



Amber Yvette Goodwin

February 2, 1982 - January 18, 2025

It is with profound sorrow that we announce the passing of our beloved daughter, mother, sister, niece, and friend Amber Yvette Goodwin, who was taken from us on Saturday January 18, 2025, just shy of her 43rd birthday. She was a source of love, enthusiasm, support, humor, advice, and warmth to all who had the privilege to know her and even to strangers who she thought could use some extra kindness.

Born in Tullahoma Tennessee on February 2, 1982, to Ginger (Goodwin) Tomes and Jerry Goodwin, Amber grew up like a Gypsy in the wind getting to experience life across the U.S. before returning to Tennessee to graduate High School. Following High School, she served honorably in the U. S. Navy reaching the rank of Petty Officer Third Class. She later graduated from Tennessee State University with a B.A. in Criminal Justice with a Minor in Psychology. A true “Jill of all Trades”, she had experience working as a bartender, dispatcher, paralegal, and most recently as a Senior Operators Administrator, Human Resources, at FedEx. Even with all she had done and seen in her 42 years of life, Amber was always proudest to be a mom to her two kids Reagan and Savannah.

She is survived by her loving family, including children Reagan Smith and Savannah Smith and their father Chris Smith; mother Ginger (John) Tomes; father Jerry Goodwin; brother Clinton (girlfriend Beth) and his children

Madalyn and Annabelle; brother Charleton (Tessa) Goodwin and his children Layton and Avelyn; sister Katie Goodwin and her son Maverick; brother Jacob Goodwin and his children Elias, Sofia, and Kristen; step-father Sonny Petersen; step-sister Christina Petersen; step-brother David Petersen; Aunt Rebecca Tomes; Uncles John Tomes and Uncle Warner (Rhonda) Tomes; and a host of cousins, relatives, and friends who she made family. She was preceded in death by grandparents Jimmie Ruth Tomes, John Tomes, Clara Dean Goodwin, and Ralph Goodwin.

Amber will be remembered for her strength of spirit, endless sense of adventure, larger than life stories, tenacity, compassion, generosity, can-do attitude, silliness, and for all the love, light, and laughter she poured into our lives. We joked that Amber was like a butterfly: not because she was soft and delicate, as she was one of the strongest people we've ever known, but because of the way she constantly was flitting about. She was always on the move. Even with two jobs and two kids, she was on a constant rotation of visits between family and friends, attending events that caught her interest, or hitting the road on a random whim. She was as alive as one could be, but no matter where she went or what she did, she always came back around to sit a while before taking off again. We're devastated by the reality that she won't be coming back this time, that she's gone somewhere we can't reach, but we know that she would want us to focus on the positives she brought to all our lives.

A memorial service will be held on Monday January 27, 2025, at Daves-Culbertson Funeral Home in Tullahoma, TN where family, friends, acquaintances, and anyone else who happened to get swept up into Amber's orbit along the way will gather to celebrate her life and share their memories. Visitation will be held from 11 AM to 1 PM with the funeral service to begin at 1 PM.

Her passing has left a hole in our worlds that can never be filled, but we will do our best to keep her spirit among us by sharing the lessons she taught us: never take yourself too seriously; say yes to a chance to see or do something new; keep your eyes on the light even in dark times; spread love at every opportunity; and to live, truly live, during the time you are given.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 27. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Daves-Culbertson Funeral Home
401 N. Jackson Street
Tullahoma, TN 37388

Memorial Service

JAN 27. 1:00 PM (CT)

Daves-Culbertson Funeral Home
401 N. Jackson Street
Tullahoma, TN 37388

Tribute Wall

JN

“ *Janelle Norwood lit a candle in memory of Amber Goodwin*



Janelle Norwood - January 28, 2025 at 01:28 PM

SN

“ *Sunshine nutrition purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Amber Yvette Goodwin.*



Sunshine nutrition - January 27, 2025 at 08:26 PM

“First I need to apologize to y’all. I sat down to write a simple sympathy note to the family. It turns out I had much to say. If I hadn’t stopped myself I would’ve written a book. I don’t know who will read this if anyone will but at the least you will know it is from my heart. Amber’s family in Wisconsin grieve with the loss of another beautiful daughter taken from our family too soon.

Amber is a very special person to us, to her mother, to her siblings, to her extended family, to her friends and to people she randomly met along her way. Amber in my mind is still a beautiful person both inside and out. The Amber we know has a huge caring, sharing, loving heart.

Our girl should have had many more years ahead of her to live a wonderful life. It is so unfair that Amber will not be with us to celebrate and find the joys that life would have brought. Seeing her children grow into adults, maybe marry, maybe have children of their own. She won’t be there with her mother as she grows old. She won’t know the joy of being in love again. She won’t be there to share her life with us anymore. She won’t be here to feel the joy of holding her future grand babies. We hope Ginger steps in at all these moments and share’s them with Amber in her prayers.

Gilbert (Sonny) Petersen was Ambers stepfather. They butted heads with each other when she was young. Of course that comes from stories I have been told through the years. I know they loved each other through it all because she told everyone up here that Sonny was the only dad she had. It breaks my heart that she will never call him again and say, ” Hey dad. How are you doing?” She claimed him as her dad and she was his daughter. They loved each other. Amber was a daughter in his heart. Always his daughter.

