



Ryan Shayne Dougay

June 7, 1977 - July 1, 2022

Celebrating the Life of
Ryan Shayne Dougay

Friday, July 15, 2022 2:00 p.m.
Broussard's Chapel
Beaumont, Texas
Dr. Nathan Cothen

"Scars in Heaven"
by Casting Crowns

Scripture, Obituary, and Prayer

"Angel"
by Sarah McLachlan

Remembrances
by Family and Friends

"I Can Only Imagine"
by MercyMe

Message of Comfort

"Amazing Grace"



Ryan Shayne Dougay, better known as “Stymie” by his family and close friends, was a very unique, one of a kind, and very special young man. He did things his own way from the time he was born. As a new mother, Ryan’s mother, Milly was anxious to cuddle her precious newborn tightly in her arms but found that Ryan was not content to be held that way. Rather he had to be held up on her chest with his head up! And, while most newborns sleep most of the day and night, baby Ryan would only sleep during the night, but only because he was exhausted.

Ryan was always a fun loving and adventurous child with so much energy, which continued through his adulthood. He was a true outdoorsman, and athlete

who loved the water, boating, water skiing, wake surfing and had recently travelled to Mexico to surf. He loved camping in the wild, hiking, snowboarding, and snow skiing. Ryan was also an avid runner, and later a cyclist in his adult years.

The love that Ryan had for bicycles today, began when he was just a toddler. As a little guy, he loved “Hot Wheels” which he would ride so hard, brake hard and fast, turn circles, and would literally wear the hard plastic off parts of the tire. They would go “clump, clump” as the big holes came around when he peddled, which always called for a new one! He went from a bike with training wheels as a toddler and continued to upgrade until he got to a nicer big bike at 12 years old, which he loved to ride, and he entered a race on Pleasure Island. Ryan was the only young person racing, all the others were men from their 20’s on up to 50’s, but that did not bother him a bit!

For many years Ryan biked almost every morning before work. Several years ago, his parents, and his wife, Amy, met Ryan in San Antonio after he rode his bicycle 95 miles on back roads from Austin to San Antonio in the extreme heat! It was not uncommon for him to ride in biking groups cycling 35-65+ miles per ride, and even after many bicycle accidents including a rather serious one several years ago that landed him in the hospital, his extreme love for biking continued.

While Ryan was a student at Monsignor Kelly High School, he and a friend were on the ferry in Galveston one Friday evening in April of 1995. At that time two men had struggled in the water near the Galveston ferry after their boat

capsized. One man already drowned in the incident before Ryan could barely hear the survivor's cries for help. He alerted the captain of the Galveston ferry who then alerted the Coast Guard, which led to the discovery of the survivor who had been in the water for over an hour. Ryan's concern and persistence saved the Houston man's life, and he was awarded a beautiful Commendation award by the Coast Guard for his role in the rescue.

To quote one of his schoolteachers, Ryan was a great kid, always polite, fun loving and kind. While he was never the straight A student, he was always loved by all of his teachers and staff.

Ryan moved to Austin in 1995 to attend the University of Texas and shortly thereafter started a food distribution company, D&S Distributing. When juggling school and owning a business became too much, Ryan put college on hold until the dot-com crash hit in 1999. After returning to school, Ryan worked for two prominent family law attorneys in Austin at the law firm of Piper and Powers. At that same time, he also obtained his real estate license and worked for Ely Properties where he leased and sold residential properties on campus. Upon graduating the University of Texas, Ryan took some time off and spent a summer in Costa Rica and then moved to Boulder, Colorado where he enjoyed cycling, mountain biking and snowboarding.

Ryan began law school in Virginia in 2004, obtained his third-year bar card and began working under the guidance of a family law attorney where he tried multiple contested family law cases prior to sitting for the bar exam. Ryan ultimately moved back to Austin after passing the bar and opened his own law practice. After successfully running his solo-practice for 10 years, Ryan was honored to be asked to join the team as a partner at Gray Becker, P.C.

Ryan was a trial lawyer who was very comfortable in the courtroom and passionate about the practice of law. He was selected as a Rising Star and top-rated family law attorney by Super Lawyers in Texas Monthly Magazine in 2014-2015 and 2017-2018. Ryan had extensive experience in all matters pertaining to family law, as well as both civil and criminal family violence and stalking cases, a topic which he presented on before the Austin Bar Association. According to a mentor of Ryan's for many years. "Ryan was the go-to-guy for TRO's, temporary restraining orders, not only in the Austin area, but in the state."

