



## Stephanie Marie Hedrick

August 13, 2005 - September 30, 2017

Stephanie Marie Hedrick, age 12, danced joyfully into the arms of Jesus on Saturday, September 30, 2017 at her home. Mom, Angela Earnhardt Metzger welcomed The Champ, as she was so aptly nicknamed, on August 13, 2005. Stephanie earned the name The Champ three months before she was born because Angie already knew what a fighter she was going to be. She was diagnosed with Down syndrome and a multitude of other serious conditions but overcame many of them before she was even born. The challenges she was born with were just that, challenges. They were never seen as disabilities but rather opportunities to bless others through the complications she faced with anything but quiet tenacity. Hundreds, no, thousands of individuals were touched by Stephi's life during her short 12 years here. Her beautiful, infectious smile and "high five" goodbyes always left people with a feeling of wonder that so much joy could radiate from a non-verbal little girl. Stephanie enjoyed horse riding therapy at Wings of Eagles Therapeutic Horse Ranch for seven years where she received no less than six Blue Ribbons! She was a member of the dance troupe, In His Steps in Mooresville for five years where she participated in several recitals. She was the "plus one" at two MHS proms where her wheelchair was decorated to match her dress! One of her favorite pastimes was watching movies like The Sound of Music and Frozen, and TV shows, The Fresh Beat Band and Veggie Tales. She also loved Christian music videos, because they were her "jam". She would rock out to 'God's Not Dead' and many other upbeat declarations of God's amazing Love. Stephi

leaves an incredible legacy that will not soon be forgotten. Everyone that came into contact with her over the last twelve years, from hospital staff, in home care personnel, family and friends to complete strangers they met in the store, on the street, or through her Caringbridge page, felt more than just compassion for her circumstances. They came away with a gift; an unexplainable feeling of hope, perseverance and love. Left to honor her memory alongside her mom are Stephanie's father, Walter Glenn Hedrick, III; her amazing big brother and protector, Samuel John Hedrick; grandfather, John "Pop Pop" Earnhardt, Jr; aunts Melany (Fred) Earnhardt and Christina (Kevin) Jones, wonderful godmother, Jennie LeBeau; paternal grandmother, Louise Hedrick; other extended family members and many, many friends and supporters, including all of her unbelievably loving caregivers. Stephanie was preceded in death by her maternal grandma, Rebecca M. and 'Papa Ted' Essick, and her paternal grandfather, Walt Hedrick, Jr. A Celebration of Life will be held at 10:00 AM on Saturday, October 7 at The Cove Church, 197 Langtree Rd. Mooresville with Rev. Louis Smith officiating assisted by Jerel Law. The family will receive friends following the service at the church. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Cavin-Cook Funeral Home, PO Box 977, Mooresville, NC 28115, to help with funeral expenses. Cavin-Cook Funeral Home & Crematory, Mooresville is serving the family. Condolences may be made to the family at [www.cavin-cook.com](http://www.cavin-cook.com).

# Tribute Wall



“ *Stephanie Marie Hedrick*

February 14, 2021 at 11:24 AM



“ *Stephanie Marie Hedrick*

February 14, 2021 at 11:04 AM



“ *Stephanie Marie Hedrick*

February 14, 2021 at 11:03 AM



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*Craig Meredith,*

*Cleveland, Tennessee*

**Craig Meredith** - October 05, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ *I miss you so much my sweet baby girl Fly high and dance for Jesus until I can see you again.*

**Angie Metzger** - October 05, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ Years of prayers and love for this little girl and her family at Bethabara Moravian Church. Thank you to the family for such a faithful and loving witness as you cared for one of God' special ones.

October 05, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ The Lord bless you and keep you;The Lord make His face shine upon you,And be gracious to you;The Lord lift up His countenance upon you,And give you peace.' Numbers 6:24-26

**Troy and Donna Baker** - October 04, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ Angie, I was so sad in many ways to hear of Stephanie's passing but in other ways I was thrilled that she is happy,out of pain & will be waiting to see you again. You were an awesome mother to Stephanie & I know she knew how very much you loved her. See you Saturday on a very special day to celebrate a special girl's life.

**Cindy Dunn** - October 04, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ You will be missed, Champ. Prayers for Angie, Samuel and their family.- Kathryn Lariviere

**Kathryn Lariviere** - October 04, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ Stephanie.....you have touched many hearts in your lifetime. You have certainly left a lasting impression in mine! You will always be my Champ!

October 04, 2017 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ Stephanie, the beads are endless and there are no limits to what you can do now. You are greatly missed but your soul lives on in all of our hearts. Angie, Please let us know if you need anything! You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers.

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**Julia Hill** - October 03, 2017 at 12:00 AM

RC

“ God Bless this family as they deal with the loss of such a BEAUTIFUL YOUNG LADY !!

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**Robin Crider** - October 03, 2017 at 12:00 AM

CM

“ Fly high on angel's wings Miss Stephanie! To Angie, Sammy & family, May the many beautiful memories you've made throughout this journey comfort you in the coming days. You have our deepest sympathy. Love and hugs from PA - The Minor Family

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**Carla Minor** - October 03, 2017 at 12:00 AM

LM

“ Will miss you my little friend, heaven is sweeter because you are there

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**Lorie McDaniels** - October 02, 2017 at 12:00 AM

ST

“ Oh how much this family loved its Champ. Rest in peace Stephe. You are now dancing around in your new angel wings! Love, Love, Love Aunt Sarah, Jr, Amy, Mike, Rylan ,Alyson, Eric and Emily.

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**Sarah Thornton** - October 02, 2017 at 12:00 AM