

Philip's Story



Sarah and I were filled with the ordinary hopes that come with expecting a child. When we learned that our son Journi had died during the second trimester, those hopes were suddenly replaced by grief, shock, and uncertainty.

We were mourning our son, but at the same time we were being confronted with questions we had never expected to face. What would happen to Journi? Could we arrange a burial? Was there a place where he could be laid to rest with dignity?

We did not know what respectful options were available to us or who we were supposed to ask. We were not looking at a case or a sample. We were looking at our son.

As his father, I felt a deep need to protect him and to make sure he was treated with love and reverence.

Sarah and I began searching for answers, but much of what we found depended on chance, timing, and reaching the right person.

With the help of Father Sean Flynn, we began to understand that there were ways for Journi to be cared for respectfully. We were directed to St. Francis Xavier Cemetery in Cobble Hill, British Columbia, where arrangements could be made for him to be laid to rest.



I made a small casket for my son. Sarah made a pillow for him. Those were simple things, but they mattered deeply to us. They were part of being his parents and honouring him as our child.

Journi was laid to rest with prayer, reverence, and the recognition that mattered most to us: he was our son. Being able to bury him did not take away our grief, but it allowed us to say goodbye in a way that reflected our love for him and our beliefs.

That experience left a lasting impression on me. No grieving family should have to wonder whether their child can be treated with dignity, or whether respectful burial, memorial, or spiritual options even exist.

That is why I support the Journi May Dignity Initiative. The goal is not to tell every family what choice to make. The goal is to ensure that families are given clear information, compassionate support, and the opportunity to make their own informed choices.

“To us, he wasn’t just some hospital sample or medical case. We were simply looking at our sweet son.”

— Phillip