Amber has a special place in my heart because she reached out to me and accepted me into her life under stressful circumstances.

When we first met we were both a little nervous. That didn’t last long. She was the perfect southern girl. She invited me into her home and celebrated Christmas with Sonny and myself. She made me feel so welcome in her life. By the time our visit was over I felt like I had a new family member. Ginger sure raised that girl right. I have come to know more of the family through the years and I’ve

been welcomed into their lives as well. Ginger must have been a wonderful mother to her children as they grew up.

What has been done to our beautiful girl makes us sick. We feel pain and fear for what she went through. We feel outrage, anger, sorrow and at the same time we feel numbed by the loss of her. We know other families have gone through much the same devastating loss. Some of those families fell apart and some the tragedy brought closer. We hope for Amber's sake our extended family will become closer. We will all need each other to overcome our grief. We will need each other to live our lives without her with us.

A friend of mine suggested I skip the things I am about to write. She thought it wasn't appropriate. I have thought about it and I cannot. I don't want to make Ambers death into anything other than the tragedy it is. I just have to say what is in my head and my heart. Maybe just for myself. Maybe it will help others also. Domestic violence is a horrible thing in the lives of so many.

Amber had a good heart. We know every adult makes his or her own choices in life. Some are good and lead to great places. Some choices are not so good and may lead to tragedy. It is called free will. Amber made the decision to love the wrong person. None of us could have changed this because it was her decision. Her choice and free will. I truly hope no one reading this thinks I am putting blame on Amber. I am definitely not doing that. The blame for our loss goes on the man who caused this tragedy. I just need to say this because I know how many people that are in the same situation feel. Amber made the decision to love him, help him, share her life with him and to do her best to make his life better. It is devastating to us that this man had no idea what love was supposed to be. He had a wonderful beautiful woman in his life and it is unfathomable to us what he has done.

We have all had monsters in our lives whether we knew it or not. They walk amongst us. We hear horror stories about domestic violence. We go about our lives thinking things like, "He would never do anything like that." and "That won't happen to me."

Or "it's not like that. He just gets angry sometimes."

I have a very personal understanding of this experience. We become complacent with our thoughts, feelings, beliefs and lives.

When we allow ourselves to become complacent we are lost. Sometimes our families see our pain, our mistakes or our fears and they worry, pray and hope for a good outcome. Sometimes they try to make us understand that this is wrong but we think we can handle anything we are adults after all. Sometimes our family will stay out of it because after everything is said and done they figure we will do what is right.

Most people don't realize or fully understand we do what we do because of the unthinkable to us. There are usually threats to the people we love. We understand that we were the ones to get into the relationship that we did. We feel it is our responsibility to go through everything we do to keep the monster from hurting a loved one.

We tend to blow things off. We tend to rely on our own judgment and keep much of our situation to ourselves. It's not shame that keeps us quiet or keeps us from leaving. It's our protective nature. It hurts me so much that I didn't know what was happening with Amber. When we talked it was about the happy things and the little daily things life brings. Now it feels like I failed her by not asking for more information. For not pushing her to get away from there until she got her life back together. In my heart I know it would not have changed anything that has happened. She would never have left the rest of her life in Tennessee. She would not have left her family behind even to keep herself safe.

We all live with regrets. Not reaching out to Amber about this is one of my greatest regrets.

So we mourn the loss of a beautiful daughter. We share in the grief of Amber's mother Ginger and the rest of our family members. You have our prayers and our love. We hope you can find some peace and comfort in your memories of Amber.

Gilbert (Sonny) Petersen

Diane Nichols & Wanda Hearst

Diane Nichols - January 26, 2025 at 05:51 PM

RB

Thank you for your beautiful words and description about our precious Amber.

Domestic violence truly destroys families, it has mine. I'll never understand it.

Amber had left this evil man 2 years ago because she knew how abusive he was and she deserved better.

Amber's heart was too big.

A few months ago he reached out to her crying, he needed her help.

So the good hearted Amber went to help him. He was sweet and nice, like so many other abuser's are hiding their evilness.

Amber tried to help and ended up losing her life.

Rebecca Brown - February 16, 2025 at 05:49 PM

GW

“ *Glenn, Missy & Davis Wenger purchased the Heavenly Light for the family of Amber Yvette Goodwin.*



Glenn, Missy & Davis Wenger - January 25, 2025 at 02:23 PM

DP

“ *The time she put in to keeping her presence known as a person who is there for you during the hard times and the fun times, is astonishing and something to thrive for on a personal level. I will miss her but also celebrate her for the rest of my life*



David Petersen - January 25, 2025 at 10:04 AM



“ *Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Amber Yvette Goodwin.*



January 24, 2025 at 11:00 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Amber Yvette Goodwin.

January 24, 2025 at 11:00 PM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Amber Yvette Goodwin.*



January 24, 2025 at 09:14 PM



“ *Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the family of Amber Yvette Goodwin.*



January 24, 2025 at 08:30 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Amber Yvette Goodwin.*



January 24, 2025 at 07:17 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Amber Yvette Goodwin.*



January 24, 2025 at 06:18 PM