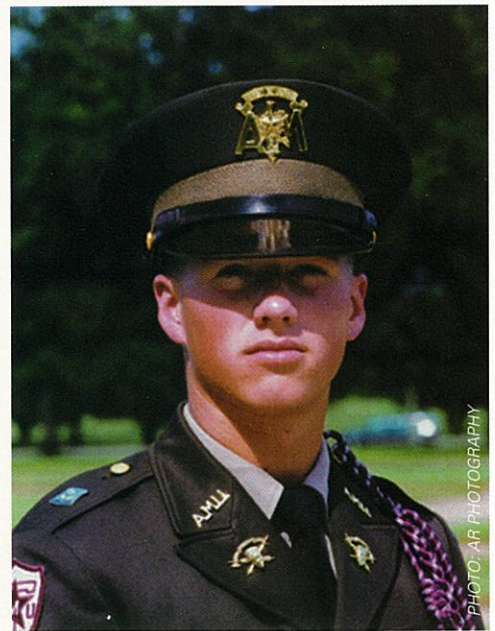


Bryan Allan McClain

Symbolizing The Corps



Even beneath the exterior of his crisp Corps uniform, it was easy to detect the kind-hearted soul of Bryan McClain.

That's what Dr. Dudley Smith believed. Said Dr. Smith, who was Bryan's Introduction to Agronomy Professor, "Bryan symbolized the dedication of a Corps member. He was always in uniform. He was always very neat. 'Yes sir, No sir.' All of that."

Bryan McClain was the son of Phil McClain and Kathy McClain Escamilla. An Agriculture major who graduated from Madison High School in San Antonio in 1998, Bryan was a member of the high school swim team for four years and served as Captain.

According to Bob Duin, Bryan's former swim coach, the young man's best swimming stroke was the backstroke, but added that the versatile athlete never let him down during a swim meet.

"I could put him anywhere and he'd do a good job for me," said Duin, who described his former student as a leader, a good communicator and a positive role model.

Bryan spent most of his life in the same neighborhood, a seven-house cluster on a cul-de-sac in the northeast part of the city.

Neighbors remembered him as "the kind of kid you'd like your brother, son or nephew to grow up into. He was nice-looking, too. He was a poster child of what you would like for teenagers to be."

Last year, Bryan's girlfriend, Jennifer Jose, invited him to a pre-teen girls' birthday party. Since the younger boys chose not to dance, Bryan took turns twirling the girls around the floor. "All the little girls loved him," said David Jose, Jennifer's father. "They were waiting in line to dance with Bryan."

Bryan was well-mannered, kind, considerate and friendly. He never saw a stranger nor did he ever turn his back if someone needed help. This was evident in his wish to be an

organ donor.

Attending Texas A&M had been a dream of Bryan's since he was a small child.

He always knew Texas A&M was his University and did not apply to any other college. Joining the Corps of Cadets was a decision Bryan made during his senior year in high school. After he participated in the "Spend the Night with the Corps," Bryan was hooked.

He felt the Corps was truly the keeper of the A&M Spirit and Tradition. He recognized the quality of young people in this organization and wanted to be a part of it.

According to a former member of Bryan's outfit, Gator 2, Bryan was always there when you needed him.

He never declined the opportunity to do things for his community or his fellow Aggies—whether it was a 5K run for a charitable organization or working Bonfire in the early hours of the morning.

He was full of energy and enthusiasm. He loved Bonfire from the bottom of his heart.

As a freshman at the university last year, Bryan went as far as jumping out of his second floor window to work on Bonfire even when he wasn't assigned to be there. Said Kyle Gass, who served as a mentor to Bryan in the Corps, "He put all he had in everything he did and was an inspiration to everyone around him."

At the end of Bryan's freshman year at Texas A&M, he was proud of having the honor of being appointed a Gator 2 Sparkplug, Assistant Squad Leader and Freshman Orientation Cadre for the Corps of Cadet Gator 2 unit. His family pointed out, "Bryan was extremely proud and happy to carry on the responsibilities and traditions that had been created many years before."

Although Bryan's major was listed as agriculture, he was interested in pursuing a career as an entomologist. He was in the process of completing the required hours to be officially ranked as a sophomore at A&M. 🐛