



Ariel Leila Porter

September 11, 2003 - August 12, 2021

Ariel Leila Porter, 17, of Providence Village, Texas, passed away Thursday, August 12, 2021, in Dallas, Texas. She was born September 11, 2003, in Carrollton, Texas, to Dustin Porter and Tasha Celeste Ghanfili.

Ariel loved her family and friends fiercely.

During her time at Braswell High School, she participated in choir and dance, where she connected with friends and got to express herself. In the summer of 2019, Ariel was learning how to drive, and she was working part-time at a fast-food restaurant with her brother Alex.

After being sick for months, Ariel and her family got an answer about why on Aug. 1, 2019. She was diagnosed with diffuse midline gliomas with the H3K27M mutation. Ariel decided cancer wouldn't keep her from reaching her goals, and she was determined to beat the disease.

In response, her family members dedicated themselves to helping her and to making memories with her. Ariel also inspired the people around—family friends and the community—her to care and to help.

From a young age, Ariel loved the beach. While she was in Houston at MD Anderson for the trial medication and traditional cancer treatments, Ariel

would go to the beach with her family, soaking in the memories.

It meant so much to her to meet her nephew, Marcell Mayo, and she was excited to meet Marcell's little brother, too. Despite having to travel back and forth to Houston regularly, Ariel set the goal of obtaining her GED, which she did as wrapped up her second round of radiation.

Once Ariel achieved a goal, she set a new one. She was accepted into NCTC after completing her GED, and she was happy about starting classes.

Never did she lose her positivity, her confidence and her faith that she would beat cancer to achieve her goals and be a source of hope for other kids facing the same disease.

Her life and her participation in the drug trial means other kids and their families could have a chance of beating the brain cancer she fought.

Ariel contracted COVID-19, which led to her being admitted to the hospital on Aug. 1, 2021. She again fought harder and survived longer than her medical team thought possible.

Ariel was surrounded by her mother, father, stepmother, stepfather and additional family members as she passed.

Ariel is survived by her mother, Tasha Celeste Cotton and husband Nathan of Providence Village; father, Dustin Porter and wife Alexandra of Aubrey, Texas; three brothers, Alexander and Aydan Porter both of Providence Village and Camron Cotton of Bossier City, Louisiana; sister, Cailey Cotton of Bossier City; maternal grandparents, Shaun Ghanfili of Rowlett, Texas, and Delores Barthuly and husband Roger of Dallas; paternal grandparents, Butch Porter and Laura Oates both of Tyler, Texas, and Nancy Whitford of Dallas; maternal

great-grandparents, Merle Jean Bradford and husband Kenneth of Greenville, Texas, and Iran Rohanian of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; and several aunts and uncles.

A memorial service will be held at 6:30 p.m., Saturday, September 11, 2021, at Lake Providence in Providence Village. Online condolences may be shared at www.slaymemorialfuneralhome.com.

Arrangements are under the direction of Terri Slay and Slay Memorial Funeral Center

Previous Events

Memorial

SEP 11. 6:30 PM (CT)

Lake Providence
10420 Cedar Lake Drive
Providence Village, TX 76227

Tribute Wall

TA

“ Tasha sent a virtual gift in memory of Ariel Leila Porter



Tasha - July 05, 2025 at 12:35 PM

TA

“ Tasha lit a candle in memory of Ariel Leila Porter



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TC

“ We had the grandsons over for the weekend, and they stayed in your old room. Marcell kept asking where you were, and it's always tough to hear those questions. I told him Ariel is an angel in heaven, and of course, being 3 ½, he wanted to know why. I explained that God needed you more than we did. It's hard to believe it's been three years, yet your presence is still felt so deeply that even your little nephew remembers and asks about you. You truly left a lasting impact on all of us. I love you Ariel.



Tasha Cotton - October 27, 2024 at 07:16 PM

TC

“ Tasha Cotton sent a virtual gift in memory of Ariel Leila Porter



Tasha Cotton - June 22, 2024 at 05:50 PM

TC

“ I will always be with you. I love you kiddo.



