



Dakota Marie Matakchiero

February 24, 1987 - July 22, 2021

Albany – Dakota Marie Matakchiero passed from this life on July 22, 2021 after a two year struggle with cancer, with her family and fiancé by her side. She has returned to God and is lighting up the heavens with her smile and laugh.

Born on February 24, 1987, at the Long Island College Hospital, Dakota is the daughter of Mary Matakchiero. Dakota faced many medical challenges in her short life but faced each one with fortitude and resilience, and with a smile that would light up the world. Dakota was known as a strong and spirited girl with a dazzling smile and sparkling eyes. Her persistence and tenacity in the 34 years of her life has been a wonderful example to all who were blessed to be part of her life.

Dakota graduated from Albany High School and was employed by Pet Smart and then the Albany City School District. Dakota had a patient and loving presence, so much so that animals inherently trusted her. It was a gift that she shared with many creatures.

In addition to her mother, she leaves behind her sister, Shyla Popa, her fiancé Michael Puspurs, many aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends.

The family wants to thank the parishioners of St. Vincent de Paul, and our

many friends and family for their consistent prayers and support. We also thank the medical teams which over the years have provided such compassionate care for her.

Relatives and friends are invited to visit with Dakota's family on Friday, July 30, 2021 from 4:00 to 8:00 pm in the McVeigh Funeral Home, 208 North Allen Street, Albany, NY 12206. Please only enter the funeral home from the rear parking lot doorway; unvaccinated individuals must wear a mask and practice social distancing.

Dakota's Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, July 31, 2021 at 9:00 am at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 900 Madison Avenue, Albany, NY 12208. Unvaccinated individuals must wear a mask and practice social distancing. To view her Funeral Mass online please visit www.facebook.com/stvincentalbany/

The Rite of Interment will immediately follow at Our Lady of Angels Cemetery, Colonie.

Donations in Dakota's name can be made to Orange Street Cats at <http://www.orangestreetcats.org>

To leave Dakota's family a message on their guestbook, obtain directions, or view other helpful services, please visit www.mcveighfuneralhome.com

Cemetery Details

Our Lady of Angels Cemetery

1389 Central Ave
Albany, NY

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL **30**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

McVeigh Funeral Home, Inc.
208 N Allen St
Albany, NY 12206
(518) 489-0188
info@mcveighfuneralhome.com
<http://www.McveighFuneralHome.com>

Service

JUL **31**. 9:00 AM (ET)

Church of St. Vincent De Paul Church
900 Madison Ave.
Albany, NY 12208

Tribute Wall



“ *McVeigh Funeral Home, Inc. created a Tribute Video in memory of Dakota Marie Maticchiero*



McVeigh Funeral Home, Inc. - July 28, 2021 at 02:37 PM



I am speechless, such an absolutely beautiful tribute to Dakota ❤️

Hannah Capuano - July 29, 2021 at 06:46 AM

DC

Just so beautiful and touching. I'll always remember that beautiful smile

deb corrigan - July 29, 2021 at 07:28 AM

NT

Beautiful and Heartwarmingthat Beautiful Smile that was Dakota !

Noreen Thomas - July 29, 2021 at 11:52 AM

SR

So beautiful. Words can't express. Just breathtaking .

Sharon Ritmo - July 29, 2021 at 02:26 PM

LR

Beautiful smile....beautiful person inside and out....now God has a beautiful new angel....we miss you Dakota...we miss you...

Linda I Relyea - July 29, 2021 at 05:50 PM

KS

Beautiful tribute to a lovely young woman we watched grow up. She will be remembered by all who knew her.

Kathy Schongar - July 29, 2021 at 09:40 PM

JF

Beautiful!

Joe Fitzgerald - July 30, 2021 at 08:38 AM

SP

Smiling in heaven for sure. Rest now, sweet Dakota!

Sue Ellen Powell - July 30, 2021 at 04:15 PM

RL

Her smile was beyond beautiful, but her eyes....her eyes said it all. Your spirit and soul live on, Dakota.

Ronnie Lyons - July 31, 2021 at 09:18 AM



“ *Dakota Marie Matakchiero*

October 08, 2023 at 09:24 PM

MB

“ *Dear Mary and Family,
I am so very sorry for your loss. Dakota was beautiful. The memorial video was a tribute to a life well lived. My prayers are with you during this difficult time.*

*Sincerely,
Mary Bayham*

Mary Bayham - September 06, 2021 at 11:18 PM

KM

“ I am so sorry for your loss. Although I did not see Dakota often she grew up to be a loving young woman I can't help but think that Corey was there to meet her

Kelly Morrone - August 01, 2021 at 08:08 PM

DS

“ Dakota left her mark on this planet with her courage, her steadfastness in the face of trials and her beautiful and joyful heart. We are all the better for her too short life. Peace be with you Mary, Shyla and Michael. Deacon Ed Solomon and Karen Solomon

Deacon Edward Solomon - July 31, 2021 at 07:04 AM

SL

“ I remember Dakota so well. She was a bright light in my life at the Montessori School of Albany. Always a smile! So many times I have shared my relationship with her with friends. I was so saddened by this news. She was a true champion!

