



In Memory of

Kimberly J. Miller

Class of 2000

15 May 1982 - 22 January 1999

Kimberly Joyce Miller, age 16, of S6150 Sun Dance Place, Eau Claire, passed away on Friday, Jan. 22, 1999. She attended Little Red Elementary school and was currently a junior at Memorial High School. Kimmy was a member of the Eau Claire Ski Sprites. She enjoyed playing softball and ping pong.

She is survived by her parents, Dennis and Karen (Hestekin) Miller, of Eau Claire; brothers, David Miller of Eau Claire, Erin Bautch, and Patrick Bautch, both of Milwaukee; paternal grandmother, Ruth Gilman of Rhinelander; maternal grandmother, Joyce Hestekin of Chippewa Falls; Aunt Kris and Uncle Pat McVinnie and cousin Randi Ann McVinnie all of Chippewa Falls; Aunt Karen and Uncle Jim Statezny, cousins, Faith Norberg, Brad Mahner all of Rhinelander, and Georgia Mahner of Appleton; Uncle Darrell and Aunt Tammy Gilman and cousins Christy and Tara all of Rhinelander; Uncle Tom and Aunt Nancy Hestekin of Elk Mound, cousins Tom Jr. of Eau Claire, Amanda, Nicole, and Missy all of Elk Mound, and also many other friends and relatives who also loved her so very much. She was preceded in death by her grandfathers, James Hestekin and Willard Gilman.

Six months before she died, sixteen-year-old Kimberly Miller gave her father the book *Butterfly Kisses*, written by singer and songwriter Bob Carlisle. It contains pictures and tender thoughts shared between fathers and daughters. At the time, Dennis just skimmed through it. There'd be plenty of time to read it, he thought. Tragically, six months later, that special girl in his life was killed in a car accident.

Devastated, the bereaved father went to The Healing Place, a grief support center. There he begged for the answers so he might survive. All whose hearts have been shattered by death and loss have a story they need to tell, he was told, and they all start at the beginning. In time and after a lot of tears, Dennis told his story. He wrote *Tears of Love*, a courageous book about his reflections on grief and love's most enduring promise.

Picture taken from Kodak 1999, pg. 6
(Memorial Yearbook)