



Derek Daniel Elko

February 8, 1992 - May 13, 2015

Derek Daniel Elko, 23, of Weston Lakes, Texas, passed away peacefully at his home on May 13, 2015. He was a member of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Richmond, TX.

Derek graduated from Foster High School in 2010. He attended the University of Texas at Austin as a George R. Clark scholarship awardee, and would have graduated May 23 with a Bachelor of Science degree with highest honors in Applied Mathematics. He was interested in pursuing a career in quantitative investment analysis. During college he worked as a Portfolio Analytics Intern at Invesco Ltd, Houston, TX and as a Risk Finance Intern at the Lockton Companies LLC, Houston, TX.

Derek was a Mathematics Tutor at UT and elected Undergraduate Peer Led Study Director. As a Polymathic Scholar at UT, Derek was researching the topic: "Structured Solutions to Behavioral Biases in Finance." He had hoped to publish the research at the conclusion of his senior year. In addition, he was a member of the Alpha Lambda Delta and Phi Eta Sigma Honor Societies.

Along with his academic pursuits, Derek was passionate about music, enjoyed composing music, and he played the piano and violin. He also appreciated writing and creating funny movies and skits with his friends. Derek was a community outreach service volunteer and would personally lend a helping hand to anyone in need. His friends valued his outstanding sense of humor

and spirited approach to life. Stand-up comedy was something very special to him. He also loved to play tennis, golf and basketball. As a child, Derek enjoyed Boy Scout activities especially camping, hiking, and target shooting.

Derek spent many memorable vacations with his family treasuring each other's company, exploring new places and new foods. He loved cinema and was a great impersonator. His family will always cherish his interesting philosophical outlook on life, keen sense of humor, selflessness, and his wonderful compassion and kindness toward others. Many thought-provoking discussions were relished as he tried to solve the mysteries of life and help others with their problems. He was a great listener who was always able to help others see the world differently and with a new and better perspective. Derek will be profoundly missed by his family and friends who will always remember the impact and influence he had in making the world a better place during his short time on this earth.

Derek is preceded in death by his maternal Grandmother Mary Varrato of Latrobe, PA, and paternal Grandfather Daniel Elko of Uniontown, PA. Surviving family members include his parents, Daniel and Diane Elko, of Weston Lakes, TX, two sisters, Brittney Elko Brother-in-law Stephen Fisher of Pleasanton, California, and Dr. Alexandra Elko, of Dallas, Texas, paternal Grandmother, Gloria Elko, of Hopwood, PA , maternal Grandfather, Raymond Varrato of Weston Lakes, TX, as well as Aunt Barbara Lazor husband Paul of Katy, Texas, cousins, Courtney husband Chris Hatten and children, Kennedy and Carter of Katy, Texas, Aaron Lazor wife Ashley and child, Ava of Burlingame, CA, Uncle Mark Elko wife Betsy of Massapequa Park, NY, cousins, Addison Elko of Manhattan, NY, and Leah Welsh husband Joe and children, Whitney and Adriana of Massapequa, NY.

Visitation will take place at Davis Greenlawn Funeral Home, 3900 B.F. Terry Boulevard, Rosenberg, TX 77471 on Friday, May 22, 4-5 pm for family with

general visitation from 5-8 pm. A memorial Mass will be celebrated at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 507 South 4th Street, Richmond, TX 77469 on Saturday, May 23 at 10 am. A luncheon will immediately follow the Mass at the Sacred Heart Church Family Life Center. The family welcomes your prayers. Donations in Derek's memory may be made to the Anxiety and Depression Association of America at www.ADAA.org.

Tribute Wall

SM

“ Dear Brittney, Alexandra, Diane and Daniel: My heart and prayers go out to you all. What a precious family you were when I knew you, and you must certainly still be. Brittney and Alexandra have both grown up to be gorgeous, highly intelligent young women, as I always knew they would. I know they miss Derek immensely and are privileged to have known him as their brother. Diane and Daniel, I remember you as the most caring and aware parents I have seen. You did a wonderful job back then and also later judging by the comments on this and other sites. Your Derek was a wonderful little boy- so sweet and smart. I just found out about his death today and am profoundly sad but encouraged by the very healthy-looking family in the Christmas pictures. I will graduate from the University of N. Georgia in May with a masters in clinical counseling and see the struggles every day at my internship. This work is how I am finally led to make more sense and use out of our losses years ago. It may take a very long time, but Our Lord will walk with you all the way to when your changed lives become smooth again. I am so very sorry for the loss all of you must still be feeling and joyous that you had such a wonderful gift as you brother and son, Derek, in your lives for 23 years. Please let me know how you are doing if one of you eventually has time. Love, Sylvia Mrs. Nolin

Sylvia Thurlow Nolin Moose - February 03, 2016 at 12:00 AM

BV

“ Hey bud. I miss our old Kobe vs LeBron debates. You were such a funny and intelligent person. Hook 'em.