Sue LaVigne - July 30, 2021 at 08:01 PM

LL

“ Mary, we have so many fond memories of Dakota through the Psalty years, and beyond. She was truly a shining light for all who had the good fortune of knowing her. May she rest in peace now.

Laurie and Tom Lombardi

Laurie Lombardi - July 30, 2021 at 04:53 PM

BK

Mary & Shyla we send prayers and love. Dakota with the beautiful smile & sweet and kind spirit. Angel rest in peace 🙏 Brenda & Kevin family

Brenda knight - July 31, 2021 at 02:11 AM

LF

“ I worked with Dakota at school she was a kind and loving person she welcomed me as part of the family at school ...heaven has truly got a angelI will miss you Dakota.....Lynn Fowler

Lynn Fowler - July 29, 2021 at 07:31 PM

DM

“ Dakota brought so much joy to our family's life. We witnessed "Our Mikey" being the happiest he has ever been! When they were in a room together, it was like no one else was there. She will always be a part of our family.

Debbie Maguire - July 29, 2021 at 02:59 PM

AR

“ Mary I so remember Dakota as beautiful little girl with a smile bigger than life itself.
My deepest condolences to you, her fiancé and extended family.
Angie & Nicole Robilotto

angie robilotto - July 29, 2021 at 01:00 PM



“ *Dakota was always such a beautiful spirit to be around whether it was hanging with her furry friends, spending time with family and friends, or working in the classroom with our preschoolers. She always was able to make a connection with the kids, even when we thought she might be scared away! Somehow, she remained calm and never gave up on them. Mary, I am sure she learned that from you as well as many other life lessons on how to be a kind, accepting, and compassionate person. I will always remember the bunny visits to the classroom and the church Easter party as she showed the kids how to be gentle with them. She sure was a HERO for many*♥♥♥♥ Sue Miron

Sue Miron - July 29, 2021 at 12:55 AM

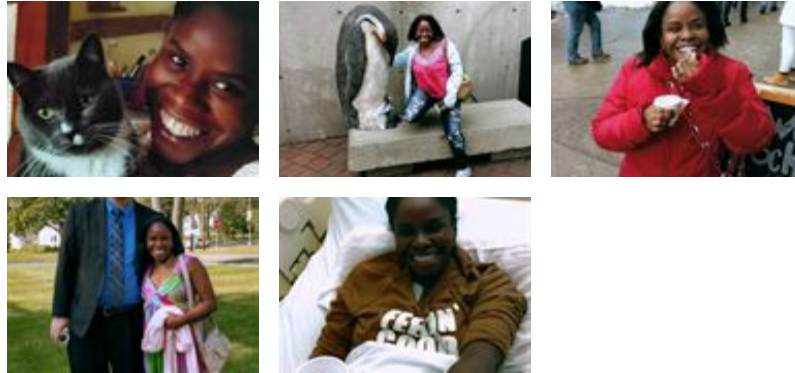


“ *I watched Dakota grow each year in Psalty, shining her light and talent as an inspiration to all the younger kids, including my own. They remember her fondly. We had delightful conversations in the rows of choir about her life, always a smile on her face. Everyone in my family has been blessed to know her and we send our deepest condolences.*

Rebecca Maxwell - July 28, 2021 at 03:06 PM



“ 54 files added to the album Life Tributes



McVeigh Funeral Home, Inc. - July 28, 2021 at 02:32 PM

PW

“ Mary and family, my deepest condolences to you all. Heaven has gained another angel. My thoughts and prayers are with you.
Paige Weinlein

Paige Weinlein - July 28, 2021 at 01:20 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Dakota Marie Maticchiero.



July 28, 2021 at 12:29 PM

JP

“ *Mary and Margie- my heart is breaking for you and all of your family
❤️ I remember when Dakota was first placed into Mary's life. My
sincere sympathy and prayers are with all of you. God's peace be
with you and may it help carry you through 🙏❤️ Jane (Schmidt)
Piduch*

Jane Piduch - July 27, 2021 at 04:14 PM

JF

“ How can I even begin to tell the Tale of Dakota -- but, I will try -- it was and is a Tale of Unconditional Love! We were lucky to witness it; share in it; and know it!



