

#8 GARRETT FINNERTY

The 2009 Majors All Star Game is dedicated to the ALL STAR spirit of Garrett Finnerty. The Arlington Heights Youth Athletic Association along with its players, coaches and staff are deeply saddened by the tragic loss of this young man.

Garrett played baseball since Pee Wee both regular season and second season. He truly was an All Star, as he exemplified the spirit of the game, in his effort, enthusiasm, and commitment. His character mattered, his willingness to try never wavered, and his team won more than a game with him as a teammate.

This is the spirit we honor. A true baseball enthusiast with a genuine love of the game, we are proud to keep his spirit and join together as a community to embrace the memory he bestowed on everyone who met him, and smile at the stories told about his baseball experiences. The Patch Store has donated memorial patches with Garrett's initials and uniform number for all Majors players and coaches to wear for the rest of the season. Special patches have been obtained for the Rangers, who feel the loss of Garrett the most.

Garrett is survived by his sister Bridget (12) and Pierce (6) who can also be considered All Star fans by the number of games they attended. Pierce has requested to continue to be the bat boy for the Rangers as a further testimony of the spirit they all contributed to the game.

The AHYAA has created the Garrett Finnerty Sportsmanship Spirit Award, which will be given to a player in the Majors League every year that shows the same enthusiasm, sportsmanship, and love for the game. The first award will be presented at the All Star Game.

A fund has been set up to benefit Bridget and Pierce. Donations can be made to "Jennifer Murphy, Guardian of the Finnerty Children" and mailed to Village Bank and Trust, 311 S. Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, Il 60005.

Garrett in all the years never cared what bat, glove, or bag he carried, he only wanted to be part of the team, and this makes him a true All Star. The All Star games for the Majors Leagues are scheduled to be played at Melas Park on Saturday, June 13th at 7:30PM.