

I think we all agree Courtney's life story is a remarkable journey of resilience, spirit and inspiration that has touched the lives of all that met her.

On April 28, 1987, Courtney entered the world with a vibrant energy and personality that shone brightly from the very beginning. Grandpa Yee, who arrived at the hospital to meet his newest grandchild, would attest to this. As he peered through the nursery window, a very loud and spirited baby caught his attention. This vibrant new person turned out to be his new granddaughter. (I love that story)

Like all the Yee children, Courtney was well-mannered, bright and gracious. But Courtney possessed a red-headed flare that captivated my heart from the start. Courtney had her OWN ideas and her OWN style and was not afraid to let them be known. I still remember an outing to Mervyn's when Courtney was not yet two years old. As we strolled through the store, Courtney would pick out various outfits and gleefully exclaim, "cute outfit". Courtney's first sentence was "I do it by myself". Such strength and determination continued to be Courtney's motto throughout her entire life.

As Courtney became older, it became evident that she was one of those kids that could do anything when she set her mind to it. Her talents were many; she never ceased to amaze me. In junior high, with no prior singing or drama experience, Courtney landed lead roles in Fiddler on the Roof and Guys and Dolls. Her roles as Yenta and Adelaide were nothing short of spectacular. I remember thinking at the time she was extraordinary. This awesomeness continued throughout and was evident in Courtney's academia and sports. I always enjoyed Courtney's gifted wit and her ability to articulate thoughts, especially accompanied by her humor. Our Family Fantasy Football texts won't be the same without her clever contributions.

Life presented its challenges, and Courtney was not always dealt an easy hand. Yet she faced each obstacle with optimism and unwavering strength. I witnessed these qualities become vital as she navigated her brutal battle with ovarian cancer. For two years, I watched Courtney confront this harrowing journey with extraordinary bravery. She approached each day, each treatment, each scan, and each prod with a positive attitude and with hope. I never heard Courtney complain and she never dwelled on the immense pain or discomfort she must have been in. Rather, Courtney would find humor to lighten the mood for all. Not too long ago, she joked that the painful needle pokes and prodding were "immersion therapy", as she had always had a fear of needles as a child.

Even in her final days, Courtney's spirit remained unbroken. On her death bed, I watched Courtney determined to lift the spirits of those around her. Barely able to speak, Courtney was gracious and kind to all the medical staff, family and friends surrounding her. She strived to lighten the mood with a poetic gesture and YES, Courtney demonstrated her determination one last time when her last words, "I do it by myself" were spoken about holding a cup of water. I was reminded once again of Courtney's fierce independence when faced with overwhelming circumstances.

Throughout her journey, Courtney never once wallowed in self-pity. Her radiant smile and positive demeanor captivated me and everyone she encountered, from doctors to nurses and technicians. Witnessing her bravery was truly life-changing for me and I imagine many others. Courtney's

unwavering hope and determination taught me that life is worth fighting for, no matter how difficult the circumstances may be.

The lessons Courtney imparted extend beyond her battle with cancer. She taught me that life isn't always easy, but the way I approach my struggles can make all the difference. Her legacy is a powerful reminder of the importance of maintaining a positive attitude and cherishing every moment.

I miss Courtney tremendously, and I know her memory will forever hold a special place in my heart and those who knew her. She was not just a remarkable woman; she was an angel, a shining star, and a hero. Because of her, I aspire to face each day with renewed strength, sense of humor and determination. Courtney, until we meet again, you will always be my hero, an inspiration to all, and a reminder of the beauty and resilience of the human spirit. I love you forever and always.