

This summer my aunt Esther Parrish passed away from breast cancer after a two year battle. My aunt passed away on her own terms. She communicated that she wanted to go home to heaven with a magnetic dry erase board in the hospital where she spelled letters out being too weak to talk. She spelt out that she wanted to go home and my cousin, her daughter, asked if she meant home to her house and my aunt pointed to the hospital ceiling, meaning home to heaven. My aunt's passing took an especially heavy toll on me because during her sickness I found it hard to be around her because I did not like seeing her so weak when all my life she was so strong. I remember being so excited on the holidays because my aunt would make the family's favorite foods like, oreo delight, fried chicken, and apple pie. I will forever miss my aunt just because of her personality and the love she had for our family. My aunt knew how much I adored the band One Direction so she brought me their sixty dollar perfume the christmas it was released. Three days before my aunt died I made her a video of me telling her how much she was loved. In the video I reminded her of my favorite things about her like how she sings with the family and about the trip we took to Virginia by train to go see our family. I remember planning to go to Niagra falls with my aunt and saying we were going to go this winter. The most important and touching thing I remember saying to my aunt in the video was that it was okay to let go and let God hold her, meaning if she could not fight anymore then she is even more brave letting God take control. When I got the news that my Aunt died I felt a mix of emotions but for the first days after the news I remember not being able to cry. had the video shown to her in the hospital and three days later she passed. I feel like that video gave me peace because I wanted her to know that I loved her and did not want her to feel like I was being distant towards her because while she was dying I found it hard to be around her. I just miss my aunt so much and I still can not accept the fact that she is gone, it does not seem real. My Aunt was the person I went to when I had problems with any other person. My sugar skull represents my aunt because the red is a sign of courage and strength for the braveness in her personality and the love she had for our family. The blue represents the calmness my aunt made me feel when I brought my problems to her because she had a remedy for many solutions. My aunt was the go to person for advice and I chose purple as a significant color on my mask because I consider my aunt royalty, she is and was a queen. My aunt was the rock of the family, she always was the go to person in the family because she had a remedy for any of our problems. I will never allow people to treat me any kind of way just because my aunt instilled into me that I should not let people take advantage of my kindness, another important part of me that my aunt instilled was to value my family and to respect my family because family is all that I have. I choose to have my Aunt Esther represent my sugar skull because she is the first and closest death I have ever had in my family. My aunt meant the world to me and it breaks my heart a little more every single day knowing I will never have her on earth with me physically. On my skull I used colors to represent my Aunt, the red is for her fierce personality with how she was unmistakably frank, blunt and outspoken. The blue represents her love for cooking meals and desserts ,and the gold sparkles on top of my skull head leading to the pretty blue flower represents my aunts magic singing voice and her love for jesus. The flower also represents a church hat because my aunt loved the lord and believed in the power of prayer. The blue and pink eyeballs with the spikes represent my how my aunt saw the world exactly for what it was, she did not sugar coat anything and she was the sweetest blunt person I have ever known. This project brought me so many memories to cherish and it makes me miss my Aunt Esther even more. "Día de los Muertos" has opened my eyes to celebrating the transition from life to death of my aunt because instead of being sad each time I think of her I

smile because of all the time we have had together. I could go on and on about my love for my aunt and the memories but instead I'll keep some to myself and love her and know she is watching over me.

Video Link: [My Eulogy Video](#)

Hello I am Kierra Hailey, Esther Parish's niece. I am my Aunt's second youngest niece. My aunt was born april 16th ( year). My aunt grew up in philadelphia and she was the second youngest child of six siblings. My aunt was an outspoken, beautiful, and caring woman of God. My aunt was the a responsible woman who would do any and everything for her loved ones. While writing this, in spanish class, it's helping me reflect on how good this project made me feel. I feel relieved almost because this project.

Hola yo estoy Kierra Lydia Hailey, Esther Parrish's sobrina. Fui soy mi tia segundo más joven sobrina. Mi tia nacio abril diez y seis. mi tia creció en philadelphia y ella era la niña segundo más joven de seis hermanos. Mi tía era franca, bella y cariñosa joven de Dios. Mi tía era la mujer responsable que haría cualquier cosa por sus seres queridos. Al escribo esto, en la clase de espanol, su ayudarme a reflexionar sobre lo bueno que este proyecto me hizo sentir. Me siento aliviado casi porque de este proyecto.



Pictures of skull and mask:

