

The William Cole Deacon Tribute

October 12, 1992 – May 7, 2012



William Cole Deacon was struck by a drunk and drug-impaired driver on April 28, 2012. He was 19 years old and died on May 7, 2012 from severe head trauma.

Cole was a gifted artist attending the Illinois Institute of Art. He was a free spirit and often would begin “just painting” a wall in his room. In the months before his crash, he had started painting an eye. He was working on the center of the eye when his life was cut short.

The photo art submitted with this story, was created by one of Cole’s friends who used his wall art in a photo of an eye. I had asked Cole’s friend to create something that we could keep forever, even if we had to paint that wall one day. The balloons and clouds were taken from another wall in Cole’s room, as well as the words Cole had written on that same wall – “Up Up To The Clouds Above”.

We honored Cole’s request to be an organ donor. His liver was given to someone in need locally and his eyes were given to two people who can now see. We can only wonder about Cole’s wall art, the life ending crash and his ultimate gift of sight. I choose to see God’s hand in all of this. I am forever grateful to the young man who put this photo-art together for me, to my family and to all those who knew Cole.

On behalf of the Deacon Family,

Cindy Deacon
Cole’s mom