



## Shawn (Grosse) Vaillant

August 15, 1963 - November 28, 2016

Shawn Maree Vaillant (1963-2016)

Shawn Maree Vaillant, 53 of Ocala, Florida passed away November 28th, 2016 at her home.

She was born August 15th, 1963 in Fort Carson, Colorado, the daughter of Bob and Donna Grosse. She married Dennis Vaillant on December 30th, 1985 in Dallas, Texas. She gave birth to her one and only child, her son Trae Vaillant, February 17th, 1994.

The world lost an amazing woman this past week. The coming days, weeks, months and years will not be easy but we were all blessed to have spent 53 incredible years with her. Our hearts are broken, but we will push on to stay strong as she'd always want us to carry on. Life can oftentimes deal us an unexpected hand, but her compassion and wisdom will live in our hearts forever. Shawn was a modern day superwoman, beautiful, strong, smart, caring, enthusiastic, fun, determined and successful. She had "it". In life we don't remember days, we remember moments. Although the days we had with her were cut short, the moments we spent with her will last for an eternity.

Shawn graduated from Denver High School and earned her BA in Fashion Merchandising from Iowa State University. She moved to Dallas, Texas

following graduation in pursuit of her career in fashion. Shawn began her Primerica career with her husband Dennis in 1987. She was a coach, mentor, inspiration, and role model for thousands throughout her time. She championed the Primerica marriage partnership program, served on executive committees as a trusted advisor and delivered countless motivational speeches. She reignited her passion for horses in 2007 and began to show competitively across the country, always a champion. In 2012 she moved to Ocala, Florida onto her dream property, "Destiny Ranch", a 30 acre plot of land that was truly her heaven on earth. Her full, beautiful smile and infectious laugh will be remembered forever and continue to warm the hearts of any and all fortunate enough to have known her. There will never be enough words to describe the impact she had here on earth, but she will forever serve as our guardian angel, smiling down from above.

Survived by: Husband Dennis of Ocala, Florida; Son Trae of Fort Myers, Florida; Parents Bob and Donna Grosse of Cedar Falls, IA; Brother Shane and Mollie Gross of Denver, IA; Niece Bobbie Grosse; Nephew Bo Grosse; Mother-in-law Yvonne and Lou Vesh; Sister-in-law Janice and Rod Smith; Nieces Katherine and Caleb Bischoff, Kimberly Smith, and Christine Smith. Sister-in-law Alice, Brad Rusnak; Niece Ella-Rae Sister-in-law Noreen Vaillant; Nieces Sarah and Vanessa Vaillant; Nephew Robert Vaillant

There will be a visitation Friday evening, December 9th, 2016 from 5:00pm-7:00pm at

Richardson Funeral Home  
615 Main St  
Cedar Falls, IA 50613  
319-266-3525

There will be a celebration of Life Service on Saturday, December 10th, 2016,

starting at 1:00pm at

First United Methodist Church

718 Clay St

Cedar Falls, IA 50613

319-266-1713

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial gifts be made to the Scholarship Program of the American Quarter Horse Foundation. These donations will honor Shawn with an annual endowment for a collegiate recipient that exemplifies the qualities that Shawn held most dear: leadership, horsemanship, courage and determination. Make donations payable to the American Quarter Horse Foundation, P.O. Box 3211, Amarillo, TX 79120. Please write "In memory of Shawn Vaillant" in the memo line of the check, or online at <http://www.aqha.com/shawnvaillantmem>.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC **9**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Richardson Funeral Service  
615 Main Street  
Cedar Falls, IA 50613  
(319) 266-3525  
richardsonfuneralservice@gmail.com  
<http://richardson.funeralplan2.com>

## Celebration of Life

DEC **10**. 1:00 PM (CT)

First United Methodist Church  
718 Clay Street  
Cedar Falls, IA 50613  
<http://aboutfirst.com>

# Tribute Wall


AL

“ I am heart broken to read this... Shawn had and still has such an impact on my life. I think of my time with her and Dennis as leaders everyday! Thank you for sharing yourself and believing in my possibilities Shawn... Dennis, if you should read this... know that you made an everlasting impact on the lives of me and my 5 children.... I went out to Facebook to see if I could find a way to reconnect with you folks and I found this... I am truly heart broken.

