



Nora Ellen O'Brien

October 2, 1964 - April 29, 2009

Nora Ellen O'Brien, 44, of Santa Monica, CA and formerly of West Hartford, CT passed away on April 29 after collapsing while playing basketball with work colleagues in Berkeley, CA. Nora was predeceased by her father, Frederick J. O'Brien, M.D., and is survived by her mother, Virginia Ginny O'Brien and her six siblings and their families: Michael, his wife Ann and their children, Michael and Kelly, of Cheshire, CT; Joan, her husband David Wildfeuer and their daughter Rachel, of Berwyn, PA; Timothy, his wife Linda and their children, Sarah and Kevin, of Wellesley, MA; Daniel, his wife Andrea and their daughters Megan, Claire and Erin, of West Hartford, CT; Erin, her husband Brian Earley and their children Christina, Meredith, Sean and Brigid, of Franklin, MA; and Carey, her husband Chris McGlynn, and sons Conor and Brendan, of Oakville, Ontario. Nora was also predeceased by her cherished niece Nicole Wildfeuer. Nora was a graduate of Northwest Catholic High School and Boston College. Blessed with the gift of storytelling, Nora regaled her friends and family with her humorous tales of everyday life. After 10 years of writing and producing documentary films in Boston, Nora chased her dreams and headed west. In Los Angeles Nora blossomed into a successful, respected and cherished executive of the entertainment and artistic community. Amidst her Hollywood accomplishments, Nora never forgot her roots and will be remembered forever for her love of family, vast network of friends, immense generosity and true spirit for competition on any field or court. Her passion for New England sports teams, exceeded perhaps only by

that of her father, Fred, was evident to all her friends. Nora was highly regarded in LA for her strong relationships, integrity, work ethic, and creativity. Nora's work included both the production and post-production side of several feature films including, *Clear and Present Danger*, *Sliver*, and *Outbreak*. Nora later joined the SCI FI Channel before becoming the Vice President of Drama Programming at NBC Entertainment and Universal Media Studios. Visitation will be from 4PM-8PM on Tuesday, May 5th at Molloy Funeral Home, 906 Farmington Ave, West Hartford, CT. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Wednesday, May 6th at 10:00 AM at St. Thomas the Apostle Church, Farmington Ave, West Hartford. A memorial service at St. Monica's Catholic Church in Santa Monica will be held at a later date. Donations in Nora's memory may be made to Hollywood Heart www.hollywoodheart.org. Nora served on the board of this LA-based non-profit organization, which provides opportunities for at-risk youths. Letters of condolence may be sent via the funeral home's web site at www.molloyfuneralhome.com

Tribute Wall



“ To the family, I know some wonderful brothers and I am sorry for the families loss##imported-begin##Larry Sobel##imported-end##

May 10, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ To Mrs. O'Brien and Nora's siblings,
My parents keep me posted on the news from West Hartford. While I'm a peer of Michael's, I live in the San Fernando Valley of Los Angeles - and spend a lot of time in Santa Monica bike riding along the beautiful beach. I'm sure Nora took that same ride too. It makes our 3,000 mile wide country that much smaller, knowing that she was my neighbor from just around the corner. My condolences to all of you.##imported-begin##Elizabeth Glater##imported-end##

May 06, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Ginny... Our hearts go out to you at this tragic time.. Words cannot express how deeply we feel.. and saying how sorry we are for your loss seems so inadequate.. I can't imagine how you are feeling at this time. I only believe that your loss is heavens gain and that Fred will be there to welcome her with open arms... May God give you love and comfort in your sorrow...##imported-begin##Kathy & Bob Soares##imported-end##

May 06, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Mrs. O'Brien, Erin, and the entire O'Brien family,

I am so very sorry for your loss of Nora. What a wonderful, kind, and beautiful person she was. It was an honor and a pleasure to know Nora throughout high school and beyond. She will truly be missed by all.

Sincerely,

Keith Lysak NWC Class of 1981##imported-begin##*Keith Lysak*##imported-end##

May 06, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Erin, Dan and entire O'Brien family,

We were so sad to hear about the loss of Nora. Please know our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family at this very sad time.##imported-begin##*Terri and Stan Zyskowski*##imported-end##

May 05, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ To Nora's family--Just having met Dan in Haiti in 2007 it was clear that he must come from a big loving family. May you be even tighter in your loss.

##imported-begin##*Eileen Arlinghaus*##imported-end##

May 05, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Our condolences to the O'Brien Family - we are so sorry for your loss. Dan; we have fond memories hanging out with your amazing family, and remember Nora as a kind, intelligent and fun person to be with. Our thoughts are with you all as you go through this incredibly sad and difficult time.

