



City of Everett
Office of the Mayor
Carlo DeMaria, Jr.
484 Broadway
EVERETT, MASSACHUSETTS 02149

PRESS RELEASE

Monday, July 31, 2017

PEABODY AND EVERETT GATHER TO REMEMBER ELLA O'DONNELL *Ella's Army dedicates Peabody playground in memory of a beautiful, little girl*

On Wednesday, July 26th the family and friends of Ella O'Donnell, also known as Ella's Army gathered along with the Cities of Everett and Peabody to honor and dedicate a playground in Peabody in memory of Ella O'Donnell.

Ella is the daughter of Everett Police Office Dennis O'Donnell and his wife, Erin and the sister of Sydney. Ella sadly passed away last year after a courageous battle against a brain tumor.

Mayor Carlo DeMaria stated, "The Cities of Peabody and Everett came together with the family and friends of Ella O'Donnell to dedicate a playground in memory of Ella. She was the light to so many people. There is a saying "there is no foot so small that it cannot leave an imprint on this world." That is so true of Ella. She was the strength of so many people and she is and will be greatly missed."

City Council President Anthony DiPierro stated, "Sometimes it takes a very unfortunate circumstance to teach you the value of life. I can certainly say Ella taught me and so many others what was important in life. I know her spirit is alive and well and this playground will keep her memory strong for years to come. We all love and miss you Ella Jade. And we are Ella's Army forever!"

The playground is a testament of how loved Ella was to everyone that she crossed paths with and how much of an impact she has and continues to make on people's lives. Ella's Army raised \$178,000 to build the playground. The playground has many distinctive characteristics, such as a statue of a ballerina, representing an important part of Ella's life as a dancer. In addition, the Everett Police Department donated a bench that reads:

"She made broken look beautiful and strong look invincible. She walked with the universe on her shoulders and made it look like a pair of wings. Ella's Army. Everett Police."

Chief Steven Mazzie stated, "Its been great to watch the men and women of the Everett PD show their support for the O'Donnell family during Ella's battle against cancer, but even today in helping to keep Ella's spirit and memory alive."

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