

# In Memoriam Sophia Hurtado

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Anne Sophia Hurtado, senior and proud cheerleader, passed away from pancreatic cancer Oct. 30, 2020. Although it took a toll on her, her friends hope to remember her for her positive attitude, one that is often described as a ray of light. Her friend since they were three-years-old, senior Tyra Wilkerson, explains that her optimistic attitude was one of her traits that stayed most constant.

"Obviously she's gotten much more mature and things like that, but she's always been the same ray of sunshine," senior Tyra Wilkerson said.

To her friends, Hurtado was a sassy and sarcastic girl. The cheerleading team expounded on her longing to stay remembered as lively. Most of her friends' favorite memories of Hurtado are of her cheering at football games or laughing after extracurricular events like the Pre-Med 5K on campus. However, other memories show Hurtado's strength beyond her radiant energy.

*She's been the same ray of sunshine.*

Tyra Wilkerson, 12

To read Sophia Hurtado's Cancer Chronicles Blog:



(Photo submitted by Gianna Clemente)

"I remember she came to practice late one day, and Coach Burns said 'sometimes superheroes need help,' talking about Sophia, and I think ever since that day, like, that's exactly what she's been. She's been an absolute superhero," Clemente said. "She has helped me not only become a better cheerleader but she's helped me realize you really can't take life for granted and every day you have to live it."

Hurtado dreamt of becoming a nurse practitioner because she felt she could relate to her prospective patients. She hoped that

*She has helped me realize you really can't take life for granted.*

Gianna Clemente, 12

through her sympathy, she would use her compassion to make patients feel better on an emotional level.

"She just changed my outlook on the world so much," senior Kolby Fleming said. "She wakes up in a good mood. I've never been like that."

Hurtado, in her "Cancer Chronicles" blog, exhibited self reliance and an ability

*She just changed my outlook on the world*

Kolby Fleming, 12

to bounce back from her hardships. In her post "Live Life," she discussed her efforts to have more good days than bad days. Fleming described this mindset as something that stuck to Hurtado even before dealing with cancer.

Hurtado will be remembered for her unashamed sense of self, humor and, most strikingly, her ability to light up a room. She will have her name set up in the oasis behind the 7000, a cheer corner set up in the stands and a tree planted near the 2500 to pay homage to her memory.



**A Friendship Like No Other:** Spirit Day at AHS calls for all students to show their Patriot Pride by wearing black and gold. Sophia is shown being celebrated by her classmates and friends in this snapshot in midst of celebration. (Photo/Bella Ramirez)