Tasha Cotton - June 22, 2024 at 05:49 PM



“ I Love you.... 🙏 🙏 🙏



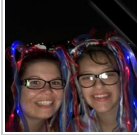
Tasha Cotton - March 06, 2024 at 04:58 PM

CM

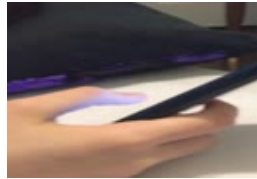
“ Crab Mom lit a candle in memory of Ariel Leila Porter



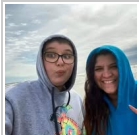
Crab Mom - May 31, 2023 at 05:41 PM



“ *It's July and I wake up every day wanting to make breakfast with you and watch you boss around all the boys and watching you sleep next to your Zoe! I miss you so much! Love Alexandra 🤔* ”



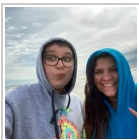
Alexandra Porter - July 18, 2022 at 07:11 PM



“ *Hey beautiful. Just missing you. Xoxo. Love Mom.* ”



Tasha Cotton - January 28, 2022 at 06:04 PM



“ *Missing you alot today. Love you kiddo. Xoxo crab mom* ”



Tasha Cotton - January 04, 2022 at 12:46 PM

AP

“ I miss you so Much and I wanted to Share my words with you the way I wrote them.



I met you on the 4th of July this cute little thing with a cute bob haircut and glasses and an amazing smile. She walked up to me so happy to have another girl around and grabbed my hand and ask do you want to skip with me? That was it, her cute face and outgoing personality won me over. From that day on the 4th of July was our friendiversary. Ariel had a zest for life and the willingness to explore that rubbed off on everyone. She was kind-hearted and smart quick-witted and even tough when need be. We bonded over the love of all things nerd but also cute girl stuff too. She was also wise beyond her years, she used to tell me how much she could see that I love her dad and how much he loves me just by how he looks at me. I promised that I would be here to take care of the family and I will keep my promise. Over the past decade, I have had the honor to love her and care for her with my whole heart and that is exactly what I did. I loved you from the moment we met and will love you forever. I miss your laugh, your smile, the way you approached life and your hugs, and the goofball way you and your dad and brothers made me laugh so much.

Happy Birthday Ariel Love You and Miss You Forever.

Love Alexandra Porter

Alexandra Porter - November 30, 2021 at 03:35 PM



“ People asked me about the empty chair that was beside me yesterday. I gratefully told them about the beautiful girl, who should have been sitting next to me. Then I told them about how you taught me to stretch my love far and wide, enough to cover the gap between heaven and earth. I love you Ariel. Till we meet again my sweet girl.



Tasha Cotton - November 26, 2021 at 09:38 AM



“ Love you



Tasha Cotton - October 24, 2021 at 12:56 PM



“ I love you, beautiful. I am missing you extra today. I hope your having a good day in heaven, dancing under the palm trees. Love your Crab Mom. 🦀



Tasha Cotton - October 07, 2021 at 12:27 PM



“ DJ Barthuly lit a candle in memory of Ariel Leila Porter



DJ Barthuly - September 25, 2021 at 02:34 PM

DB

“*My Dearest and most Precious Ariel, we will miss you forever and cannot wait for the day when we can be together again, to laugh, share, hold each other and say, “I love you”. I will forever Adore and Cherish the memories I have of you. You were a magnificent beautiful precious little flower that bloomed only a brief time to give the world so much happiness in seeing you, touching you, and loving you. Your laughter still flows through my thoughts every single day.*

When I wake up, I think of you, I close my eyes, you're there. I go to sleep and try to convince myself; this is a horrible nightmare. As much as we all try to control and predict life, horrible and shocking things sometimes happen. I will never forget the moment your mom called and told me the diagnosis of what was happening to you, I fell to my knees and could not catch my breath. We were all devastated, and heartbroken. We all saw your willingness to do what needed to be done to get well. Everyone called you a trooper, but really, “You were a Warrior.” The doctors, nurses, and other care professionals were all touched by your sweetness, determination, and willpower. You fought so long and hard to be with us and gave us two more beautiful years to love you even more.

Despite the pain and heartache we feel, we are fortunate and blessed that you were and will always be a part of our family. You showed me more about life and love, serenity, and peace than I ever knew. You had a purpose, I am sure. You will be preserved as a perfect, innocent heart forever. Your short little life will be a memory of nothing but love, innocence, and purity. You showed such skill in protecting yourself from emotional harm; despite everything. Somehow, you managed to put brain cancer “in a small box in the corner of your mind.”

No matter how hard I try or as time passes, I will Never “Move On.” I will learn to move forward, one foot in front of the other, with you in my heart and soul every single step of the way. I will forever miss you and carry your love with me with every breath I take. We all

strove to give Ariel roots and wings, we just never thought she would fly so high, she would soar beyond our reach. She taught me to seize and live every minute, do not sweat the small stuff, and accept when you can't change things. She really is and always will be my inspiration.