Brandon James Valles - August 13, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ I worked with Derek in Polymathic at UT-Austin. Derek was gifted, engaging, funny, full of questions, and extremely thoughtful, both in the usual sense but also in the moral sense, in his consideration toward others. He brought his intelligence to bear on his own experiences, too, most memorably for me, on what he'd learned about the limitations of reason, the problems it couldn't solve. He was passionate about music and knew a great deal about it. Like others here, I am richer for knowing him and heartbroken by losing him. I wish you comfort and peace. Thank you for sharing Derek with us.

Madison Searle - June 03, 2015 at 12:00 AM

GD

“ I never met your son but he sounds like a good kid with much potential. I express my sincerest sympathy and will pray for Derek's peace and salvation.....

Greg Doran - May 31, 2015 at 12:00 AM

LB

“ Diane, Dan, Brittney and Allie, words cannot express our sincere sorrow for your loss. Please know you are all in our thoughts and prayers.
Laurette and Rick Bruder

Laurette Bruder - May 28, 2015 at 12:00 AM

LO

“ We are so sorry for your loss and will keep Derek and all of his family and friends in our prayers.

Lynne Oshinsky - May 27, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JP

“ We are saddened to hear the news losing of Derek. I remember all three children as being so wonderful and smart! We know nothing that we say will take away any pain that you have. May the memories that you hold dear keep you in this difficult time. All of you are in our prayers.

Joe & Jeri Porto & Family

Joe & Jeri Porto - May 27, 2015 at 12:00 AM

AJ

“ Rest in peace, Derek. I'll always remember you as a happy and playful little boy in Weston Lakes.

Anne-Christine Johnson - May 23, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RF

“ My interactions with Derek were limited solely to Stephen & Brittney's wedding but it was readily apparent how close the family was with him. It was also obvious that all the other adjectives and descriptions of him are more than accurate - clearly intelligent and humorous with a passion for music and his family. My thoughts are with all of you at this difficult time.

Ryan Fleisher - May 22, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TH

“ My dear cousins, I am so sorry for your loss. I know what a close family you are. My prayers will continue to be with you. Much love to you all.

Tanya Harris - May 22, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SW

“ *Diane and Dan,
We want to give you our deepest condolences on the loss of your son. While we have not seen him lately, we know from the wonderful memorial that he was extraordinary. There are no words to say but know that we will keep Derek, the girls and you and Dan in our prayers. Love, John and Suzanne*

Suzanne & John Wright - May 22, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MA

“ *Dear Elko Family,
Derek was a dear friend to my oldest daughter Mary Alyson Atkins, but he also had a tremendous affect on our entire family. We will miss him dearly and feel so blessed to have had him in our lives. You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers!
The Atkins Family
Mark, Kathryn, Mary Alyson, Meagan and Mark Jr.*

Mark Atkins - May 22, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ *Dear Dan and Diane
I am so saddened to hear this news. You both are the best parents I know and I cannot imagine the pain you must feel.
I am praying for you.
Love Jim Slaughter*

Jim Slaughter - May 22, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TH

“ *My dear cousins, I am so sorry for your loss. I know what a close family you are. My prayers will continue to be with you. Much love to you all.*

Tanya Harris - May 22, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DK

“ *Diane, my deepest condolences and prayers go out to you and your beautiful family.*

Dina Khalil - May 21, 2015 at 12:00 AM

LB

“ *Dear Elko Family
My heart breaks for you in this time of loss and sorrow. We have been like family for many years, and I pray that you find some peace and comfort in the love of your extended family and in the strength of the love you all share together. You are all in my thoughts and prayers.*

Larry B - May 21, 2015 at 12:00 AM

PL

“ *Words cannot begin to convey the sorrow for the loss of Derek. Please accept our heartfelt sympathies for your loss. Wishing you peace to bring comfort, courage to face the days ahead, and loving memories to forever hold in your heart. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this difficult time.
Love,
Fred, Patti, Amanda, Christopher, and Nicholas Laber*

Patti Laber - May 21, 2015 at 12:00 AM

AH

“ Dear Elko Family:

Please accept our sincerest condolences in the loss of your wonderful son, and know that you are in our thoughts and prayers. May God wrap you in his loving arms, and help you find strength and peace.

