



Kenneth Albert “Kal” Ihnken was born April 13, 1995, in Staten Island, N.Y. His family moved upstate to Wallkill, N.Y., in 1996 and in 2005 made the move to Morrill, where he resided until his passing Dec. 21, 2016, at Eastern Maine Medical Center.

From an early age Kal was the kind of person who made a big impression on others. As a child he was pensive, kind, and adventurous. He loved exploring with his friends, playing soccer and Xbox. He was a natural athlete who was passionate about working out and playing sports of all kinds. He was also a Boy Scout for all of his youth and he loved to camp, canoe and use survival skills.

Everywhere he went he spread his natural joy and optimism to those around him. If there was a kid off to the side of a classroom, alone and looking sad, Kal would approach them and make it his mission to see that person smile. If someone was being bullied he always stepped in, but did so in a way that ended with the bully not being mad at him. He was naturally charming and would constantly inspire his fellow students and his teachers.

On the soccer field Kal was able to realize his natural leadership abilities. After one of his high school games (in which the referee couldn’t seem to figure out how to make a fair call) nobody on the team went to high five the ref at the end of the game, except for Kal. Upon seeing this, the coaches made the rest of the team do the same. With seemingly simple acts like this Kal would consistently remind the people around him about how other people should be treated and what it truly meant to be kind.

He began working at Hannaford in 2013 and he was known for being a motivated and hard worker. He was beloved by many customers who simply knew him as “the kid with the hair” and by all of his fellow produce associates to whom he could be overheard telling that he loved them on a daily basis. Kal was a constant source of happiness for all who entered the store.

He saw it as his duty to defend all those who were weaker than himself, and to help them when all others would not. He was incredibly open minded and compassionate, accepting all kinds of different people and making a conscious effort to put himself in their shoes. Traits that were essential in forming his desire to be a police officer.

Kal completed the part-time police officers course at Maine Criminal Justice Academy Oct. 7,

2016, and wanted nothing more than to serve his community. He became engaged Nov. 5, 2016, to his girlfriend of seven years and was looking forward to planning his wedding.

On Nov. 14, 2016, Kal was in a car accident and sustained a concussion. Following the accident he began having symptoms consistent with Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE) which is a progressive degenerative disease of the brain found in athletes and others with a history of repetitive brain trauma. Currently CTE is undetectable in a living person, but it leads to confusion, impulse control, dementia, and consistently ends with those who suffer from the disease taking their own lives, as Kal did Dec. 21, 2016.

Kal is survived by his parents Janet and Kenny Ihnken and his sisters Kelsey Ihnken and Marley Ihnken of Morrill. His niece Jaylin Riley. His fiancé Desiree White of Morrill. His grandmother Jane D Ihnken of Matamoras, Pa. His grandparents Kenneth and Carol Ihnken of Dunnellon, Fla. Also many aunts, uncles and cousins.

He was pre-deceased by his grandparents Dorothy and Albert Tortora of Staten Island, N.Y.

Services to celebrate Kal's life will be held Jan. 7 at the First Church in Belfast. There will be a visitation hour at 1 p.m., a memorial service at 2 p.m. and a reception to follow. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Kal's name to the Brain Injury Research Institute to further CTE research. If you or anyone you love is suffering symptoms similar to CTE and have suffered repeated head injuries please visit protectthebrain.org for more information on symptoms, how to seek treatment and how to donate.