

The Circle

Life is time
Time captured
Time shared

An intersection of time
A brief union of space

Time shared?
Time captured?

I am your memories
You are my time

Julie Marie Avery

Julie Marie Avery's Biography

Julie was born on June 9, 1961 to Harvey and Mary Avery in Dubuque, Iowa. Julie attended St. Patrick's School and Dubuque Senior High School. She was very active in high school activities including being a track and field cheerleader, Queen of the Tri-State Relays, and a AFS foreign exchange student to Brazil, where she spent the summer of 1978. After graduation from Senior, she attended the University of Northern Iowa.

In the spring of 1981 she developed pain in her upper thigh. The first doctor she saw said it was probably just a bruise. With the pain increasing, she saw an orthopedic doctor two weeks later. He immediately made arrangements for her to go straight to the hospital for an MRI, which revealed a tumor in that upper thigh. The orthopedic doctor suggested to Julie's mother, Mary, that they go to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota because the experts there would be better suited to care for Julie. The appointment at the Mayo Clinic was the next day. Mary and Julie spent the next three days at the clinic going through test after test. On day three they were told the tumor was cancer, fibrosis sarcoma, a very rare form of cancer that does not respond well to chemotherapy or radiation. The recommended course of action was to surgically remove the tumor. This would mean they would have to amputate the leg. Originally scheduled on her 20th birthday, the doctors waited till two days later.

Julie showed great courage through this. Keeping her spirits high which helped her family through this as well. She always was more concerned for our well being through this. She remained at the Mayo Clinic for six more weeks undergoing rehab. Monthly follow-ups occurred after the rehab. In the winter of 1981 Julie learned how to ski with one leg. At the same time her youngest brother, Ron, learned with her, but with both legs. Julie still mastered the slopes better than him

In December of 1981 Julie found a lump on her forehead. Mary took her back to the Mayo Clinic right away. It was the cancer again. The doctors and Julie decided to try chemotherapy for this. This required monthly visits to the clinic, causing hardships on the family's budget because of the cost of gas, hotels and meals. In June 1982, while still continuing chemotherapy, she felt well enough to visit her older brother Mike in Princeton, NJ with Ron. During that visit she became very ill and was taken to a hospital in Princeton, where she stayed for several weeks until she was well enough to fly back to Iowa and then return to Rochester.

At the Mayo Clinic, doctors told Julie and Mary that there was nothing more they could do and she only had about six months to live. Julie and Mary returned to Dubuque as Julie wanted to spend her remaining time at home with family, not in the hospital. She spoke to each family member one on one to break this sad news, making sure we understood and that all will be good. Mary became her caretaker the last six weeks with a visiting nurse once a week. On August 27, 1982 Julie passed peacefully in her sleep. A smile on her face. During the battle she wrote the following poem for her family, which has since been published in several publications.