Ryan had so many mentors and special friends in the legal community. His mother recalls telling them at one time early in his career that he had a case up against one of the best lawyers in Austin, Perry Minton. He was so excited about the case, even though he was certain he would not prevail. Regardless, he was excited because he knew he would learn a lot from the case. And that is how Ryan always viewed life. As a never-ending learning experience.

had such a deep love for his sister, Morgan, who was also his best friend and confidant. When Morgan had her triplet babies, Hudson, Walter and Milly, (now 11 years old), Ryan fell deeply in love with them, and in return they fell in love with their Uncle Stymie!

Ryan was not only passionate about the law and defending his clients, but also about his many hobbies, such as cycling, both on and off road, yoga, meditating, camping, wake surfing, and traveling, Colorado and Mexico being two of his most favorite places to visit. He would often relieve his stress by painting. Ryan also loved to play guitar, enjoyed reading, and was always striving for self-improvement both personally and professionally. He was an avid music-lover, attending many, many concerts, and spending hours making the “perfect” playlists for his bike rides and road trips. He loved Dave Matthews Band, My Morning Jacket and Jane’s Addiction, which were always on repeat. Ryan was always the life of the party, a charismatic person with a wicked sense of humor that always made people smile. He had a knack for meeting and striking up conversations with strangers wherever he went, many of those who later became lifelong friends.

Ryan was married for 7 years to a precious young lady, Amy. When they got married, Ryan had a sparkle in his eyes like never before. Amy was/is beautiful, smart, gentle, patient, thoughtful, loving, caring, and she loved him deeply. Although, they were no longer together, she has always remained part of the Dougay family.

Ryan was a Christian and loved the Lord. He is with Jesus now in Heaven and is free and is at peace, although his family and friends know he has probably already turned up the music louder!

The love his family has for their dear, precious Stymie is so great it can never be measured, and their hearts are so broken. Ryan will be deeply missed and there will always be an emptiness without him for his family, friends and community, but everyone has so many wonderful memories that will be treasured forever, and his legacy will remain.

Ryan is survived by his parents, Mike and Milly Dougay, his sister, Morgan Fredeman, and her husband, Ken, and his niece and nephews, Milly, Hudson and Walter Moore.

Real Need

Need to go to the gym

- Patience
- Self love & Acceptance
- Mental Clarity
- Focus better
- Sleep better
- Dreams
- Spiritual World
- Cleaned Body & Mind
- Less sugar
- Less late night eating
- better body
- Better skin & eyes
- More energy
- More creative
- More ingenious
- greater opportunities to grow
- less agitated
- More patience







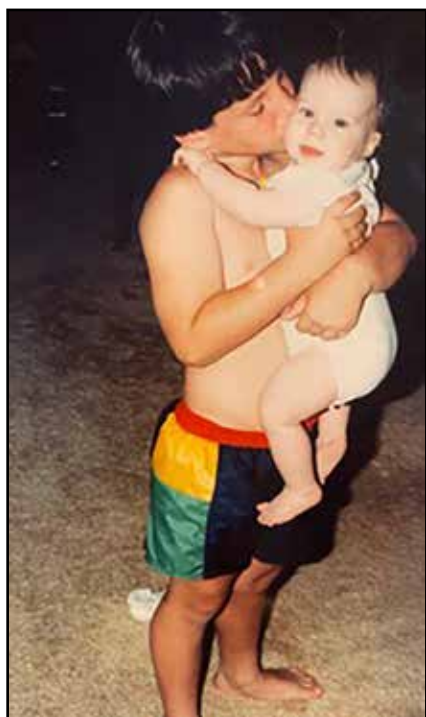














Tributes to Ryan

Mrs. Milly, this is Kacey Colletti. I just wanted to reach out and tell you how sorry I am to hear about Stymie. I'm so heartbroken for everyone.

Reconnecting with him in the recent years has been such a delight. He was so good in the courtroom, and I especially loved when he would come to my office and just catch up. We laughed so hard some days. He was so funny!! God is so good like that bringing people back together. I'm gonna miss him so much.

I can't imagine the pain, but I know God will help you through this. If there is anything I can do with his court cases or in Austin, please let me know. I'm here for you all. Please hug Mr. Mike for me. I love you both.

Years ago, Ryan came into my office his first day at work at the Firm. He told me that he didn't think he'd ever be able to join a firm like ours, that it meant the world to him, and that he was humbled to be a part of such a great law firm. I was touched by his words. I didn't know it at the time, but it was classic Ryan. That is not the usual profile of a terrific courtroom lawyer, which Ryan was. Ryan was not full of himself, but instead was on a journey to be a better person. I know him as very spiritual and always searching for a better path. He told me about his fairly frequent weekend and sometimes longer retreats, several involving silent meditation. He gave me books that he said he thought were good in facilitating self-spiritual growth. He was truly a genuine good person. I've never met anyone quite like him and will always treasure our moments together.

