

Hi everyone. For those of you that don't know me, I'm Ashley, Vincey's twin sister. I would like to start by sharing some of my favorite things about Vincey and then some special memories.

For those of you that knew Vince growing up, he was always the funny guy in the room and always knew how to make you laugh. He was very outgoing and was never afraid to share his voice, which of course sometimes got him in to a little bit of trouble. Vince was very creative, which made him a natural when it came to writing. He was curious and strong headed, which also made him a natural when it came to political debate and trying to educate others (including myself) on what was important in the world and ways we could make a difference or make it a better place. Vincey also had a beautiful voice, and one way he put all of his thoughts, opinions and ideas for change into words was through rap. Some of my favorite memories of Vince growing up is listening to him freestyle while his best friend Chandler played the piano.

More of my favorite memories include singing along to high school musical, playing super smash bros or mario cart and Vince (on occasion) letting me win, tubing at bass lake, playing cards or board games like Vincey's favorites "war" or monopoly, hiking garland and soberanes, beach walks with Terrance, long walks in Portland, long phone calls, listening to vinceys favorite artist Aesop rock and going to his concert where we got there 10 hours early to be the first ones in line and meet Aesop before the show. Vince and I were sitting on the street in San Francisco waiting for the concert to start, and we were so early that someone walking by thought we were homeless and offered us nuts and a blanket.

Vince was a life long learner and one thing I really admired about Vince was how he spent his free time. Vince spent a lot of his time educating himself- through books and articles, whatever he could get his hand on really. He even used to ask me to send him some of my lecture notes from dental school, just for fun. One thing he was especially interested in was pharmacology and physiology where he looked to better understand how the body works and how drugs interact with and effect the body. I was studying to be a dentist, and Vince knew more about pharmacology then I did. Needless to say, for most people in the medical profession, pharmacology is one of the hardest subjects to study due to the complexity and endless variables that play a factor- and Vince learned it for fun.

I can go on and on about Vince's love for learning all day, he named his dog Terence after his favorite philosopher Terence McKenna for goodness sake. But another memory I truly enjoyed was last year when we went to Mexico for my mom's 60th birthday. Our time together as a family created so many memories with Vince that we are so incredibly grateful for, one being boogie boarding where Vincey got pounded by wave after wave after wave and absolutely loved it.

As I mentioned, Vincey really loved music and he loved to play us his favorite songs while we were relaxing at the pool. One song he wanted to show us was called 50 thousand deep by blue scholars. After each line Vincey would pause the song and explain to us exactly what the artist meant in fine detail. The 5 minute song turned into 30 minutes of education about the protests in front of the world trade center that none of us knew the song was referring too. It made Vince so happy to educate us on music and he was able to see things that none of could see. Vincey was definitely the brains of the family and everyday I talked to him he taught me something new. He used to send Petey and I articles and then asked us to read them and call him when we were done reading them to discuss what we thought. It was like a family book club, and vincey loved it.

Vincey was often too smart for his own good and struggled meeting people in his later years who were as intelligent and witty as him to interact with. This is one of the reasons that a few months before Vincey passed, he moved to Portland Oregon to meet new people that are like minded. I was very excited about the move as Vince lived just a quick 5 minute walk away from my place. I was so excited to be close to Vince and to spend more time with him after we had lived in different states for almost a decade. Although I was only able to live close to him for a few months, I am so incredibly grateful for the extra memories we made, and to have been able to see him happy and grow during his short time in Portland. One of the reasons Vincey moved to Portland was because of the volunteer opportunities that Portland had to offer. Vincey spent a lot of his time his last few months volunteering at a non profit whose focus was to provide supplies for houseless individuals to live warmer, safer and happier lives. Just last month, my mom and I were able to volunteer at the same non profit, and to remind everyone, this is in Portland OR where there are more rainy days then dry days. It was down pouring, freezing cold, and the volunteers put on a happy face and continued to pass out supplies to all that needed it. We are so proud of


Vincey for his commitment to the non profit and we hope to continue to volunteer at similar places in Vincey's honor for the rest of our lives.

I would like to conclude with a letter to Vince:

Vincey, the last few months without you have been the hardest few months of my life. Every second I breathed on this earth was a breath I shared with you, until very recently. Not a day goes by where I don't think about you, miss you and wish more than anything that you were still here with us. You were incredibly intelligent, creative, curious, funny and your passion for making the world a better place and helping others live safer, happier lives was truly beautiful. You have made me more compassionate, understanding, and you have reminded me that every day is a gift. I promise to use what you have taught me to stay educated on the world, promote justice for inequality, volunteer with harm reduction, and to continue to share your voice forever.

You left this world way too soon and it breaks my heart that I can't watch you change the world like we always knew you could.

You will forever be my twin and I will miss you everyday for the rest of my life.

I love you, Vincey 

Thank you.