*God Speed my friend*

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**April D Lucas** - February 24, 2019 at 04:24 AM

  
Danielle  
Herie

“ Danielle Herie lit a candle in memory of Shawn (Grosse) Vaillant



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**Danielle Herie** - November 18, 2017 at 06:58 PM

  
Danielle  
Herie

*Dennis and Trae, so much love to you both as we near this anniversary. Shawn was such an extraordinary woman. Even now, her legacy shines brightly in your lives, and the lives of all those she touched.*

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**Danielle Herie** - November 18, 2017 at 07:02 PM

TD

“ Tom & Dom lit a candle in memory of Shawn (Grosse) Vaillant



Tom & Dom - December 20, 2016 at 10:33 AM

SF

“ Shannon Fisher lit a candle in memory of Shawn (Grosse) Vaillant



shannon fisher - December 15, 2016 at 08:48 PM

WE

“ With Love, Karla, Mike and Salina Elsenpeter purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Shawn (Grosse) Vaillant.



With Love, Karla, Mike and Salina Elsenpeter - December 09, 2016 at 12:08 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Shawn (Grosse) Vaillant.



December 09, 2016 at 11:28 AM



“ *Bright and Beautiful Spray was purchased for the family of Shawn (Grosse) Vaillant.*



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December 07, 2016 at 09:36 AM



“ *Shawn was such an inspiration to so many people. I had the privilege of becoming friends with Shawn through the Partnership Program at Primerica. Shawn and Dennis served as Chairs for the board from approximately 1998 - 2001. Their contributions to the program touched more lives than they can ever know. Shawn always had a smile on her face. She inspired people to be the best they could be. She was a true leader. Dennis & Trae - both of you are in my thoughts and prayers.*

*With Deepest Sympathy,  
Anne Soutter  
Primerica Home Office*

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**Anne Soutter** - December 06, 2016 at 10:35 AM



“ *My deepest sympathy to Shawn's entire family. She was a remarkable speaker and a beautiful friend that will be deeply missed by her Primerica Family. Her smile lit up the room and I always admired her energy. A donation was made in her memory to her horse scholarship fund. May God comfort you in the days to come.*

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**Sharon Fitzpatrick** - December 06, 2016 at 08:45 AM

AS

“ Our deepest sympathy to Bob, Donna, Shane, Mollie, and family. Words cannot express the sadness we feel. Prayers to all of you.

*Anne Stratton, Mike Dobbs, Travis Dobbs*

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**Anne Stratton** - December 05, 2016 at 10:59 AM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Shawn (Grosse) Vaillant.



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December 04, 2016 at 09:03 PM

RH

“ Shawn age 4 came to visit my son the same age and said "where is your horse". He took her into the playroom and showed her his rocking horse. I am not sure she was impressed. What a beautiful tribute to your daughter.



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**Rosy Hill** - December 04, 2016 at 05:34 PM



“ I remember Shawn as a young girl/lady friend at church and school. Special memories... plus every New Years eve sledding down there hillside on their family farm in Iowa.. hosting the East Janesville United Methodist Church family on New Years eve.

Peace be with you, dear heart... I'm so sorry for you and your family's loss.... The Bohlens, Brooksville Florida.



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**Steven Bohlen** - December 04, 2016 at 04:06 PM



“ My sincere condolences to the family. My heart sank when I heard the news. Shawn was an inspiration to all. A great role model and mentor. I remember her teasing me about being short. A big 4:10. Hugs to Dennis and Trae. Your in my prayers. Love you all. Again im sorry for your loss.

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**Lorraine Morrow** - December 04, 2016 at 10:47 AM



“ Silvia Caponetto lit a candle in memory of Shawn (Grosse) Vaillant



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**Silvia Caponetto** - December 04, 2016 at 05:03 AM



Dennis, Trae, families and friends, May God blessed you with strength in this moment of sorrow for the loss of a beautiful person inside out. I was blessed with her mentor ship and leadership. There are not words to describe such a lively woman. Love Silvia

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**Silvia Caponetto** - December 04, 2016 at 05:22 AM

CW

“ Dennis, Trae and many family and friends of Shawn, Randy and I are heartbroken of a life taken much to soon. We have always loved you and Shawn. Thank you for always making us feel special anytime we were around you both. Shawn was a one in a million, beautiful inside and out. The biggest Legacy you can leave is that of someone who has loved Big and Shawn loved Big! She touched everyone around her with love and genuine compassion. Heaven has truly gained a beautiful soul. We love you all your Alaskan family 💕 Randy and Cheryl Weddel

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**Cheryl Weddel** - December 04, 2016 at 12:49 AM

 Sandy Tyree

“ So very sad when I got the news I could only cry. I wished I had met her many years ago, because she was like a best friend from years ago. She was beautiful caring and happy. I along with everyone else will miss her dearly. May we be united again one day.  
Sending prayers to Dennis and Tree.  
Sincerely,  
Sandy Three

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**Sandy Tyree** - December 03, 2016 at 06:39 PM

EB

“ Sincere condolences to the family. Ms.Shawn was an awesome example of partnership!  
Sincerely, Tony and Emma Belin,SVP

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**Emma Belin** - December 03, 2016 at 06:18 PM

 Daryl  
Druktenis

“ I'll never forget the first Primerica convention I attended. We were walking through the main entrance area and this woman took the stage. I watched and listened to her and asked my RVP who she was. It had such an impact on my future business, it was a defining moment that will stick in my memory always. I'm so sorry for the loss of Shawn and pray for peace for Dennis and the rest of the family.

Daryl Druktenis  
Santa Fe, NM

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Daryl Druktenis - December 03, 2016 at 12:18 PM

CW

“ My deepest sympathies Dennis, Trae and family. I was shocked and deeply saddened to hear of Shawn's passing as it has been many, many years since I last saw Shawn. I am not surprised to hear of the amazing life she has led, touching the lives of so many with her infectious smile, sharing her message of love and inspiration. My heart breaks for you all in the loss of your beautiful angel. In the days ahead may you find comfort and peace in the memories you hold close to your heart. Love, Cathie Wintoneak

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cathie wintoneak - December 03, 2016 at 11:39 AM

PL

“ Dennis and Trae I am so saddened to hear about the loss of Shawn. Her words and her personality from the Primerica stage in the past served as an huge encouragement and inspiration as we built our business. I am truly sorry for your loss and my deepest condolences go out to you both and to all of the family. I will hold you in my thoughts and my prayers during these difficult days.

Phil Lewin  
Ontario, Canada

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Phil Lewin - December 03, 2016 at 09:22 AM

JM

“ Dennis, Trae and Family we are so saddened by this news. Shawn was a beacon of love and light on this earth, she will be missed by all who knew her. Whenever you were in her company she made you feel so welcomed and saying hello and sharing her beautiful smile and a loving hug were second nature to her. She will not be forgotten by those she touched through her leadership and caring and her love. God Bless you all, our prayers and hearts are with you. RIP Shawn, God has a new angel and the stars will shine brighter with you presence. Joyce and Bob Martufi

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**Joyce Martufi** - December 03, 2016 at 08:36 AM

TR

“ Steve and I are so sorry for your loss. We met Shawn at a horse show, and have watched her talent and caring attitude through-out the years. Our world lost a great one!  
Steve and Tanya Relander

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**Tanya Relander** - December 03, 2016 at 07:43 AM

CB

“ Words can not properly express how sorry I am for your loss. Shawn was an extraordinary woman so kind and caring and will be missed very much! My deepest condolences to Dennis and his family during this difficult time. Sending love and prayers to all of you. RIP Shawn 💖🙏

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**Carol Martufi Bordieri** - December 03, 2016 at 05:55 AM

LC

“ *Lori Watkins/Black Creek Crossing purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Shawn (Grosse) Vaillant.*



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**Lori Watkins/Black Creek Crossing** - December 03, 2016 at 12:35 AM