-Douglas M. Becker, Attorney



My friend, Ryan Dougay,

Ryan was many things- a son, a brother, an uncle, a music lover, a dancer, an advocate, an outdoorsman, an adventurer, and a friend. He also was an energy- a larger than life, radiant energy. To say Ryan lived his life to the fullest is an understatement- he devoured it. With that sparkle in his eyes and his Cheshire Cat grin, Ryan unapologetically lived the life he wanted and on his own terms. I admired him greatly for that. Never one to sit around and wait for life to come to him, Ryan made his own fun and sought out his own adventures. His curious mind was open to anything and anyone- there were no strangers in Dougay's world. He had the passion and the courage to march right up to the edge of an experience and look over, and he enriched our lives with the retelling of his exploits. I've known Ryan to pull his car off the road to save a life, or also just to get out and dance because he liked the song that was playing at the time. He was the kind of person who had as much fun trying cases in the courtroom as he did at a music festival. Ryan was a fighter- he never gave up or gave in to life's challenges, always looking for ways to make himself better. Being Ryan's friend was spontaneous, thrilling, sometimes scary, but never dull. We will miss him terribly. He left way to soon, but he left doing what he loved. And I know Ryan is still seeking out new experiences and. Entertaining others in the next life. I will cherish the day I sit down again with my friend Ryan for a long laugh as he excitedly recounts his many adventures.

-Brad Coffey



Ryan lived life to the fullest and only had one speed – full blast ahead.

Ryan was a fantastic lawyer and I was proud to be his partner, but more proud to be his friend.

Ryan had such a charming personality and smile (who can forget that smile) that even when he did something that really pissed you off, it was impossible to stay mad at him for long. He was loyal beyond words and if you were his friend, you could count on him in any and all situations.

-Rick Gray, Attorney



One of my favorite things about Ryan is that he never seemed to stop moving. Anytime I saw him he was either on his way to put out a fire or to go biking, and he just genuinely seemed so happy at either prospect. He cared deeply about others and about finding his happy place, and I'm happy for him that at least at the end he was still doing something he loved.

-Alina Brown



It didn't matter how long you knew Ryan before realizing Ryan wore his heart on his sleeve, never hid how he felt, loved passionately, and constantly sought self-improvement. He was about as loyal as they come. Ryan will be deeply missed for long to come.

-Caroline E. Alonzo



Living next to Ryan growing up was always an adventure. Like the time when Mike paid him ten dollars to mow the yard. Ryan had a better idea, so he rode his bike around our neighborhood and spotted some yard men, so he hired them for five dollars to do the yard. He sat in a lawn chair

to make sir they did a great job. That probably started his business career.

Ryan was always kind and a good friend to our children and made many trips with our son Taylor. He was a huge part of our family and always will be. Later when we moved to South Carolina, when we were at mom's house visiting, (he called her Nana), he would always make sure to come by, sit around the kitchen table and talk about life and his many adventures.

Later when Ryan was in law school in Virginia, he would visit us for the holidays in Charleston since it was just down the road. We shared several Thanksgivings together along with other holidays. Always making sure we would all sit and watch Christmas Vacation every year.

A young man who was full of life and full of adventure. There was never a dull moment when he was around. I can close my eyes and still see that smile. Ryan was a free spirit and seemed to enjoy every day of his life. Our hearts are broken for a guy who left us too soon. Rest in peace our friend.

-The Frances and John Jones Family



Ryan Dougay was a lawyer's lawyer. He had more fun practicing law than a lawyer ought to have. He knew how much a lawyer's word was worth and he knew how to separate himself from the facts of his cases. There was no one better in Austin to hand a file to and say, "Go try his child custody case tomorrow", and he'd say "Okay, just point me in the direction of the courthouse" Ryan could have fun anywhere. There was a while there where he would carry little lights in his car so he could make a little light runway for a dance party any time he wanted one. Ryan was my

friend and fiercely loyal. My wife knew that if things ever hit the fan, Ryan would be her first call, because she knew he would stop whatever he was doing and show up to help!
-Nate Kennedy



Here are some things about Ryan that I would like to share:

1. I love Ryan's laugh! It was such a wonderful thing to hear Ryan laugh.
2. Ryan had so much positive, enthusiastic energy! When he breezed into a room, the energy changed in the best way.
3. Ryan was so upbeat and positive. Whenever I spoke to him, I immediately felt better.
4. Ryan had such a zeal for life, it was infectious.
5. Ryan would have done anything for me.

-Beth Twomey



I met Ryan at my absolute lowest point. My life was in pieces and I was frankly broke. My divorce was nasty and my husband's attorney had no morals. Every dirty trick in the book was pulled against me. I had lost a few hearings due to my 1st lawyer being underprepared. That's when Ryan stepped in.

