



## Shayla Makinzie Kirkland

January 1, 1998 - March 6, 2022

Shayla Kirkland, 24, of Spartanburg, South Carolina passed away on Sunday, March 6 after a long struggle with addiction. Shayla is preceded in death by her mother, Lola Kirkland, and survived by her son, Felix Jackson; father, Keith Kirkland, and wife, Miriam Kirkland (step-mother); Michele Sweet (sister) and husband Tim Sweet; David Childress (brother) and wife Mandy Childress; Keith Kirkland Jr (brother) and wife Destiny Kirkland; John Kirkland (brother); Michael Childress (brother); Kendra Huggins (sister) and husband James Huggins. She is also survived by numerous cousins, nieces, nephews, and friends.

Shayla grew up in the Travelers Rest area with a family who loved her no matter what. As a child she loved to laugh and play, and as she grew older she never really lost that. She loved food--cooking it, talking about it, looking at it, you name it; for a time she dreamed of being a restaurateur. She was a thrill-seeker but found the humor in some of the most mundane tasks. And when she laughed, often at herself, she did it with her whole being. It was a laugh any person could look forward to hearing. She had a way with words, a passion for writing, and a love of music. She was tremendously loved by friends and family, and will be so sorely missed.

# Tribute Wall

JB

“*Shayla was my step sister. I didn't have the chance to get to know her as well as I hoped, which I now regret. But I always loved Shayla. I lived halfway across the country for most of the years that we've been a blended family, so it wasn't too often that I actually got to see her. But the rare times that I did, she made me feel welcomed and included, like we had known each other forever, and I'll never forget that. As many others have said, she always made me laugh and feel good whenever she was around, and those are truly some of the most special gifts you can give to another. We also shared a love of Marvel (and Spider-Man specifically), as well as similar writing styles: the way she expressed herself in letters that I've read felt so familiar, and I was captured by the depth of thought and feeling she conveyed in just a few words. I have learned more of the inner turmoil she wrestled with, and although I may never have a full understanding of her story and experience, the memory of Shayla will force me to dig deeper, ask more questions, listen more closely, and reach out more urgently to all those that God has put in my life. Especially those who try so hard to make others smile, to forget their own pain. I sincerely regret not saying these things at the funeral, as I was sabotaged by my own internal conflict and the struggle to come to grips with it all. But I will carry that hole within me now, as a constant reminder never to hold my tongue again when I know I should speak. Shayla, I am so very sorry that the demons you battled for so long took you away from us. I thank you for what you taught me, and I will always hold those lessons deep in my heart. To all the family and friends that cherished her and fought for her, I offer my prayers for you as you try to find a way to heal. The love and memories that you shared together can never be erased. May we all look to Jesus for comfort and peace as we walk through the dark cloud of her passing. Gone but never forgotten. Goodbye, Shayla.*

*With love,  
Joshua Boyce*

*“Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall*

*to the ground apart from your Father. Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.”*  
*Matthew 10:29, 31*

Josh Boyce - March 28, 2022 at 03:19 PM

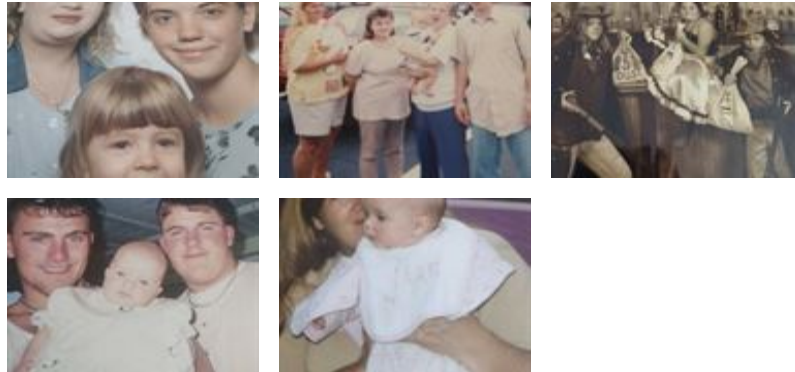
MA

“ *You will be missed by many. That smile that was so contagious and often forced can now be worn at all times in peace. We love you girl. You can now rest easy. Until we meet again.*

Ma - March 10, 2022 at 06:21 AM



“ *88 files added to the album LifeTributes*



Living Waters Funeral Home & Crematory - March 09, 2022 at 03:30 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Shayla Makinzie Kirkland.*



March 09, 2022 at 09:27 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Shayla Makinzie Kirkland.



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March 08, 2022 at 06:34 PM



“ *Blue Caribbean Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Shayla Makinzie Kirkland.



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March 08, 2022 at 04:29 PM