From the first calls we received about a little girl whom Mary desired to adopt in 1988, to all of the adventures with her "special" friend, Christopher Martin Fitzgerald, in Norfolk, VA; Newport, RI; Washington, DC; during our leave periods home; and then later at home for our Navy retirement in Albany, Dakota (and Mary) was a special part of our lives. We will always treasure those memories ... especially the joint car seat rides; the stroller excursions (remember the climb in!); visits to Bethesda Children's Inn, etc, while sharing so many happy and challenging times together .. in person or by phone.

Diane and Christopher, I know, were there to greet you upon your arrival. I am sure they will be glad to help get you settled, along with your family and friends, in the Heavenly Kingdom, a place even more beautiful because of your smile.

As I told Christopher, years ago, Dakota --- you are now free of all your earthly challenges and can now be with your friend, Jesus, forever. Go with Jesus. He will care for you now, until your Mom and your friends on earth see you again. But, please know YOU will be missed and never forgotten by those of us left behind.

With all of our love,

*The Fitzgerald Family
(Diane +; Christopher+; Joe)*

Joseph Fitzgerald - July 27, 2021 at 02:05 PM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dakota Marie Matacchiero.*



July 27, 2021 at 01:12 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dakota Marie Matacchiero.*



July 27, 2021 at 01:04 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dakota Marie Matacchiero.*



July 27, 2021 at 12:48 PM



“ *I worked with Dakota for several years. From the moment we met and exchanged smiles, I knew that I had gained a friend. Whether we saw each other in person or talked on the phone, we always shared a laugh along with words of positivity and encouragement. I will miss her dearly. As I've said many times before, she was a true gem. Please accept my most heartfelt condolences.*

Theresa Moffitt

Theresa Moffitt - July 27, 2021 at 12:02 PM

JM

“ To Dakota family I wanted to tell you how grateful I am that I got the chance to work with Dakota she always smiling and full of life I'm going to truly miss her.

Joshua Miller - July 27, 2021 at 08:15 AM

KP

“ I will miss dakota. She was a beautiful person. I admired her strength and out look on life. I will miss her singing. She had a beautiful voice. You will be missed dakota.

Kathy p - July 27, 2021 at 05:56 AM

JH

“ To the family of Dakota
I truly thank God for sending to us a beautiful young woman so full of life, laughter and a genuine love for all. I was blessed to work with Dakota at Delaware Community School for many years. My prayer to you all is that God will send down angels of comfort to dry every tear in time and know we can rejoice that Dakota is in pain no more.

Joy Howard - July 26, 2021 at 10:04 PM

NS

To Dakota's family and friends:
Whenever I saw Dakota walking to home or work in the neighborhood, she was always friendly and kind. Dakota's beautiful smile was bright enough to light a runway and warm enough that you always felt cared for.

Precious Dakota, fly free and rest in eternal and everlasting peace.

Neighbor Simone - July 29, 2021 at 08:51 PM

MW

“ We are so sorry to hear of her passing. Mom worked with her for years at the school. She always remembered her Beautiful smile. We will keep her family in our prayers.

Mrs. Josie Burns and Josita Walker and family

Mrs. Josie Burns and Josita Walker - July 26, 2021 at 09:51 PM

BA

“ I have known Dakota and family over the past 29 years and it's so hard to separate them from one another as they always came together for as long as I can remember. Dakota was so sweet and beautiful and was rarely seen without a smile, critter in her lap or hope in her heart. She easily saw the good in others despite the challenges in life that she faced in her daily life. We will miss her beautiful smile and her incredible spirit. Heaven has been blessed with her light... Barb and Bob

Barbara Armstrong - July 26, 2021 at 09:43 PM

RA

“ Mary We are so sorry for your loss .remember all the fun times.and keep her beautiful smile in your heart.
Roseann and Don Arthur

Roseann Arthur - July 26, 2021 at 09:38 PM

TS

“ I’m so sorry to hear about Dakota’s passing. Dakota was such a positive and strong person and I was always amazed how she handled any obstacle she was given with a smile on her face. We are so grateful for Mike for introducing her to us and making her apart of our family. We will miss her dearly.



The Shears - July 26, 2021 at 09:24 PM

KA

“ Dakota was so sweet and kind. M's mind was completely blown when he saw her at church/Psalty and then at school too.

Kathryn - July 26, 2021 at 09:11 PM

EH

“ I met Dakota as a toddler at the Farano House where I was a volunteer and Mary was a nurse. Dakota was so easy to love . I stayed in touch thru the years and re met them when I joined St Vincent’s. I looked forward to the pictures on the xmas cards . with the animals and stories of adventure. Mary ,I admire you so much for your life contributions to Dakota and so many others. I ask myself with people like you how will the ordinary people like me make it to heaven? With love and prayers ELLEN Halligan. New Jersey

Ellen Halligan - July 26, 2021 at 08:50 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dakota Marie Maticchiero.*



July 26, 2021 at 07:59 PM