SPRINGFIELD, Mo. — James W. Dykes, 25, died Jan. 15 after battling Friedreich’s Ataxia for several years. He was born Dec. 12, 1980, in McKinney, Texas, the son of Ron and Bettie Dykes. He graduated from Chanute Christian Academy, Chanute, in May 1999. He graduated from OTC in 2002 and achieved one of his lifelong goals of graduating from MSU in the spring of 2005. Following graduation, he remained active with Campus Crusade for Christ, and was a Bible study leader at the “Potter’s House.” He was actively involved with James River Assembly of God Church for over five years. He was employed by the “Dixie Stampede Family” for five seasons, where he was honored as Cast Member of the Year in 2002. In the Fall of 2002, he was the recipient of the MDA Greater Ozarks Personal Achievement Award. Survivors include his parents, Ron and Bettie Dykes; one brother, Jason Dykes of Greenfield, Mo.; one sister, Shona Crays of Humboldt; one nephew, Devin of Humboldt; two nieces, Crystal and Rachel of Humboldt; grandparents, Everett and Margaret Dykes of Great Bend; and grandmother, Wilma Marsh-Hutchings of Kansas City. He was preceded in death by one sister, Ronna; grandfather, Carl Marsh; and uncle, Randy Dykes. Funeral will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday at James River Assembly of God Church. Burial will be at 4 p.m. at Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens in Kansas City. Visitation will be today from 6 to 8 p.m. at Thieme-Shadel Funeral Service at Rivermonte in Springfield, Mo. Memorials are suggested to the James W. Dykes Scholarship Fund at MSU, in care of the funeral home. Great Bend (Kan.)

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