

AS *Fate* WOULD HAVE IT...

Joshua Frase's Legacy to the Class of 2013



ate is a fickle beast. As fate would have it I was born a perfectly healthy baby boy whom, now on the precipice of matriculation, has a bright future within my grasp. But fate is a double edged blade. As fate would have it the perfect baby boy born alphabetically next in line to me in our school's registry would not live to see his sixteenth birthday.

Joshua Frase, had since birth, fought a losing battle against myotubular myopathy, a disease that severely inhibits muscle growth and thus all life processes. **But from his struggle came an incredible legacy.** Joshua showed all of us that physical appearance has nothing to do with strength, that with a bit of determination doctors can be proven wrong, and that light can be found in even the darkest of places. As fate would have it Joshua would pass away on Christmas Eve two years ago, a year and a half before a promising new treatment for his rare ailment would be made public. As fate would have it he left us far too early, but he made it much longer than he was supposed to. He had beaten the odds for more than fifteen years and fate finally caught up with him. Joshua had a brilliant mind. He was driven. He had goals, and he, like many other fifteen year old boys, laughed in the face of adversity. It has been almost two years since any of us has seen Joshua in the hallways of our school, but his presence still, and shall for the foreseeable future, resonate within them as it resonates with each and every person who was blessed enough to have met him.

So as I struggle to write an article about where we, as senior class, will be in a decade's time I am forced to revert back to the story of the one member of the PVHS Class of 2013 who will not be able to cross that stage in May. **We privileged few often take life for granted, whereas Joshua took every day as a gift and an opportunity.** He made the most of his high school career and of his life.

SO, CLASS OF 2013, THIS IS WHAT I HAVE TO SAY TO YOU. LIVE EVERYDAY TO THE FULLEST AS YOU NEVER KNOW WHICH ONE WILL BE YOUR LAST. ATTEMPT TO LEAVE THIS WORLD BETTER THAN YOU FOUND IT. STOP AT NOTHING TO ACCOMPLISH YOUR DREAMS. AND ABOVE ALL, NEVER BE JUST ANOTHER BRICK IN THE WALL.

— *Daniel Forsythe*