



## Nadia Al-Mutairi

June 27, 1982 - February 5, 2025

“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.”--Colossians 2:6-7

Nadia Almutari was promoted to glory on February 5, 2025. Nadia spent her entire life surrounded by communities that radiated love – and the greatest expression of that love is her beloved son, Amir Aguilar.

Nadia’s earthly pilgrimage began on June 27th, 1982, in Geneva, Illinois. She was tenderly welcomed into this world by her mother’s large Chicago Irish Catholic family, who showered their first grandchild with affection and enduring love from her very first breath. When her mother, Chris Burke, first held Nadia, she marveled at Nadia’s lovely black hair and deep purple eyes. Amir was also born with a full head of shiny black hair, and Nadia and Amir both learned to talk early (and a lot!).

Nadia was raised in Macomb, Illinois. There, she forged an unbreakable bond with the people and land. She described her childhood and adolescence as “endless fun”, and she proudly sported orange and black as a Macomb High School varsity athlete in basketball, tennis, and track and field. Nadia especially adored her basketball teammates, The 309 Girls, and said that her graduating class was uncommonly close. Her other fond memories of

Macomb included working at Dairy Queen, perfecting her dip cone technique by mastering the art of the curly cue and ensuring accurate weight; selling (or not selling!) Girl Scout cookies; and just driving around with friends, bored and looking for something to do. Despite that her only agricultural experience was a summer job detasseling corn, Nadia also spoke authoritatively on the superiority of the local crop, disputing reports that Iowa's corn production exceeded that of Illinois. Even after permanently settling in Chicago as an adult, and after trips to Macomb became less and less frequent, Nadia remained a "Macombie Homie." The close-knit rural upbringing that she cherished was a model for the wonderful life that she later built with Amir.

Nadia had a fast mind and inquisitive spirit to match her athletic prowess. She left Macomb to study philosophy at DePaul University, where she developed a special affection for Kant. Now based in Chicago, she again nurtured relationships that would last to the very end. After college, she followed in her mother's footsteps, choosing a career in special education. Nadia was known as a fierce and fearless advocate for students with disabilities, ensuring that her pupils had access to the excellent education, enriching activities, and extraordinary support network that every child deserves.

Nadia's greatest journey was motherhood. She found her counterpart in Amir, whose mind and mouth matched her own. Her love for him was all-consuming and boundless. To make certain that his academic career leads to the prestigious college that he desires to attend, Nadia presciently secured employment as a Special Education Classroom Assistant (SECA) at the nationally ranked high school where Amir is currently enrolled. Nadia and Amir often ate lunch together during the school year, discussing everything from the consolidation of the German state after Franco-Prussian War, Japanese labor law, the Roman legion's maneuvers against the Germanic tribes, the virtues of Dolly Parton, corn v. soybeans, and J.R.R. Tolkien's oeuvre. No topic was too grand or trivial. Other treasured memories include trips to Alaska's interior and

California, visiting Nadia's endlessly funny friends, and the never-ending quest to find the one sock that mysteriously slipped off Amir's foot at some point during the day.

Nadia happily raised Amir, now 16, with her longtime partner, Rafael "Ralf" Reyes, Jr. Ralf was her best friend and Amir's father in every way that mattered. Nadia and Ralf enjoyed taking scenic road trips, going to their regular dining haunts, and listening to live music.

Nadia was nurturing, intelligent, kind, beautiful, and stoic. She considered herself a servant, committed to providing all of her students an accommodating, validating, and exhilarating education. She loved to cook, bake, talk about obscure topics, and would gladly provide counsel to anyone who asked (or didn't!).

Nadia has been reunited with her beloved grandfather, "Grumpy," her grandmother, "Granny," as well as her uncle, Billy Burke. Granny was the source of Nadia's belief in God and the mysteries of faith, the gentle force that was the blueprint for the maternal grace and quiet spiritual power that Nadia exuded.

Nadia is survived by her son, the joy of her life, Amir Aguilar; her unwavering and devoted mother, Chris Burke; her loving sister and best friend, Amira, and Amira's supportive husband Khlaf and their children, her adored nephews Rakan and Nayef; her cherished brothers, Faisal and Zee; numerous treasured aunts and uncles; many dear cousins; her lifelong sisters from another mother Candy and Jenny Crabill; her devoted partner Ralf and his kind-hearted and bright children, Ivelisse and Fabian, and Ralf's sweet grandchild DJ; Fayeze; countless devoted and loving friends, and her gentle and wise feline companion, Gertrude.

Nadia's life was a gift to all who knew her. Though she is gone, her love remains-woven into the lives she touched, the students she fought for, and the son she adored. She is not lost to us; she is everywhere. In every song that plays on a road trip, in every lively debate among friends, in every lesson taught with passion, and in every quiet act of kindness.

