



Katherine Payne Gooding

October 29, 1996 - September 26, 2020

Katherine Payne Gooding, age 23, passed away on Saturday, September 26, 2020 in Tallahassee, Florida. She was born in Charlotte, North Carolina to parents Douglas and Missie Gooding on October 29, 1996. Katherine graduated from Mount Pisgah Christian School in 2015 and later enrolled in the United States Naval Academy where she was passionate about her life as a Midshipman. She was also a soon-to-be graduate of Florida State University's Meteorology Program.

Katherine is survived by her loving parents, Douglas Jay Gooding and Missie Payne Gooding; sisters Emily Caroline Gooding and Haley Elizabeth Gooding of Atlanta, Georgia, loving grandparents and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

Katherine (or to many friends, "Kat"), was passionate and driven about many things, but above all else her faith in Jesus and constantly worked to grow closer to Him. People that knew her, know confidently where she is today. She was a member of and grew up in Peachtree Presbyterian Church, but built strong connections in multiple church families.

She loved many communities of friends, teachers and mentors throughout her life whether connected through church, school, the USNA, tennis, marathons, yoga and an everyday joyful life and "whole hearted" living. She also had

challenges in her life and loved countless people that laughed and cried with her, providing unlimited love and support. She loved the beauty of sunflowers and the unconditional faith and love they represent.

A memorial service was held at Peachtree Presbyterian Church in Atlanta on October 6, 2020 at 11:00 a.m., with limited attendance due to the current pandemic. The service is available to watch via <https://livestream.com/peachtree-church/events/9066255/videos/211803521>

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Katherine's name may be made to the Atlanta Youth Tennis & Education Foundation (AYTEF.org), whose mission is to enrich the lives of underserved youth through tennis and education both on and off the court. AYTEF aims to help every child achieve greatness through programming that emphasizes character development, academic achievement, healthy lifestyles, community engagement, and fun.

Breanna Green of Bevis Funeral Home is assisting the family with their arrangements. (850-385-2193 or www.bevisfh.com)

Tribute Wall

CJ

“ Back in the spring when businesses were closing because of COVID which included my favorite gym, I had to resort to my old workout. Jogging and doing pushups at my old high school track, Godby. That's where I met Katherine. She was always smiling even after several laps around the track. I only knew her as a fellow jogger. She was definitely a cardio-inspiration.

Clinton James - November 30, 2020 at 01:05 AM

MI

Thanks so much for sharing!!

missie - December 06, 2020 at 09:29 PM

BC

“ My son, William, told me about Katherine. She was in his homeroom in Middle School at Woodward Academy. He said, in fact, that he had a crush on her back then.

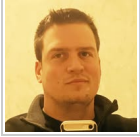
I'm so sorry for the loss of your beautiful daughter.

Bonnie Collings - October 27, 2020 at 12:41 PM

MI

Thanks so much!!!

missie - December 06, 2020 at 09:29 PM



“ I saw you jogging or walking at Lake Ella almost every day. You would often be listening to a podcast or talking on the phone, but you always had a smile. I was wondering why I hadn't seen you in a while, and I just discovered why. Thank you for the nice conversations, and pleasant smiles and waves. You will be missed.

Joseph Kacur - October 25, 2020 at 09:19 AM

CA

“ Caleb lit a candle in memory of Katherine Payne Gooding



Caleb - October 06, 2020 at 12:47 PM

AD

“ Ally Dawson lit a candle in memory of Katherine Payne Gooding



Ally Dawson - October 06, 2020 at 11:39 AM

ST

“ I am blessed to have met you. You could light up a room, just by walking in. You will be missed. Until we meet again sweet one



Stephanie - October 06, 2020 at 11:36 AM

ST

“ Stephanie lit a candle in memory of Katherine Payne Gooding



Stephanie - October 06, 2020 at 11:34 AM

SH

“ Shelby lit a candle in memory of Katherine Payne Gooding



shelby - October 06, 2020 at 09:00 AM

JB

“ I do not start a morning without praying for the loss of Katherine, and praying for Doug, Missie, and the girls for daily strength and courage, may you feel Gods presence and I pray that gives you comfort! With love, Jan Bilthouse

Jan Bilthouse - October 05, 2020 at 10:04 AM

JS

“ Missie and Doug, sending our deepest sympathies to you and your family over the loss of precious Katherine. May you feel the peace of Jesus upholding you and giving you strength and comfort, and may His love, and the love of family and friends carry you through this difficult time. Our thoughts and prayers are with you ~ Joyce, Greg and Blake Smith

Joyce Smith - October 04, 2020 at 10:48 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Katherine Payne Gooding.*



October 04, 2020 at 03:23 PM



“ *Missie + Doug, our family is devastated for the loss of your daughter. Our deepest deepest sympathies, thoughts and prayers are with you. She was an amazing beautiful person.*

Leslie Hand - October 04, 2020 at 09:49 AM



“ *Missie and Doug, my heart goes out to you and your entire family. I know how special Katherine was to you. My prayers for you are for comfort and peace. Much love sent your way. ❤️*

pamela krueger - October 03, 2020 at 11:29 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Katherine Payne Gooding.*



October 02, 2020 at 04:44 PM

NJ

“ I am sorry for your loss, Kat was in my French class this semester and she was always so kind and encouraging when we had to speak in breakout rooms.

natalie jen - October 02, 2020 at 12:43 PM

GJ

“ I'm so sorry for the family's lost. She was in my French class this semester and while I didn't know her too well, she was still a great person and I know our class will miss her.



