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Remembering Brice Nelson

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Photos by David Runneals

By Marlys Barker

More than 100 people gathered at the Nevada Municipal Cemetery Monday to mark a solemn anniversary with a bright and colorful balloon liftoff.

It was one year ago Monday that 16-year-old Nevada High School student Brice Nelson was killed in a car crash in Ames.

Brice's mother, Jean Haltom, organized the balloon lift-off because, "it was something that had to be done," she said.

Haltom said it was a wonderful way to remember her son, and she was pleased to see not only kids who had gone to school with Brice in attendance, but also adults from the community, including two beloved educators, one from the elementary school and one from high school.

Brice's father, John Nelson, shared a brief statement for everybody who knew Brice. "Y ou all know how he was, and Brice would have looked at all of you (who came here today) and said 'Holy Truck!'"

Haltom thanked all of those who came as she let them know how terribly hard the past year has been. She reminded them, however, that to have their help and support has meant a lot to her and Brice's father. "I told them that, please, in their life, be respectful on and off the road, and try and keep out of harm's way, because if there was anyone in their lives that they loved or who loved them, you never want them to go through this."

As the balloons lifted through the trees, Haltom said one of the girls who attended played his favorite song. It was just perfect, his mom said.



Trenton Gardner hugs Jean Haltom as they remember her son Brice during a balloon liftoff Monday.

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