DJ Barthuly - September 25, 2021 at 02:34 PM

BH

“ Hope you enjoyed your birthday celebration sweet girl. It was so beautiful I could definitely feel you there with us. Til we see each other again, enjoy the waves & the rainbows 🧡🌈

Brittany D Hicks - September 12, 2021 at 09:31 AM

NW

“ Beautiful celebration of your life tonight .
I love you Ariel all my heart 🧡 happy birthday to you .love Grammy.

nancy whitford - September 12, 2021 at 04:02 AM

RZ

“ I didn't get to meet Ariel, but I know about her from her grandparents Butch and Laura Porter. Watching the videos she made and hearing her story I can see how special she is. I'm praying for all the family as you say goodbye for now to your sweet girl. May God comfort you always. Renee Zambotti

Renee Zambotti - September 10, 2021 at 08:44 PM

JN

“ Ariel so glad we got to meet and talk. It was an honor to be your neighbor

Jenny Newman - September 03, 2021 at 11:18 PM

BJ

“ *Ariel, you were such a beautiful light in this world. Your strength and bravery are unmatched. I loved giving you massages to help ease your pains. I’m so grateful for the times we spent just hanging out and talking.*

Brittany Judd - September 03, 2021 at 10:19 PM

WM

“ *I’ll never forget holding her when she was such a little thing. So sweet and delicate, just the way I’ll always remember her.*



Wil MacFarlane-Goldstein - September 03, 2021 at 09:13 PM

NI

“ Ariel, I remember coming to see you in the hospital when you were born. I was so excited to have a little niece, but you were always more like a little sister to me! I loved having sleepovers with you and we would stay up late dancing, drawing, and playing dress up. I always loved coming to sleepover at your house too and going to the waterpark with our family! I always had fun watching you and your brothers singing and dancing to the The Wiggles, Veggie Tales, and Rollie Pollie Ollie! I also loved playing our snapchat games together 😊 You were literally the sweetest little girl I have ever known. You were so brave and so strong. You put up a hell of a fight to that nasty brain cancer. I will always be in awe of your determination and strength. I will always think about all the good times we had together and always remember how beautiful and sweet you were ❤️ I hope you're looking down on me from heaven with your beautiful smile 💕 God has gained the most perfect angel 😇



Nikki Ingram - September 03, 2021 at 01:11 PM

PE

“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



Peggy - September 03, 2021 at 10:05 AM

PE

Your smile, your laugh your quirky sense of humor. Your love of your family. Your love and deep friendship you and your brother Alex had, but most of all the positivity you had within yourself that radiated to all that knew you! Priceless... Fly high Ariel! I'll look for you on the other side!

Peggy - September 03, 2021 at 10:15 AM

PE

“ *Peggy lit a candle in memory of Ariel Leila Porter*



peggy - September 03, 2021 at 09:51 AM

PL

RIP your struggle is over.

Penny Leflore - September 03, 2021 at 01:49 PM

AK

“ Ariel,
When writing this I find myself stumbling over my words and am stumped on what to say. There is so much I want to say, but I don't know how to say it. When we found out you were sick, we had spent some time together at aunt April's house and I remember thinking "man I love this girl, I wish I would have been more involved in her life." College and living a military lifestyle had me moving all over the place. Then a few weeks later we found out you were sick. I came and visited you at the hospital and we laughed hysterically at Jerry Springer. We understood eachothers humor and that was something special that we shared. You knowing i had beat cancer always came to me for advice or to vent about treatment. I often wonder why the Lord saved me, but took you away from us. It isn't fair. Truth is you were stronger than I ever was. Your resilience is something I will always admire and carry with me when times are dark. I love you so much and I know you knew that. Knowing you are no longer in pain eases mine a bit. I love and miss you. See you on the other side.



Aunt Karli - September 03, 2021 at 08:32 AM

SL

“ When I met you, you were only 10 years young. Your eyes and smile were so bright nobody could dim you. You loved so freely and you always spoke your mind. So many memories of you growing into a young woman fill my mind. From watching you in choir and dance, to getting you ready for homecoming, to watching you fight harder than anyone I’ve ever met. You kept pushing no matter what anyone told you. I will always cherish those lake days when you would ask me to be the dj in the car, going to turner falls, and just sitting around the house watching big brother. You were seriously the little sister I always wanted. I miss everything about you. I love you Ariel



Stormi Lane - September 03, 2021 at 06:41 AM

RE

“ Ariel,
I should have hugged you tighter and longer the last time I saw you.
You will always be in my heart. I love you sweetheart.
Love, Aunt Ruthann