Lots of people saw what was happening with my case, but only Ryan chose to involve himself and help me untangle my custody. Ryan spent hours strategizing with me - but also giving it to me straight. He had no patience for 1/2 truths or lies by omission and he made that clear on the phone one of our first calls. He had my complete trust after that day.

Ryan went on to win my case and I was awarded full custody of my then 5-year-old son, my only child.

I'll never forget the day we were in court for an issue not related to permanent custody. But somehow the judge

turned the tables due to Ryan's quick thinking and in the blink of an eye, 1 year of Hell without my baby full time was switched in my favor! Ryan was shocked and he turned to me as soon as the judge left the courtroom and said, "Grab your shit let's go!!!" It had all happened so fast we could barely believe it, but he wanted out of that courtroom before anyone could discuss it or change their minds.

Ryan and I remained friends over the past 5 years.

I want to also tell you that last year, I offered to pay Ryan because to be honest he saved my life for peanuts and I am now in a financial position that I could repay him at his well-deserved rate. He turned me down. He told me he had enough money and that he was just glad he was able to take that ride with me.

I have lost a true friend now that Ryan's crossed over. He was so special to me - a true partner in crime in some ways. That year we spent on my divorce, Ryan was the only other living soul to know every detail. With him gone, I do feel a great loss. When someone can tell your story it's the most validating thing in the world. Ryan was the only one able to tell my story.

I have so many funny stories to tell about Ryan and he was always, always up for a good time. But the real core of someone is their mind and their heart and Ryan had both in full capacity with a strong compass.

My deepest condolences on this loss and I pray that his memory is a blessing to you, your husband and your other children. His memory will always be a blessing in this house.

Hugs

-Victoria Gutwein



I met Ryan Dougay when he was about 19 years old attending the University of Texas at Austin. Although we ran in different age groups, Ryan is a soul that crossed all boundaries when it came to connecting with others and making friends. One common denominator that Ryan and I shared in those days, was our love of the Austin scene and carousing past the time that most reasonable folks are in bed asleep. Ryan and I lost touch for a number of years thereafter and then we ran into each other, by then licensed attorneys, at the Travis County Courthouse. We both doubled-over laughing at the first site of each other, each of us equally surprised that the other had even been accepted to law school, much less graduated. Since that day, Ryan and I connected in a way that people rarely get the privilege of doing with another friend. -And to be clear, the privilege was and is all mine. My heart is broken beyond repair at his passing at such a young and vibrant age.

Here is what I can say for now about one of the finest men I have ever known.

Ryan was a free spirit with an incredible legal mind and a beautiful, rare gift for digging in deep for his friends and clients. If I ever needed Ryan for anything, he was outside my office or front porch door before we hung up the phone. He never said no regarding favors. In fact, he never considered doing something for a friend a favor at all. He worked hard, played hard and always had the enthusiasm of a young boy with a new glove on a baseball field. It was so pure and contagious. He scraped and climbed his way up in the legal profession in Austin, which is not an easy thing to do these days. As a solo practitioner, he befriended heavy hitting lawyers twice and more his age. (I would name them, but there are simply too many.) To a person, everyone respected and adored him. Eventually, after much wrangling, roping and cajoling, Gray Becker, one of

Austin's most distinguished and premier law firms, landed him as a partner. During the ensuing years, Ryan became one of the most unusual and brilliant talents in Travis County and Central Texas. I say unusual, because Ryan never lost the ability - while standing in the courtroom breach - to run his fingers through his hair, flash that beautiful smile - and take the other side to the cleaners. He was always a gentlemen, always kind - and always put his client's interests above anything and everything else. I can honestly say that I have never heard anyone say an unkind thing about Ryan. Ever.

Upon his passing, I received countless phone calls and texts from the best lawyers the state has to offer, as well as many former and current judges and prosecutors. All heartbroken and all at a complete and total loss for words. It is hard to perfect the art of getting along with lawyers on the other side of the aisle. (To date, this talent has managed to escape me.) Ryan did not have to perfect this art at all. It came to him with the greatest of ease. It is the ease with which this came to him - that made it impossible to resist him. It also made him a formidable, effective and gracious co-counsel and adversary. It made him a genuine soul that you could trust in each and every situation, without exception.

Austin and the Travis County Bar has lost a giant.

I love you so much Ryan Dougay. Please make my announcement when He calls me on the docket.

See you then.

-Perry Q. Minton

Minton, Bassett, Flores and Carsey



Memorial Contributions
Domestic Violence Clinic
University of Texas School of Law
727 E. Dean Keeton
Austin, Texas 78705



Broussards
Established 1889

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