Grace Johnson - October 02, 2020 at 12:17 PM

MI

Thank you Grace!

missie - December 06, 2020 at 09:38 PM



“ Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Katherine Payne Gooding.



October 02, 2020 at 10:47 AM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Katherine Payne Gooding.



October 02, 2020 at 07:54 AM

MC

“ Missie, my heart goes out to you and your family and my prayers are with you. I know Katherine must have been very special as she had such a loving family and wonderful parents. Her story will touch many hearts for years to come. God bless you all.

With love,

Mary Lou Cooper

Mary Lou Cooper - October 01, 2020 at 11:18 PM

MI

Thank you so much Mary Lou!!! xoxo

missie - December 06, 2020 at 09:39 PM

SD

“ Shannon Reinard Demko lit a candle in memory of Katherine Payne Gooding



Shannon Reinard Demko - October 01, 2020 at 09:06 PM

SD

Kat, you were like none other. I treasure the chances I had through our yoga community to hear your wisdom, and to find ways to laugh with you over even the most serious topics. I knew about our shared loves of peanut butter and yoga, but am now just learning about the tennis, and Peachtree Pres, and Annapolis. How many times did our paths literally cross before they "actually" did? What I most want to thank you for right now is the "nudge and a half" (your words) to start Tashi Collective, so we could have a space for even more great conversations, and yoga, and mindful living, including service. You helped me brainstorm would it could be, and kept the "nudging" until I got it going. The day after you passed, we had our first fundraiser and raised \$500 for the Holistic Life Foundation, and org that brings mindfulness and meditation to Baltimore City Schools. Not far from Annapolis, as it turns out. You were the kind of person that could see the best in people, and made sure they not only saw it too, but did something good with it. Thank you for being such a lovely spark in my life, and the lives of so many others. We will miss you here, but we'll do our best to honor you by staying connected to our goodness, and "wholeheartedly" doing our very best with it. Peace and strength to your sweet family, whose love I know you take with you.

Shannon Reinard Demko - October 01, 2020 at 09:14 PM

MI

Such sweet words Shannon...THANK YOU!!! XOXO

missie - December 06, 2020 at 09:41 PM

CS

“ *Cindy Steiger lit a candle in memory of Katherine Payne Gooding*



Cindy Steiger - October 01, 2020 at 03:04 PM

NC

Our thoughts & prayers are with you at this sad time. Katherine was such a sweet young woman and will be greatly missed by many. Love from the family of Jackson Couch

nancy lee coych - October 03, 2020 at 12:58 PM



“ *Suzanne Lynn lit a candle in memory of Katherine Payne Gooding*

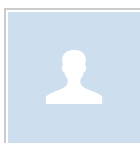


Suzanne Lynn - October 01, 2020 at 12:18 PM



Your smile always lit up my day. Our talks of peanut butter and our chats about health and yoga will always stay with me. My biggest memory is the day I called "peanut butter stand" during inversion time whenever you took my class. What you don't know is how I have been calling that ever since. I also started to say "whatever your peanut butter jam is" to find growth in a pose. You of course would have gotten a kick out of that. It is amazing how the little things from individuals can bring the smallest amount of joy. This small tribute from your personality will forever be apart of my practice and teaching. I am glad that I was there during your teacher training too. You had so much life left to live and although you are not with us physically your soul will continue to help others grow.

Suzanne Lynn - October 01, 2020 at 12:27 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Katherine Payne Gooding.*



October 01, 2020 at 12:04 PM

MW

“ *Marc Weeks lit a candle in memory of Katherine Payne Gooding*



Marc Weeks - October 01, 2020 at 11:31 AM

MW

I will be donating to the Tennis Foundation. She was a tough yogi instructor.

Marc Weeks - October 01, 2020 at 11:32 AM

MW

Kat was so young and pretty. She had a toughness about her yoga workouts that was beyond her years. Sad to see her go.

Marc Weeks - October 01, 2020 at 11:48 AM



“ *Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the family of Katherine Payne Gooding.*



October 01, 2020 at 05:00 AM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Katherine Payne Gooding.*



September 30, 2020 at 10:48 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Katherine Payne Gooding.*



September 30, 2020 at 09:23 PM



“ *Dearest Gooding Family:*

We were devastated to hear the news about your beautiful Katherine! We cherish the memories that we created with all of you very early on in Charlotte. Kevin and I are sending you love and hugs and praying that you can find some peace during this very difficult time. May God wrap his arms around you and comfort you.

