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**'Life is a gift from God. And he knew that life was worth fighting for.'**

— The Rev. Michael Cicinato at the funeral for Jack Ready

## Jack Ready's life short but full of spirit

Three-year-old united community during his struggle with a rare form of brain cancer; more than 700 turn out to pay their respects at SLO service

BY RYAN HUFF  
THE TRIBUNE

More than 700 people came to Jack Ready's funeral Friday to hear inspirational stories about a 3-year-old boy with a roaring laugh who lived much longer than doctors ever anticipated.

The San Luis Obispo boy died Monday afternoon after battling a rare form of brain cancer.

When doctors discovered a large tumor in September 2001, they pegged the 3-month-old baby's chance of survival at 5 percent at best. But after doctors removed 80 percent of the tumor, Jack lived on — experiencing three Christmases, enjoying his Elmo TV shows, listening to his favorite John Lennon songs and taking a trip to Paris.

"Life is a gift from God. And he knew that life was worth fighting for," said the Rev. Michael Cicinato, who led the funeral.

Life wasn't easy for Jack. He spent several months at Lucile

Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford for brain surgery, chemotherapy and radiotherapy. The doctors were amazed at how he beat the odds many times over.

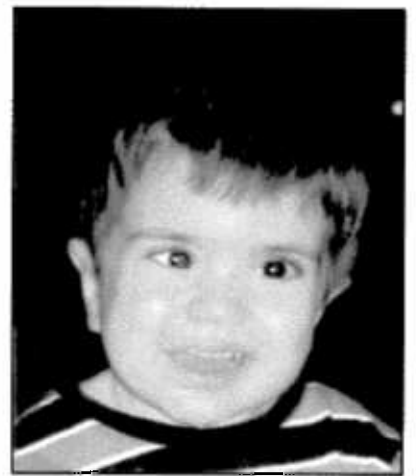
His parents, Paul and Bridget Ready, converted their bedroom into a mini-hospital with tubes, wires and machines. Jack had to take 17 medicines every day.

"This is a story about the entire Ready family and their collective compassion to do anything for their son and brother," said Jack's uncle, Nick Tompkins, who delivered the eulogy.

Jack's siblings — Philip, 17; Dana, 14; and Grace, 9 — watched over him when his parents couldn't.

Monday was a bittersweet day for the family. Jack died just hours before the Ready family was to be honored with the San Luis Obispo Family of the Year award.

In a letter nominating the family, Dana wrote that "Jack has made the impossible



**Three-year-old Jack Ready, who died Monday after a battle with cancer, had surprised doctors time after time by beating the odds.**

possible. I would go to the end of the world and back for him and any other member of my family."

Indeed, Jack inspired many others. Just about everyone at the funeral service — some who had never met him — wore a button with Jack's name and bubbly picture on it.

"I know of no single person in this city that got more people to pray than Jack did," Cicinato said.

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