

SIDS claims life of 4-mo. old Tyler Waln

Written by Brenda Johnson Brandt

His first Father's Day as a father didn't dawn so brightly for Beau Waln Sunday, as his attempt to awaken his 4-month-old "Bunky-Boo" was not successful.

Beau and his wife Angie and her two children Colby, 3, and Emily, 2, as well as 4-month-old Tyler Franklin were visiting Beau's brother Chris and his wife Nora in Galeton, just outside of Eaton.

All seemed well Saturday night when they put the baby to bed. When Tyler awakened and was fussy, Beau responded as he does most nights, burping young Tyler, rocking him, singing him to sleep and finally laying him back down with a hug and a kiss. "Our God is an Awesome God" is one of his favorite lullabies.

"I went to get him up in the morning, and he wouldn't get up," said Beau.

A 911 call found Chris doing CPR as directed over the phone until paramedics arrived. But when a doctor arrived, he said to stop, noted Beau.

The coroner brought in a specialist, and an autopsy was completed immediately. The report indicated Tyler was a healthy baby, and when possible causes of death had been ruled out, the answer was Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). "They can't explain it. The babies go to sleep and don't wake up," said Beau.

The Walns considered Tyler their miracle baby, as Angie had 20 percent chance to carry him to full-term. "We almost lost Angie a couple of times during the pregnancy," added Beau with a shudder.

She was taken by Flight for Life twice during her pregnancy and a third time for an emergency C-section a month before Tyler was actually due.

A valentine baby, Tyler Franklin was born at Swedish Hospital in Englewood Feb. 14, weighing 6 pounds, 10 ounces. He spent only a few days in neonatal intensive care and came home to Holyoke when his mom did.

His parents report their little red-head was happy and healthy and gained weight well. He smiled, giggled and gave kisses. He loved his bathtime, outdoors and sunshine and loved being talked to and kissed. "And he'd kiss back," said Angie.

"He loved his binkie (pacifier)—that's why I called him my bunky-boo," said Beau with fondness.

Tyler was Beau's first child, and he pointed out he and Angie can't have any more. "The four months we had him were the best four months of my life," said the proud father.

Sustained by their faith and their love for each other, Beau and Angie planted a Japanese lilac tree in Tyler's memory, in the yard of his grandparents, Dan and Teresa Waln.

A funeral service for Tyler Waln will be held Thursday, June 25 at 10:30 a.m. at Zion Lutheran Church in Holyoke. Interment will follow at Holyoke Memorial Park.

Beau graduated from HHS in 1998 and moved Angie and their two special kiddoes Colby and Emily back to Holyoke about a year ago. Beau is employed at the Phillips County landfill and Angie at Kwik Stop.

"We're blessed we decided to move back to my hometown, where people really care," said Beau.

Angie voiced appreciation for the thoughts, prayers and general support they've received. "And a special heartfelt thanks to members of Zion Lutheran Church—our second family," added Beau.

An account for Beau and Angie Waln, in memory of Tyler, has been established at First Pioneer National Bank in Holyoke.