

Funeral Services for Brittney Nichole Fuelling, 7, of Aurora, will be held at 1 p.m. Friday at Zion Lutheran Church of Naperville. The Rev. Dean Gruenke will officiate. Born July 27, 1989, in Aurora, the daughter of Fred and Sherry (Stanley) Fuelling, Brittney entered heaven on Tuesday, March 25, 1997, at Central DuPage Hospital, Pediatric Care Unit. Interment will be in Zion Lutheran Cemetery. Although Brittney was born with microcephaly, cerebral palsy and epilepsy, she brought joy to everyone around her. The progress she made during her stay in this world taught those who knew her much about perseverance and courage. She was a tenacious and delightful little girl who inspired everyone around her to live to the fullest. She will be missed. Brittney attended Easter Seals for her first 3 years, after which she was enrolled in Hope D. Wall School in Aurora, where she attended for the next two years. At that time Brittney's family received respite services from the Association for Individual Development and D.O.R.S. At age 5, Brittney's medical needs required that she reside at the Marklund Children's Home in Bloomingdale. There she received daily care from her mother and the staff until her passing. She was a member of Zion Lutheran Church of Naperville. Survivors include her parents; brother, Fred Fuelling Jr. of Aurora; maternal grandfather, Steven Stanley of Sheridan; maternal grandmother, Juanita Brinda of Henderson, Nev.; paternal grandmother, Edna Fuelling of Oswego; maternal great-grandfather, David Stanley of Lexington, Ky.; paternal great-grandparents, Louis and Bernice Fuelling of Meredosia, Ill.; uncles John (Tammy) Stanley of Oswego, Steve "Bud" Stanley of Aurora, John Brinda of Washington state, Brian Stanley of Sheridan, Delbert L. Fuelling Jr. of Bloomington, Robert Fuelling of Montgomery, and Roy Fuelling of Oswego; aunts Margaret Brinda of Washington state, Alice Brinda of Aurora, and Debra Fuelling of Oswego; and several cousins, great-aunts and great-uncles. She was preceded in death by her paternal grandfathers, Delbert "Del" Fuelling Sr. and Gregory Brinda; maternal great-grandfather, Lester Lanham; maternal great-grandmothers, Bertha Bush and Rose Stanley; and paternal great-grandparents, Herbert and Elva Edwards. The family would like to thank the following: L. S. Eckberg, M.D., Brittney's pediatrician, who not only addressed medical needs but also directed the family to the necessary channels for Brittney's overall care; Dorothy Kline, a parent infant educator from the Association for Individual Development, for helping the family learn to care for Brittney; Jane Malick, Brittney's teacher at Hope D. Wall, for seeing beyond Brittney's disability to the wonderful little girl she was; Juanita Reid, Brittney's in-home health-care provider, for providing necessary respite care and generally helping with Brittney; Virginia Hayward, Brittney's Qualified Mental Health Professional at Marklund, for challenging Brittney to achieve so many goals and for the love and support she showed the family; the staff at the Division of Specialized Care for Children, for providing the financial, medical and technical assistance that increased Brittney's overall quality of life; Lori Barrett, for watching over Brittney during her life and for being with her and the family when Brittney passed away. Contributions may be made in Brittney's memory to the family. For information, (630) 897-1196.

Source: The Daily Herald - Thursday, March 27, 1997