She lives on.

Services will be held at Schielka Addison Street Funeral Home, at 7710 W. Addison Street, Chicago, IL 60634, on Saturday February 15th, 2025, from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

There will be a second memorial in Macomb, Illinois, in June 2025, during Heritage Days. The family will send out details as the event date gets closer.

In lieu of other expressions of sympathy, please consider donating to a fund to achieve Nadia and Amir's wish for him to pursue higher education.

Contributions can be made at

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/education-fund-for-nadia-almutairis-surviving-son-amir>

by searching

“Education fund for Nadia Almutairi’s surviving son, Amir” on GoFundMe.com

For those who are unable to donate, please consider sharing a story and/or picture of Nadia so that Amir is provided more opportunities to learn about his mother and her mighty love.

“Life is eternal; and love is immortal; and death is only a horizon; and a

horizon is nothing save the limit of our sight.”

-Rossiter W. Raymond

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB **15**. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Schielka Addison Street Funeral Home  
7710 West Addison Street  
Chicago, IL 60634  
(773) 625-3444

# Tribute Wall

TB

“ I worked alongside Nadia at Lane Tech. She was a fierce advocate for her students to receive equitable education and went above and beyond to meet her student's needs. Nadia has touched the lives of so many of our students. She will be greatly missed.

Tara Bortolon - February 15, 2025 at 06:29 PM

SR

“ Nadia attended DePaul with my sister-in-law Savon. She was such a beautiful person with a bright personality. Nadia lit up any space she was in. She became a part of the Robinson family. We love you and will miss you beautiful 🙏🕊️

Shanteyl Robinson - February 15, 2025 at 12:38 PM

AJ

“ I met Nadia through my Auntie Michelle, and got Nadia as an added Auntie. She was always so sweet and encouraging to me. She will be missed 💕💕.

Alexis Johnson - February 14, 2025 at 10:35 PM

JS

“ Our memory is of stroller days, happy days in Macomb in our Jamestown townhouses. Swimming in the pool in the summer, sledding down the hill in the winter, Halloween door to door trick or treating, front yard picnics, and more. Nadia, Amira and my daughter Jenna played together almost every day. Our families grew up together and were friends from stroller days to school days. Macomb was a good place to raise kids.



Nadia was full of spirit, quick witted, funny, smart, compassionate, kind and thoughtful. She was dependable and a big help to her Mom, even at an early age. She enjoyed making friendships with everyone no matter how old or young, and everyone loved her. We had so much fun enjoying those early years together, and we are so proud of the lovely young woman that she grew up to be. She will always be with us in our hearts.

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Joanne Schaaf - February 14, 2025 at 05:40 PM

EB

“ She would always come over to visit auntie Savon when we lived on King Drive. She had a beautiful spirit



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Erick Bradley - February 14, 2025 at 04:26 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Nadia Al-Mutairi.



February 14, 2025 at 11:43 AM



“ Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Nadia Al-Mutairi.



February 14, 2025 at 10:38 AM



“ Katherine P. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Nadia Al-Mutairi.

Katherine P. - February 13, 2025 at 06:15 PM

RI

“ Nadia was a very special friend and sister to me💖🙏 At a time when i truly needed support Nadia was always there❤️ I never felt alone🙏❤️🕊️ Nadia prayed for my family❤️ I will forever be grateful for our friendship💖 Our memories together from dancing to crying to laughing will always be cherished❤️#Girls just want to have fun❤️❤️ how the song goes.. like you said❤️🕊️ Nadia's radiant beautiful smile and genuine soul will forever be in my heart❤️🕊️ I love you Nadia my sister at heart you will truly be missed😭💔 Sending my love and deepest sympathy to Rafael, Amir & family🙏❤️🕊️ your family is in my thoughts and prayers🙏❤️ Love, Rita and girls❤️



Rita - February 13, 2025 at 04:31 PM

AA

Thank you for the beautiful tribute, Rita.  
I love you ❤️

Amira Al-Mutairi - February 15, 2025 at 09:27 AM

CZ

“ Charles Katrina Sarina Zachery purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Nadia Al-Mutairi.



Charles Katrina Sarina Zachery - February 13, 2025 at 02:03 PM

CJ

“ As Savon's Aunt, I am heartbroken. The "girls" Nadia, Amira and Savon were a big part of my life while they attended DePaul. I will always cherish Nadia's beautiful smile and kind heart. It was my pleasure to watch them grow from college freshman to amazing, strong young women and Mothers. Always kind and respectful, it was easy to welcome her into my life as a bonus niece. Godspeed sweet Nadia, we will always be your village.

