

## **Our Guardian Angel**

poem and prose by Elizabeth Moore

Sweet Sally

Radiant, goofy, selfless, scholar.

Creative, unique, kid-friendly.

Lover of: bike rides, travel, and picnics.

She felt a love for her peers and for artwork.

She needs her legacy remembered and her memory kept alive.

She feared environmental destruction.

She gave hugs, smiles, inspiration.

She would've liked to make the world a better place.

Resident of heaven.

Belongs to the Carolina blue skies.

Sally Sasz.

## **Riding into Heaven**

I chose to write my second biopoem on a friend of mine that recently passed away. This past week, I received the news about Sally's passing. It seemed unreal to me because she was so incredibly full of life. Sally Sasz is extremely easy to write about, as she humbly inspired everyone she met. Prior to writing my bio poem, I spent time looking at old pictures and posts about Sally. This piece is special to me and different from others, as I wrote it throughout my grieving process.

Sally was radiant and she had a smile that could light up a room. She was also extremely goofy, always making jokes and doing silly dances to cheer others up. Sally looked out for others first and foremost. She was always offering an extra hand to a friend in need. Not only was she an amazing person who wanted to change the world, but she was also a genius with an inquisitive mind. She was a Morehead Cain Scholar at UNC Chapel Hill, but never boasted about it. Sally Sasz was the type of girl that everyone knew. Whether it was from a personal interaction or from seeing her on her daily bike ride down Franklin Street in a sundress, she was known. She was extremely passionate about art, traveling the globe, and giving back to the community. In the Fall of 2019, Sally studied abroad in Sevilla, Spain where she continued her studies of Art History while also traveling around Europe.

Upon writing this bio poem, I did some specific research about Sally's many internships and art pieces she did while at UNC. I discovered that while Sally lived in New York last summer, she worked with over 15 public schools in New York City to create large scale murals for the sides of school buildings. She also designed curriculums and lesson plans to teach art history at local public schools in Chapel Hill. Sally was a big advocate for saving the environment and she rode her bike everywhere around Chapel Hill. She also worked with local farmers around Chapel Hill to pick up fresh produce for The Sonder Market. This organization, with Sally's help, distributed fresh produce directly on campus. She was involved with so much that it would seem overwhelming to a bystander, but not to her. Sally wanted to help anyone she could with her talents and was always delighted to meet a new friend or mentor.

All of these accolades are extremely impressive, but Sally never boasted about her involvement or recognitions. Instead, she sought to love on her peers and spread happiness to all that she touched throughout her short life. I have no doubt that Sally would have gone on to make the world a better place in many, many ways. Her life was cut incredibly short, but her legacy will live on. May we all be more like sweet Sally, live life to the fullest, and love on our neighbors. Life is short.