With love,

Gianna & Rob##imported-begin##Gianna & Robert Bergman##imported-end##

May 05, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Ginny & Family

I was shocked and deeply saddened to hear of Nora's passing. She touched so many people and I thought the world of her. Although she is at God's side, I cannot help but believe the world is not a better place with her loss - she will be greatly missed. Ginny, as a parent I cannot begin to feel your grief. My sincere condolences.##imported-begin##Dean Lang##imported-end##

May 04, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Ginny and children, I am heart broken with you in the loss of Nora. I remember giving her and Erin baths and reading them bed time stories. She was a sweet little girl who became a shining star you can all be proud of. May God's love and your love for each other give you strength during this sorrowful time. Love,
Collie Colwell Gardner##imported-begin##Colette C. Gardner##imported-end##

May 04, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ To Erin and all the O'Brien clan:
I was shocked and saddened to hear of Nora's untimely and sudden death. I have fond memories of playing basketball at Northwest with the girls and the fun we had growing up in the neighborhood together. Nora was a special person with an infectious laugh and always a story to tell. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.##imported-begin##Patty Lynch Fagan##imported-end##

May 04, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Nora was a delight, she will be deeply missed. I am honored to have met her thru my son Jeff. God bless and grant peace to her family.##imported-begin##Carol L Sherwood##imported-end##

May 04, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear O'Brien Family,
I am so sorry for your loss of a cherished family member. I remember going to Northwest Catholic High School with the beautiful O'Brien family. I graduated in 1975, and the school was so personal that I felt like I knew all of your family in the school. I am so saddened by her death at such young age, it just seems too soon. My brother, Art Landry, graduated in 1978. I will be forever grateful for what you did to save my brother, Jim Landry's life after the car accident in front of your house. I will always feel a connection and thankfulness to your family and I am so sorry for the pain and grief you are feeling. I will light a candle for Nora at church.##imported-begin##Jody Landry Ziskind##imported-end##

May 04, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ To the members of the O'Brien family,

On behalf of Ron Shusett and the entire Shusett Family I would like to express our sadness at the loss of Nora. Ron is the writer/producer of Alien, Total Recall, and Minority Report among other movies. In all his years in the business, Ron has never met a nicer or more committed person than Nora and he wants you to know that he will miss her and her smile very much.

As a fellow Jesuit product, she was amazed that I knew her last class in economics at BC was spent at the blackjack table.

There's an old Irish saying that you know when an angel has left you, because they've left a piece of heaven behind.

Our condolences to the family of our dear friend.##imported-begin##Edward Andrzejczyk##imported-end##

May 04, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Ginny,

As neighbors and parents we sense your pain at Nora's passing. At times like this it is difficult to find meaningful, comforting words. Please accept our sympathies.

Bill and Phyllis Glater##imported-begin##Glater##imported-end##

May 04, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear O'Brien's,

It was with great sadness that I learned of the passing of such a young member of your family.

I have had the pleasure of working with Dan for many years and know the importance of family to him and have seen the kind and caring nature inherent in all of you.

My thoughts and prayers are with you.

Paul##imported-begin##Paul Bicknell##imported-end##

May 04, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Ginny,

Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family at this sad time.

Jim and Julie Casey##imported-begin##Jim and Julie Casey##imported-end##

May 04, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ I met Nora on the set of the show *Parenthood*. It is rare on a show such as this for studio execs to strike up friendships with the crew, but Nora was different. She was funny, smart, lively, and always had a smile on her face. She introduced herself to me and upon realizing that we were both from West Hartford, we went back and forth seeing who could dig deeper into our childhood experiences and what we remembered. I will always smile at the happiness it brought both of us to bring back those memories.

Nora was a truly special individual who's presence is truly missed. My condolences to all her family and friends on the loss of so special a soul.##imported-begin##Dave Chameides##imported-end##

May 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ O'Brien Family-
I am deeply saddened by the passing of Nora. You have such a wonderful family, and Nora was such an integral part. Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this extremely challenging time.

Sincerely,
Steve and Aida Sorkin##imported-begin##Steve Sorkin##imported-end##

May 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ To Carey and the entire O'Brien family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. Carey you have told many fun stories about your times with your sisters, especially Nora. Although I only met her a few times I could tell what an incredible person she was.

Thinking of you,
Maureen McGlynn Tricozzi and the rest of the family##imported-begin##Maureen Tricozzi##imported-end##

May 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ The world has lost a wonderful, caring woman and we share in your grief. It will always be our joy that we were privileged to spend last Sunday on the set of Parenthood in Mill Valley with Nora.##imported-begin##Roz & Al Lawson##imported-end##

May 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ To the entire family of Nora:
I was shocked and deeply saddened to learn of Nora's passing. You are in my thoughts and prayers.##imported-begin##Holly O'Brien Stauber##imported-end##

May 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ My deepest sympathy goes out to the entire O'Brien clan. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you during this time of sadness. Love and blessings to all of you!##imported-begin##Margaret Turcotte Bartlett##imported-end##

May 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Carey:

While I didn't have the pleasure of knowing Nora, I do have the pleasure of knowing you and of the incredibly tight and wonderful family you are a part of. Sometimes unfathomable things happen and this is on of those times. Please know that you are surrounded by so much love and so many prayers.##imported-begin##Penny Briganti##imported-end##

May 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM