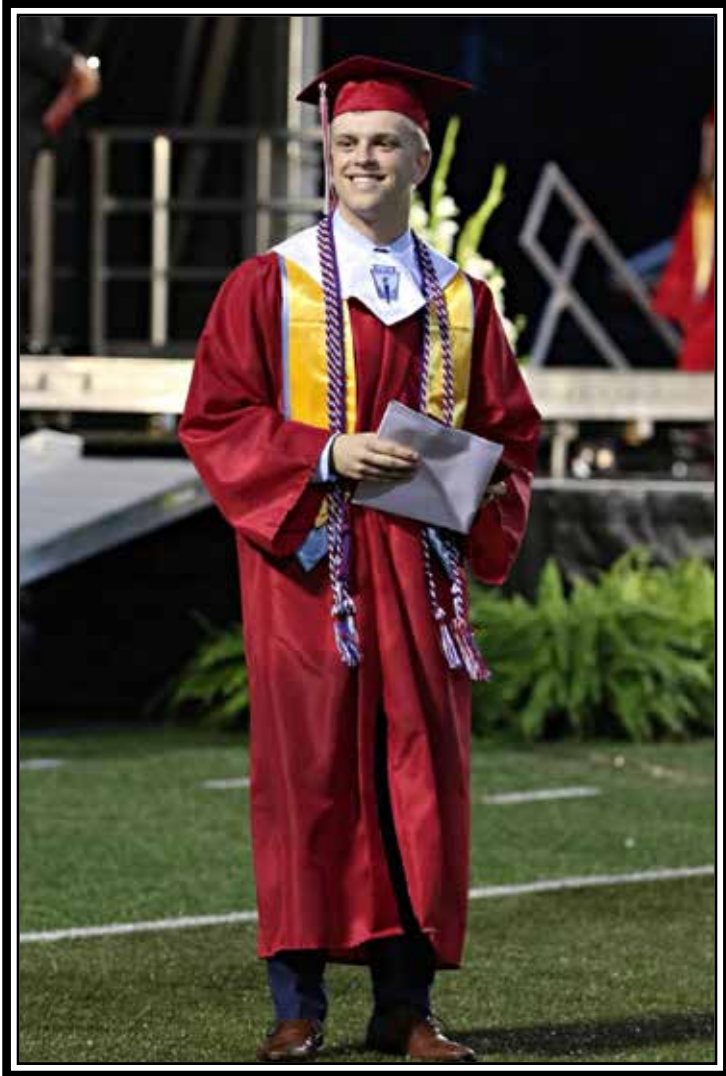


We believe that all the ties of friendship
and affection which knit us as one
throughout our lives
do not unravel
with death.

+



Ben Thomas Featherston

September 8, 2002 + November 26, 2021

GATHERING RITE

GREETING AND BLESSING OF THE BODY

As a reminder of Ben's Baptism, his casket has been sprinkled with Baptismal water. Then, a pall, recalling the white garment of his Baptism, is placed on the casket.

"If we have died with Christ, we are also to live with Christ in glory."

Processional

"This Little Light of Mine"
We Celebrate #967

Opening Prayer

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14, 17-18

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 23

Response: *"The Lord is my Shepherd, there is nothing I shall want."*

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 4:8-12

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel Reading

John 11:17-27

Homily

Prayer of the Faithful

Response: *"Lord, hear our prayer"*

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Preparation of the Gifts	<i>“On Eagle’s Wings”</i> We Celebrate #894
Eucharistic Acclamations	Holy, Holy, Holy Mystery of Faith Great Amen
Communion Rite	The Lord’s Prayer Sign of Peace Lamb of God
Communion	<i>“In This Place”</i> Spirit & Song #122
Meditation	<i>“A Blessing”</i> We Celebrate #921
Prayer After Communion	

FINAL COMMENDATION

Invitation of Prayer

Song of Farewell:

PRESIDER: Saints of God, come to his aid. Hasten to meet him angels of the Lord.

ASSEMBLY: RECEIVE HIS SOUL AND PRESENT HIM TO GOD THE MOST HIGH.

PRESIDER: May Christ, who called you, take you to Himself, and may the angels lead you to the bosom of Abraham.

ASSEMBLY: RECEIVE HIS SOUL AND PRESENT HIM TO GOD THE MOST HIGH.

PRESIDER: Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him.

ASSEMBLY: RECEIVE HIS SOUL AND PRESENT HIM TO GOD THE MOST HIGH.

Prayer of Commendation

Recessional *“Soon and Very Soon”*
We Celebrate #978

Ben Thomas Featherston was born to Brit and Amy Featherston on September 8, 2002, in Lufkin, Texas. Ben was a freshman pre-med major at the University of Texas in Austin in September when he fell ill from an infection of unknown origin. For over 60 days, being on life support, 11 surgeries, amputations of his legs, and other battles, Ben never quit fighting, and his big heart refused to quit. He never complained and sought to comfort others as they were pained by his illness. When asked how he was, the answer was always the same, "I'm doing okay!" When awakened after amputation surgery, his first words stated hoarsely to family, doctors and nurses (who had been surrounding his bed waiting) were "I don't need my legs," asked to repeat what he just said, he repeated "I don't need my legs, I'm okay!" This was Ben, comforting others as always.

Ben (or Step-Dad Ben, and Iron Puntsa by his friends, of which we have no explanation why LOL) was 19 years old when he ascended into heaven among the Saints and Angels on November 26, 2021. Although only 19, he was wise beyond his young years on this earth. Just before Ben died, over 100 friends, coaches, doctors, and family paraded through his room at Texas Children's Hospital ICU to tell stories, share moments, and say goodbye to an amazing student, friend and loved one. As sad as his death is, the demonstration of love and compassion that day speaks volumes to who Ben was. A constant theme among his many friends is that he refused to talk bad about anyone, and the many examples of recurring good deeds of which he sought no attention.

Ben was an Eagle Scout from Troop 85 (St. Anne's Catholic Church, Beaumont). He graduated with honors from Lumberton High School in 2021. He was a member of the varsity football team (thank you Ms. Mauer) after playing for seven years and a member of the National Honor Society. He was a proud recipient of the Artie Trahan Memorial Scholarship Award, honoring mentor and friend, Coach Trahan who preceded Ben in death. Ben was an experienced scuba diver and enjoyed hiking and his two favorite dogs, Max and Dobby. Ben read and watched science fiction books and movies from an early age, reading all of the Star Wars series and many others. An avid action gamer, he and his friends gamed often late into the night laughing and yelling. He liked hunting and working on his grandparents' ranch in Flatonia, Texas. He liked catching fish, but, if the fish weren't biting, he would pull out a book

to read. Ben is known by his friends to be an “old kind soul,” and had an eclectic music playlist of all types of music, Sinatra to Chris Stapleton, Lil Wayne to America, Johnny Cash to soundtracks of video games, that his friends called “straight gas.” Ben loved college football-Game Day Saturdays. He often donated blood and volunteered at the Southeast Texas Food Bank. He was experienced in mucking out houses after hurricanes, which he did for many for friends and strangers.

More important, and a priceless asset, Ben had lots of great friends; too numerous to identify. Ben was a loyal friend and was surrounded by equally loyal loving friends who all cared for each other. To all of you, Ben would want you to continue his legacy by always being there when your friend needs you, don’t let petty things get in the way of friendship, and be a great friend and neighbor. Forever special to our heart, Ben was blessed to have the love of his life, Kate James. Kate was by Ben’s side every single day of his last journey. Thank you, Kate!

Ben performed his first communion at St. Jude’s Catholic Church in Beaumont under the direction of beloved Father John Hughes. He also attended and was confirmed by Father Andy Moore at Infant Jesus Catholic Church in Lumberton. Ben was a man of faith and chose to join the YoungLife Student Association at the University of Texas. He also enjoyed the Newman Catholic Center on campus.

The family wants to thank all the doctors, nurses and staff members at St. Elizabeth Hospital and Texas Children’s Hospital Adult Congenital Cardiac Unit. Your world-class care, love and support was nothing short of amazing. We appreciate every act of treatment you provided with loving care.





