

## LOCAL NEWS

## Glenbard West grad dedicated life to helping others

Andrew Garwood of Glen Ellyn battled brain cancer

By ERIC SCHELKOPF - [eschelkopf@shawmedia.com](mailto:eschelkopf@shawmedia.com)

Feb. 5, 2016

GLEN ELLYN – Andrew Garwood dedicated his life to helping other people, even as he was battling brain cancer.

Garwood, a Glen Ellyn resident and 2011 graduate of Glenbard West High School, died in January after a 16-month battle with brain cancer. He was 22.

In 2015, he was the honorary representative in the Penn State IFC/Panhellenic Dance Marathon, known as THON, a 46-hour no-sitting, no-sleeping marathon to raise funds and awareness for the fight against pediatric cancer. Garwood, a senior at Penn State, was the president of the Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity at the college.

Garwood wanted to participate in the event despite the possible risks to his own health.

“We didn’t discourage him, but we had conversations about how that might affect his health,” said his mother, Terri Garwood. “At the time, he was doing well, and his dad said to him, ‘What if you do this and it comes back?’ And he said, ‘What if I don’t do it and it comes back?’ He said that if these kids can go through what they can go through, he could do this... We expressed our concerns, but supported him in his choice.”

Steve Garwood said his son was dedicated to the cause, a cause he supported even before he was diagnosed with brain cancer.

“He was involved since he was a freshman,” Steve said. “He thought it was a worthwhile cause to help eradicate pediatric cancer, as many pediatric cancer forms that there are. It was just ironic that he had his own battle [with cancer] at the same time. It was something that was really near and dear to his heart.”

Andrew Garwood was diagnosed with brain cancer in fall 2014. But Steve said his son continued to live his life on his own terms even after the diagnosis.

“He was telling people that he would beat this thing,” he said. “That was his attitude. He never wavered in terms of his personality or his mood after his diagnosis. Other than being upset initially, he never complained or said, ‘Why me?’ or anything like that. He just took it head on.”

---

How to help

To make a contribution to THON, go to [donate.thon.org](http://donate.thon.org).