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**Carol Johnson** - February 13, 2025 at 01:08 PM

NF

“ Nudd and family purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Nadia Al-Mutairi.



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**Nudd and family** - February 13, 2025 at 12:05 PM

NF

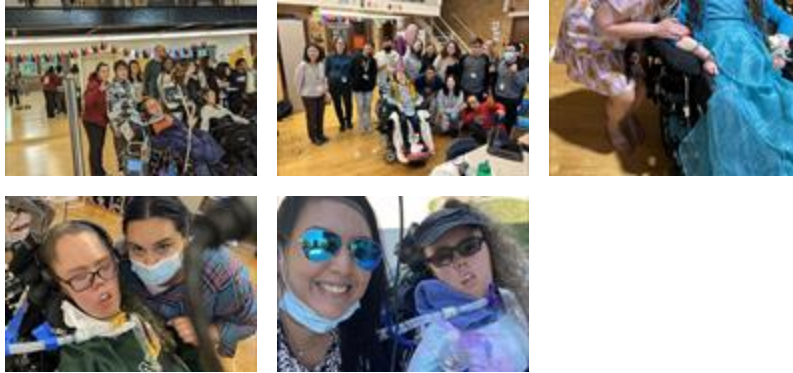
“ Nudd and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Nadia Al-Mutairi.

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**Nudd and family** - February 13, 2025 at 12:05 PM

TK

“ *Nadia is one of the most amazing woman I have met in my entire life, truly caring and advocating for my daughter Ally as her 1:1 aide at Lane for 4.5 years. She will always be remembered and we will focus and talk about all the special memories she made possible for Ally. Through pics shared, I'd love people to see what an amazing person Nadia will always be on earth and now in heaven! (((Hugs)))*



Tina Krajewski - February 12, 2025 at 07:02 PM

AA

*Thank you so much for sharing these pics Tina. Ally is one of the first people I thought of after receiving the bad news. I had just driven Nadia to your house to drop something off for Ally a couple months ago and she had been talking about Ally's bday party. Nadia loves Ally so much . Peace and love , Amira (Nadia's sister )*

Amira Al-Mutairi - February 15, 2025 at 09:18 AM

SA

“ *My sincere sympathy and please know that Nadia and the family are in my prayers.*

Sister M. Alberta - February 12, 2025 at 05:32 PM

JM

“ *Jill and Mal purchased the Days of Sunshine Bouquet for the family of Nadia Al-Mutairi.*



Jill and Mal - February 12, 2025 at 02:33 PM

M(

“ *Mrs. Watson (Canty) purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Nadia Al-Mutairi.*



Mrs. Watson (Canty) - February 12, 2025 at 08:15 AM

DB

“ *In loving memory for a life well lived ,I met Nadia through my sister (Savon) and when I say full of life she truly embodied that. I pray the love for the lost is forever carried in your memory 🙏 Allen & Dreina Battle*

Dreina Battle - February 11, 2025 at 06:34 PM

CB

*Dear Dreani, Nadia considered herself a Robinson! She loved your family and your family reunions!*

Chris Burke - February 12, 2025 at 04:31 PM

S(

“ I was blessed to have so many memories of and with Nadia. But, in our sister circle, we keep a tight ship. Wherever I was, she made her way to be with me. Whether I was living in Vegas or the southside of Chicago, she was there. You will always be a special part of our family! Love you for life my sweet sister. Thank you for showing me love and how to transcend friendship.



Savon Garrett (Robinson) - February 11, 2025 at 01:10 PM

MA

Peace, love, sympathy and strength to Nadia's family and friends.

Mary Alexander - February 15, 2025 at 01:54 PM

E1

“ Electricians IBEW Local 134 purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Nadia Al-Mutairi.



Electricians IBEW Local 134 - February 11, 2025 at 01:02 PM

EC

“ I met Nadia in the middle of the night in Bahrain airport! Nadia, Amira and Chris were on their way back to the USA. Nadia was nearly 4 years old. She was so chatty and spirited. Nadia shall be missed by many. With love Elspeth

Elspeth Connatty - February 11, 2025 at 10:47 AM

TC

“ Tom & Pattie Cook purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Nadia Al-Mutairi.



Tom & Pattie Cook - February 11, 2025 at 07:43 AM

TF

“ The Grant family purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Nadia Al-Mutairi.



The Grant family - February 10, 2025 at 09:50 PM

TF

“ The Grant family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Nadia Al-Mutairi.

The Grant family - February 10, 2025 at 09:50 PM

AM

“ I love you big sissy

amira - February 10, 2025 at 08:48 PM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Nadia Al-Mutairi.



February 10, 2025 at 08:36 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Nadia Al-Mutairi.

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February 10, 2025 at 08:36 PM