To all our friends, family, extended families and former strangers that have joined us along Ben's journey, we will be eternally grateful. We are pretty private people with little social media profile, and little care to share our private lives. However, we quickly learned that Ben's journey was not just about us, but it involved hundreds of others, maybe thousands, literally from around the world that sought nothing more than good news for Ben. A bond that grew every passing day. We so wanted to impart the good news and

our heart hurt to share the bad; you shared the pain with us and it eased our heartache. A roller coaster of good and then not-so-good Ben reports over 60 days led so many to send us their love and support. Sometimes cookies, sometimes cards, sometimes groceries left at the door or grass magically being mowed. Every single day, love and caring returned to us, an amazing show of how kindness and support remains our most cherished human act.

Although we all prayed for a better outcome, your daily reach-outs, sometimes as simple as a "like" or a "smiley-face," or an encouraging comment, meant the world to us. It's impossible to name all the wonderful friends and family whose love and support became the daily rock of which we held for support. Some of you came to the rescue in the middle of the night through your time, talent and treasure. Know that we shared with Ben your outreach and always he smiled with those beautiful teeth. Thank you and we love you! Many of you were mentors of Ben that helped to shape the man he was, for that we thank you! Scouts were a big part of Ben's life and development. To Jeff Purcell and all the Boy Scout leaders, we say thank you for molding Ben into the man he was. Ben was not the greatest athlete (we even joked after his leg surgery that

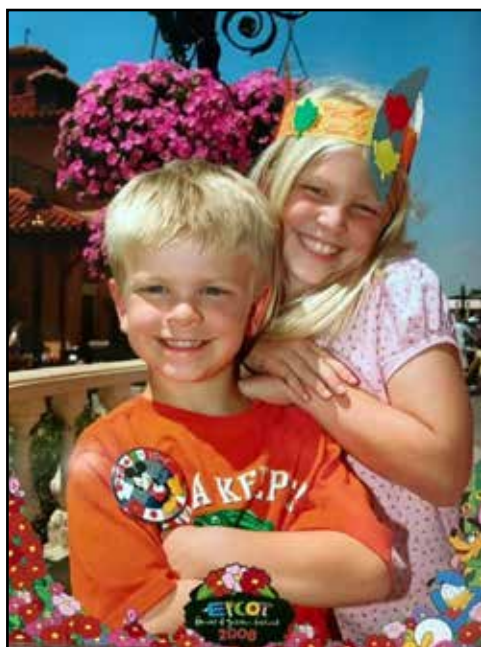
U.T. could use his help on Saturdays), but no matter what he did on or off the field, he gave his all with a great heart. Ben's sister Anna shared this as it reflects sweetly on Ben's life with all of us.... "*We remain immortal by the good deeds we do for others.*"

Ben loved being 60 feet underwater with the fish, but his heart was always in the stars....to infinity and beyond our son.

Ben loved his family. He is survived by his mom, Amy, dad, Brit, and sister, Anna Featherston; Grandfather, Ben "Poppo" Charba (Cistern, TX); Uncles and Aunts, Tom and Sherry Featherston (Waco, TX), Bill and Cynthia Featherston, and cousin, Ryan (Houston, TX); cousins, Amy, Mark and Rees Potts (Houston, TX); cousins, Carrie Featherston, Cameron and Thomas Stratton (Waco, TX), Jennifer, Richard, Rufina, Julian, Aidan, John, and Frank Robbins (Duluth, MN); Great- Aunts, Erna Johnson and husband Rich (Cistern, TX), Georgia Thompson and her children, Patricia Sands husband, Butch and son, Peter (Marion, MA) and Jimmy Thompson and wife, Sharon (Pittsburgh, PA); Great-Uncles, David Charba and wife, Barbara (Cistern, TX) and their children, Jenny McLane and husband, Steve and son, Stevie (Keller, TX), Beth Levitz and husband Chris, and daughter, Avery (Fulshear, TX) and Felicia Sharp and husband, Owen and children, Joshua and Ashlyn (League City, TX), Jesse Charba and wife, Akua (Silver Springs, MD) and his children, Chrissi Charba (Reston, VA), and Melissa Viswanath and husband, Anu and children, Priya and Chaya (Centreville, VA); and cousins, Dena and Brian Wood and children, Jake and Rachel (Austin, TX) and Debbie and Ray Pena (Pearland, TX) and children, Ryan and RJ, Gavin, and grandson, Leo; Great-Uncle Bob Hunter, (Carole's husband) of Arlington, VA; cousins, Franklin and Sue Ise and children, Erik and Kiel (Overland Park, KS), Anne Ise and husband, Sean Daw and children, Maeve and Els (Grayslake, IL), John Ise and Karon Coleman and children, Amalie, Cecelia, and Gabriel (Miami Shores, FL), and Robbie and Aimee Hunter and children, Sophie and Grace (Catonsville, MD).

Ben is preceded in death by his grandparents, Thomas Moore Featherston, Mary Lou Featherston, and Willa Means Charba; and Great-Aunts, Charlene Charba-Curlee and Carole Means Hunter.











"We are afflicted on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed, always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So then death is working in us, but life in you." -2 Corinthians 4:8-12















My sweet Ben -

Today I sit here, at our family dining room table, thinking of the words to encapsulate all that you mean to me. First off, I need you to know that I miss you, a lot. Throughout most of my life thus far, I have been so extremely fortunate to have you as my little brother. My little brother who somehow ended up as the most mature, kind, compassionate, unique, and respectful person I have ever had the pleasure of knowing. I feel so blessed to have had every extra day at Texas Children's Hospital laughing, talking, and watching movies with you. In the moment, I was unaware of how significant those memories would become to me. As we move forward, I know that I will go through many stages of missing you and feeling like you did not have long enough here on earth to make your full impact. However, I know that I am wrong in that feeling, because you have impacted more people than I could ever imagine. During your time at Texas Children's, when most would have wallowed, cried, and lost all hope, you remained strong. You never showed us your fear, you never cried, and even in the face of losing both legs, you comforted us by saying that you did not need legs to live a happy life. Because of your strength in the darkest hours, I find strength while coping with your loss. I write to you to tell you that I will do everything you have always wanted to do, in your honor. As much as I wish I could crawl into a hole, I will persevere because you taught me how. I will finish my degree, I will dive the Great Barrier Reef, I will travel through Europe, and I will follow through with my goals, all in your honor. As much as it hurts to go through life without you physically, I know that you are always with me. My sweet Ben, you have changed my life forever, and I will always strive to "be like Ben."

Your sister, Anna

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Celebrant and Homilist: Reverend John H. Hughes
Placing of Pall: Brit, Amy and Anna Featherston
Lectors: Bill Featherston, Dena Wood
Gift Bearers: Tom Featherston, David Charba, Erna Johnson
Eucharistic Ministers: Celebrant of the Mass, David and Tiana Gorsich
Music Ministers: Jennifer Robbins, Wanda Lott, Denise Truncale
Pallbearers: Cody Caldwell, Chris Gorsich, Cody Wulf, Jack Montalbano
Eli Andel, Matt Haynie, Nate Stapleton, Stephen Lopez
Alex Paulino, Sam Svoboda, Payden Furlow, Alex Marshall
Luke Williams, Luke Sodalak, Brecken Clough, Edgar Sapon
Ben Williams, Trey Isabell, Kannon Knox, Jagger McCollum
Tanner Leblanc, Eric Renfro, David James, Chandler Lawley
Jonathan Miller, Noah Domingue
+++++

Saint Jude Thaddeus Catholic Community
Beaumont, Texas – December 4, 2021

Interment

Sts. Cyril and Methodius Cemetery
Cistern, Texas

Memorial Contributions

Texas Children's Hospital Adult Congenital Heart Fund
P.O. Box 300630
Houston, Texas 77230-0630
waystogive.texaschildrens.org

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Regina Rogers' IEA- Inspire Encourage Achieve
20 North 11th Street
Beaumont, Texas 77702
ieainspires.com/donate

~

Three Rivers Council
Boy Scouts of America
4650 Cardinal Drive
Beaumont, Texas 77701

**“Never let anything so fill you with sorrow
that you forget the joy of the resurrection.”**

Mother Teresa



Please sign Ben's guest book and share your memories at
www.broussards1889.com