

Jamie Lynn Hand

Always Able To Make Others Laugh



Despite her striking beauty, Jamie Hand had remained something of a tomboy. “She was always in the middle of everything and having a ball doing it,” said Mary Beth Fitzgerald, an assistant principal at Henderson High School, where Jamie graduated.

It surprised no one for Jamie Hand to be enthusiastically in the thick of something like building Bonfire. Her friends knew that, when it came to duty and responsibility, she would be nowhere else.

An Environmental Design major, she made friends easily during her first year at A&M. Jamie loved the outdoors, and she was happiest when she was working with others. Those who had served as high school cheerleaders alongside Jamie Hand would forever remember her as a caring person, someone who was always able to make others laugh.

Perhaps that was her greatest gift.

“She was just a one-of-a-kind kid,” said Ray Deason, a neighbor and Jamie’s Principal at Northside Elementary School. “She had an infectious smile for everyone.” Deason has been a neighbor of the Hand family for 25 years, had seen Jamie when she first came home from the hospital as a newborn and watched her grow into the happy-go-lucky woman that she had become.

“Jamie was an outstanding kid and outstanding student from a very loving family,” Mr. Deason said. “This is a very bleak day for the whole community.”

The Brown family moved next door to the Hands in 1993. Jamie was a baby sitter for Kelly Brown’s three children and even taught them to swim. “They really loved her,” Kelly said. “They’re having a very hard time with the news. Jamie was very sweet, very athletically and artistically talented.”

When Jamie was not chosen to receive Homecoming Queen honors during her senior year, the trio of Brown

The essay Jamie composed when she applied for admission to Texas A&M last spring:

AN AGGIE, BORN AND REARED

I want to be an Aggie. I have always wanted to be an Aggie. While my oldest sister was attending A&M, she invited my parents, my other two sisters, and me to a Midnight Yell Practice. It was awesome! I was only ten at the time, but already I was beginning to understand the pride behind being a Texas Aggie. My parents have always stressed independence, personal responsibility, and setting and pursuing our goals and dreams. My oldest sister—a successful working wife and mother, a CPA, a true Aggie forever—has helped me to see that the possibilities are endless at TAMU. I am driven to grab hold of the pride, the Spirit, and the education available at Texas A&M University.

children presented their baby sitter with a gift basket and told her, “You’ll always be our Homecoming Queen.”

Becky Jordan, also a neighbor, remembers Jamie as “a vivacious and pretty young lady that all the kids dearly loved. She was active in her church and just a beautiful child herself.”

“I know that Jamie was a wonderful, caring person, and I know that she was there out of spirit,” said Angie Orr, a former classmate. “She had a lot of spirit. More than anybody I know. She was very willing to help. That’s what gets me. She was there to help.” 🐾