Ruthann England - September 03, 2021 at 04:57 AM

CC

“ You were a great sister thanks for helping me sneak girls in all the time and never telling on me lol we also made some bomb food all the time and always had funny conversations about the world music and just life in general Mac Miller and Oliver tree were our favorite artist I listen to them everyday and think about you, You always had a smile on your face even if you were having a bad day you never showed and I kinda stole that swagger from you because there's no reason to be sad or mad just be happy life is short... I love you I'll see you again in the afterlife little sis I miss you so much and your mom is one of the most amazing woman in this world she fought harder than you sometimes lol Tasha is the best but I just really want you to know I love you and your my favorite sister Cailey and Brittany sorry but not sorry.

camron cotton - September 03, 2021 at 02:19 AM

CB

“ Dear Ariel,
Over the past 2 years, I watched you overcome unbelievable challenges with incredible courage and determination. I was in constant amazement of the love and strength that you and your family shared. And I have never seen a mother fight harder for her child than your mom did.
You are, and always will be, an inspiration for me. Ariel Porter.... I never met you, but I will never forget you. I look forward to meeting you in Heaven, Sweet Girl. God bless and comfort your family.
All my love,
Carla Bijan



Carla Bijan - September 02, 2021 at 11:10 PM

CC

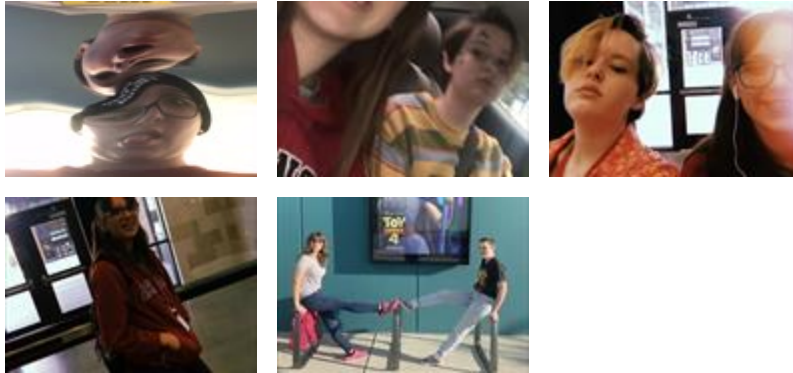
“ Love you sis thank u for all the amazing memories that will last a lifetime keep it cool until we bump heads again to make more



cailey cotton - September 02, 2021 at 10:42 PM

SH

“ i miss you



sarah hagar - September 02, 2021 at 10:12 PM

BE

“ I met Ariel briefly when she came with her mom to visit in the office we worked at together; I would have never known she was fighting such a battle because she was smiling, laughing and such a sweetheart. From that day I had been praying for her and her family. You have touched and inspired so many others to love and live life to the fullest!! 💙



Behija - September 02, 2021 at 10:03 PM

AA

“ Love you Ariel!



Aunt April - September 02, 2021 at 09:47 PM

JH

“ When Sarah and Ariel I went to the Providence Element end of school outside events. I met Ariel and she was this cute friendly little girl with glasses. Ariel asked me if I was 25 and I instantly liked her- hahahaha- I was like 40. Ariel is a sweet loving girl and always pleasant when I was around her. What I noticed most about Ariel is what a genuine person she is. Ariel is missed and I know she made a big difference in Sarah's life and will always be remembered.

jennifer hagar - September 02, 2021 at 09:43 PM

KL

“ Ariel...I loved watching you and the twins play when y'all were small. While we moved away and I only got to keep up with you through your mom on Facebook, your strength, positive attitude, drive, and love for life were beyond an inspiration. I know without a doubt you are watching over your family and friends from heaven. You left such a legacy in the hearts of people far and wide.

Kelly Laxton - September 02, 2021 at 09:40 PM

AA

“ I love you sweet Ariel! E.T phone home. I will see you again!



Aunt April - September 02, 2021 at 09:05 PM

NW

“ I miss you my sweet baby quack quack .
I love you with all my heart ❤️ .
Kisses to you in heaven.
Love Grammy Nancy
Quack quack .

nancy whitford - September 02, 2021 at 08:37 PM

NW

You are the strongest person I've ever known in my life .

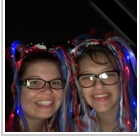
nancy whitford - September 02, 2021 at 09:12 PM



“ Ariel I know you're in heaven looking down, thank you for being a awesome daughter, you touch so many lives with your strength and courage, I hope to find you one day,love you always. Dad



Dustin Porter - September 02, 2021 at 08:34 PM



“ *I miss you so much baby girl I'm so luck to have been in your life! I love you to the Death Star and Back!!*



Alexandra Porter - September 02, 2021 at 08:23 PM