The Welsh Family

Kelly Welsh - September 30, 2020 at 09:02 PM



Dear Kevin & Kelly-Thank you so much for all your love! Would love to see you all sometime soon!! xoxo

missie - December 06, 2020 at 09:45 PM

KG

“ Kat was thoughtful enough to nominate me to receive a snack box as a gift of appreciation for working on the frontlines. I won a snack box and her wonderful parents delivered it to my apartment. I chuckled when I saw the peanut butter snack bars because as everyone knows Kat LOVED peanut butter! I enjoyed our talks about being single Christian women in today's world, enjoying life despite its challenges, and encouraging each other to rest and take good care. She would always end our talks with, "God has a plan." I will never forget your smile Kat, and I will never forget our talks. I can still hear you saying, "God has a plan." May The Lord God our Father be ever a great comforter to your family. I love you Kat, until we meet again, fly high sweet angel! Love always, Kendra



Kendra Gamble - September 30, 2020 at 08:54 PM

MI

GOD HAS A PLAN is so right!! xoxo

missie - December 06, 2020 at 09:46 PM

JT

“ Dear Gooding Family,

I am so, so sorry for your loss. I didn't know Kat well, but as a fellow classmate, it was clear to see how kind and intelligent she was. My sincerest thoughts and prayers are with her family and loved ones, and I hope that you all can find comfort and peace in knowing how beautiful of a person Kat was. We will never forget her nor the light that she brought into the world.

-Jordan Tweedie

Jordan Tweedie - September 30, 2020 at 08:24 PM

MI

Thanks very much for your kind words!

missie - December 06, 2020 at 09:47 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Katherine Payne Gooding.*



September 30, 2020 at 08:07 PM



“ *Beautiful Whisper was purchased for the family of Katherine Payne Gooding.*



September 30, 2020 at 07:39 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Katherine Payne Gooding.*



September 30, 2020 at 07:21 PM

RD

“ *We are so terribly saddened to hear about Katherine. She has touched so many peoples lives and was well loved. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. Rosie and lindsay davidson.*

Rosie and Lindsay Davidson - September 30, 2020 at 06:40 PM



“ *My condolences to the Gooding family.*

The last time I talked to Kat, we were working after school on our weather analysis homework, and quickly got to chatting about other things. In the few short conversations we had, you could tell Kat was a terribly unique person and wise beyond her years.

This is one of my favorite poems by Mary Elizabeth Frye, and I hope it brings you some comfort.

*Do not stand at my grave and weep
I am not there. I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds that blow.
I am the diamond glints on snow.
I am the sunlight on ripened grain.
I am the gentle autumn rain.
When you awaken in the morning's hush
I am the swift uplifting rush
Of quiet birds in circled flight.
I am the soft stars that shine at night.
Do not stand at my grave and cry;
I am not there. I did not die.*

Stackshot Heidi - September 30, 2020 at 06:29 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Katherine Payne Gooding.*



September 30, 2020 at 06:20 PM

AS

“ Alicia Spriggs lit a candle in memory of Katherine Payne Gooding



Alicia Spriggs - September 30, 2020 at 05:46 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Katherine Payne Gooding.



September 30, 2020 at 04:30 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Katherine Payne Gooding.



September 30, 2020 at 03:06 PM

TS

“ Taylor & Selby purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Katherine Payne Gooding.



Taylor & Selby - September 30, 2020 at 02:57 PM

DM

“ There’s a saying in the running community that what happens on a run stays on a run. You tend to share a bit of your heart and soul when running miles with a friend - no electronics, no distractions, just nature. Kat talked so much about her family, her past as a tennis player, her running days at Navy, the adversity she had overcome, and the future she wanted. She was always the first to remind that when the miles felt hard to shift your mindset and focus on the positives. She encouraged so many to live life to the fullest and never forgo an opportunity (even the Boston marathon virtual in the Florida heat). Kat brought so much life to so many. She encouraged balance (add yoga to the running) and though she was so young, she had a wisdom behind her years. She even shared thoughts on raising my son and twin daughters. I always thought how proud her parents must feel. So much strength and wisdom and desire to be better than the day before in such a young person. I will forever miss her, but I know we will all feel her spirit in a hot yoga class, on a run, during her October birthday month, or lighting a pumpkin vanilla candle. Rest In Peace sweet lady!

Deanna McVay - September 30, 2020 at 02:46 PM



“ Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Katherine Payne Gooding.



September 30, 2020 at 02:41 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Katherine Payne Gooding.*



September 30, 2020 at 02:35 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Katherine Payne Gooding.*



September 30, 2020 at 02:32 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Katherine Payne Gooding.*



September 30, 2020 at 01:36 PM

RA

“ Dear Gooding family,

I am so sorry for and devastated by your family's loss. I was Kat's French teacher at FSU this semester. In the short time that I knew her, Kat brought joy to my life and to the lives of the students in our class. My brother is a USNA grad, so we initially bonded over her time there. She was a beautifully curious, intelligent, and meaningfully engaged student. Every time she would ask for assistance on assignments, have questions, or intervened in the class, she did so with grace, compassion, and kindness. This is the first time I am seeing a photograph of her. Thank you so much for sharing it. Every interaction I had with Kat made my day more livable, and I appreciate being able to put a face to that kind spirit of being.

Sincerely,

Ryan Augustyniak

Ryan Augustyniak - September 30, 2020 at 01:12 PM