



“In Memory of Ray”

It was an unexpected phone call from my friend Debra. She had gotten her children together (Brandon, Lisa, Ray, and Nicholas) a few months earlier for a family photo at the beach to be printed and framed as a birthday present for her mother to update the family portrait taken eight years prior. Last March, I got the unexpected call.

Ray, her 15-year-old son, had died in a motorcycle accident. Debra was collecting photos to display at the funeral service and needed a big print of the family portrait I had recently taken.

Debra did an amazing job compiling photos of Ray for the display and slideshow presentation at Grace Lutheran Church in Huntington Beach. It was a celebration of Ray's life in pictures and music. They chose their favorite pictures of Ray growing up and his favorite music to accompany the pictures. The service was emotional and the church was filled with family and friends.

Ray loved his family and they loved him. Ray also loved his motorcycle and riding with his brother and friends. Ray started racing dirt bikes when he was about six years old and loved riding more than any other sport. His brother Brandon said that Ray was considered an “expert rider with a lot of experience.” He described his brother as outgoing, fun loving, and having a passion for the sport. Now the family is working to create a founda-

tion in Ray's honor.

The non-profit foundation will be called Ray's Foundation. The website is www.raysfoundation.com. The primary goal of the foundation is safety awareness for motorcycle and dirtbike riders. They would like to raise money to put signs out in Glamis to urge people to ride with caution. They would also like to have fliers available for people coming to ride in the Glamis area that stress rider safety - be careful, never ride alone and always wear a helmet. The ultimate goal is to save lives. Having the foundation and website in Ray's honor will hopefully allow people to learn more about rider safety and increase awareness in the community while enjoying their time spent riding. Debra was comforted by knowing she was able to get her children together for this special family portrait. She will always have these photographs to cherish. **HB**

Sloan Gallipeo is the award-winning owner of Summer Photography. Her studio is located at 12666 Hoover Street in the Garden Grove Business Park. She works by appointment only, so you never feel rushed. Sloan specializes in studio portrait work, product shoots and commercial work for businesses looking to update their websites or advertising. Sloan lives in Huntington Beach with her husband. They enjoy traveling, training for marathons, and volunteering in the community. Sloan can be reached at 714-330-3772

