

JEFFREY D. ERICSON
P.J. ERICSON

10/1/09

My husband and I have known Sterling Harris all of his life. He was a wonderful child with a big loving heart and is much the same as an adult. We watched him grown and mature and struggle and live his life in a way that hurt no one and benefited many. He still possesses a caring attitude and loves to take care of people, cook for them and make them feel comfortable and loved.

We remember when Sterling decided that he wanted D.D. to be his brother. We were not surprised at this unselfishness on his part, but very proud of the spirit, character and commitment he unhesitatingly made.

Sterling has a strong sense of right and wrong, is honest and honorable in all things. He is a hard worker and an entrepreneur and possesses all the qualities and ethics that make his life's path more challenging to walk, but walk it he does. We all have choices to make during our lives on how to handle ourselves and how to live in a responsible, kind and moral manner. Many times we fail. Talking the talk is one thing, but walking that path is always more difficult. Sterling has always found a way to walk that path.

Sterling recognized at a very young age that he could make a difference. He learned that love, respect, and a little courage can do amazing things. He learned that what you give comes back to you. This inspires us.

On the football field Sterling was an offensive tackle. His job as OT was to protect the quarterback, block runs and passes, out-think the defense, be quick on his feet and most importantly, clear a path for the running back. This is what he can do for our youth. He seems to have a natural ability to see a person's potential and clear a path for them. Once the path is clear, his inspiration will allow them to become the best that they can be.

Did I mention that he is our Godson? God didn't so much bring him to us because of HIS need. He brought him to us because WE needed him. We are thankful for that every day.

PJ & Jeff Ericson

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My husband and I have known D.D. Johnson since he was 13 years old. We were always impressed by his quiet intelligence, but were not able to get close to him. We always felt that his background and experiences made it difficult for him to trust that we would really be there for him, or be there for any length of time. We always respected that he presented himself well and put school as a top priority and was eager to learn and read and grow. We always had a feeling that there was a deepness of character and values in D.D. that he just didn't let anyone other than Sterling see.

Considering his background, we were puzzled that he had the ability and desire to focus, learn, grow and be a good person and a good student. Where did this come from? Everything he had experienced would lead you to another road, a bad road. We see it happen to young people all the time. But D.D. realized that he had a choice and chose a different path. Not only do we admire that, but we also realize that this is the gift that he has deep in his soul. We all have gifts, but we don't all have the courage to live up to them. On the football field in college we began to see the strength and courage inside. We admired and were inspired by that. We have also been inspired by his sportsmanship and honorable behavior on and off the field. Slowly we came to trust each other and when he let us in, we were overwhelmed by his love, his strength of spirit and kind and caring nature.

D.D. realized at a young age, that he was put here for a reason. We think that he is destined to help and inspire others to have the courage to step up to the plate personally and as a citizen of the world to make the universe a better place. He knows that just a little love, understanding, respect, and effort can make all the difference to someone's life.

We have an agreement with D.D and Sterling's parents that we would be their Godparents, but never separate them.....as if anyone ever could. It is a privilege to be a part of D.D.'s life and we love him very much. The feeling of his loving you back is what I would imagine it feels like to be tackled by God himself.

PJ & Jeff Ericson