“ *So terribly saddened by your loss. I think of you guys often. You both changed my life and my family tree forever. You are the sweetest and greatest leaders and people I have ever met. I miss my Primerica days and miss you guys and THANK You for the impact you have made.*



*We never know why or how things like this happen ~ someday we will know Gods plan.  
Many prayers your way.  
Melissa Straka  
Hutchinson, MN*

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**Melissa Schuetz Straka** - December 02, 2016 at 11:12 PM

TP

“ *Dennis and family. My wife and I met you both several years back at a dinner with the Byer's in Michigan. You both have been a great example of a loving couple building a great business together. My wife and I have admired your passion and dedication to family and what personal success should look like, not just material. We are praying for your family to find peace in Jesus Christ during this rough time.*

*Tim and Kelly Pietrykowski  
RVP in Michigan*

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**Tim Pietrykowski** - December 02, 2016 at 10:43 PM

RI

“ Dennis & Trea,

*Thank you for sharing your wife and mother withal of us who were blessed to know her. She was our Shero! She had the kindest spirit and the greatest laugh. Love and prayers to all of you. May our Lord & Savior bless you with sweet memories of this amazing woman.*

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**Robin & Larry Isaacson** - December 02, 2016 at 10:23 PM

DM

“ Dennis, Trae, and families- we are so sad. We love you and are praying for you. Thank you for sharing her with us all these years- her mentoring and friendship live in us still today. Praying for peace that surpasses all understanding.

*Darin and Dee Meyers*

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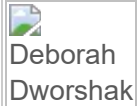
**Dee Meyers** - December 02, 2016 at 08:18 PM

RS

“ Our hearts are so very heavy in hearing about the loss of Shawn. Our deepest sympathy to you Dennis and Trae and family. She will always live on in our hearts ,we will always remember her messages to help us be the best that we can be and teach others to do the same. We are so blessed to have known her. Our prayers and thoughts are with you in this very difficult time. "Wherever a beautiful soul has been there is a trail of beautiful memories" Ray and Robin Cook

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**robin switzer** - December 02, 2016 at 08:00 PM



Deborah Dworshak

“ I am still in shock that you are gone. The mama bear as you use to say.. I surely have been blessed to have known you. I will miss your kindness & caring heart. I could go on and on. I send my condolences to Dennis, Trae & all of the family & friends. You are missed already. Please watch over all of us. Go bless.

Deborah Dworshak - December 02, 2016 at 06:21 PM



Christine Wilson

“ Dennis and Trea we are saddened by the loss of Shawn . She was a incredible woman and leader who made us always feel special when she spoke to us. She gave graciously of her time to everyone hoping to inspire us to get after success and change our lives. She was a inspiration and she will be truly missed  
Roger & Chris Wilson

Christine Wilson - December 02, 2016 at 05:01 PM

PB

“ Dennis and family, our most sincere condolences on Shawn's passing. Dennis, you and Shawn are leaders of leaders. In those early days up in Canada, you two were so generous with your time. Shawn's beautiful smile, boundless enthusiasm and caring heart always left a lasting impression. She made everyone feel special, always. What a gift! She will never be forgotten...Paul And Chris Bast

Paul and Chris Bast - December 02, 2016 at 04:25 PM

TG

“ Dennis and Trae we are so sorry for the loss of Shawn...Here smile and her legacy will last forever... Reading all the tributes on Facebook has made me more urgent to have the impact she has had on this world...Prayers for both of you.. Troy Girard

troy girard - December 02, 2016 at 12:14 PM

KE

*Dear Donna, Dennis, Trae and family, I was so saddened to hear of Shawns passing. My words can not even describe the sadness I am feeling. She was such a vivacious, wonderful, giving, talented and beautiful friend. I will miss her dearly, everyday. I know she is in the Lords arms and is watching over all of us and would encourage us to have strength. May God keep your family strong and His love comfort you in this time of loss.*

*Prayers and Love to you all,  
Karla Elsenpeter*

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**karla elsenpeter** - December 09, 2016 at 10:56 AM