*Sincerely,
Otto and Alane Haardt*

Alane Haardt - May 21, 2015 at 12:00 AM

GF

“ *We are still devastated by the loss of Derek. He was such a fine young man: so friendly, kind, considerate, and intellectually curious. We can't recall single time he ever said or did anything even remotely impolite. That was just impossible for him to do. He was so loved by his family. We will always treasure the memories of the Thanksgivings we've spent together in Santa Barbara and New Orleans. May God take care of you all in this difficult time.*

Gail and Bill Fisher - May 21, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ *My heart is heavy with sadness, but also with faith in knowing Derek is at peace. This second "family" will miss your smile and laughter. You will always be in our hearts.*

Jackie Fisher - May 21, 2015 at 12:00 AM

HM

“ *Diane, Dan, Brittney, Stephen, & Alexandra,
We are so sorry for your loss, and are thinking of you all. We grieve with you all over Derek's untimely passing. May God bless you and keep you, and shower you with his peace- that surpasses all understanding. All of our love.*

Heidi & Peter, Braedy, Dunnegan, Molleigh, & Reilly McKay - May 21, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RK

“ *Diane, Dan & Family,
We are all thinking of you and praying for you.
Love Rita, & Family*

Rita Varrato Krieger - May 21, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BK

“ *It was heart breaking to hear that Derek was no longer with us. My son Michael has been very close friends with Derek since we moved to Weston Lakes about 12 years ago. Derek was Michael's first friend in Weston Lakes. Derek was a wonderful person and he will be missed by all the persons he touched while he was with us. My prayers to the Elko family.*

Blanca A. Kennedy - May 20, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DG

“ *Diane & Dan I want to extend my deepest condolences to you and to let you that I am praying for you during this time.*

Deirdre Glass - May 20, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JW

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this difficult time.*

Jamie Linn Winters - May 20, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this very difficult time, as Derek will live on in our memories and our hearts...*

Tony DiMenna & Family - May 20, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ *Dearest Diane and Dan,*

I was so sorry to hear of the loss of your precious son. May God bless you and your family with peace.

barb minton

barbara minton - May 20, 2015 at 12:00 AM

AM

“ *I didn't personally know Derek, but I am great friends with his sister Brittney. I know how much he meant to her. My heart goes out to his family.*

Amy Jo Moore - May 19, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JD

“ From his many talents to his sense of humor, Derek was incredible. I consider it a great blessing to have known him. I believe he's in a wonderful place now, but I am heartsick he's gone from this one. I will miss him so much. Elko family - know that you are in my daily prayers. Peace to you. ❤️

Jordan Doherty - May 19, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MJ

“ We haven't been close in the last several years but have many fond memories of Derek as a young child. He was vey talented and loved. We are praying for Dan, Diane, Brittany, And Alexandra. Our hearts go out to you.

Marsha Jarzombek - May 19, 2015 at 12:00 AM

EL

“ Derek, I love you like my own. I'm so proud that you thought the salami sandwich I made you was perfect. It's okay that you loved my meatballs but thought your mom's were better. I'll love you forever. God bless you, baby.

Elena Lang - May 19, 2015 at 12:00 AM

EM

“ Derek was a great friend to my sweet Mary. She was so lucky to have him in her life. Diane and Dan you are in my thoughts and prayers, along with all of your family and everyone that loved Derek.

Erica Molina - May 19, 2015 at 12:00 AM

LP

“ No words. We love the Elkos like our own flesh and blood and trust in eternal peace for Derek.

Lynn Pyle - May 19, 2015 at 12:00 AM

AR

“Derek was such an outstanding young man, so talented, kind hearted, smart and vibrant. He will be so missed, we will carry his memory in our hearts. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all!

Amy Barker Richards - May 19, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SF

“My heart breaks for your family. I had the pleasure of meeting Derek, as I am a good friend of Courtney's. No words can express the sadness I feel for you all. May your unbreakable family connections help you through this and give you the strength to move forward.

Stephanie Fisher - May 19, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CA

“Derek, I didn't know you well, but we had several math classes together. Applied Linear Algebra would have been terrible without you to bounce ideas back and forth with. You will always be remembered for your kindness, intelligence, and sense of humor.

Cassie - May 19, 2015 at 12:00 AM

LK

“ *To the family and friends of Derek...*

My heart is broken because such a young, beautiful, and intelligent young man is gone way too soon. I can only imagine the pain you are going through at this time. Please know you are in my thoughts and prayers each day.

I remember Derek in class as though it was yesterday, but he was only ten. He was so eager to learn, and had no problem questioning what was being taught!

He had many friends, and at recess he loved to joke around with them and make them laugh.

He was a good student, but more importantly, he was a good person.

This world was a better place with Derek in it, but now he has gone to a higher place, and I can only wonder who he is questioning and challenging now!

All my love and sympathy,

Lana

Lana Kulpa - May 19, 2015 at 12:00 AM