Zachery Taylor Brokaw, age 20, of Woodstock, passed away tragically on Saturday, June 20, 2015 as the result of an automobile accident.

He was born April 9th, 1995 in Barrington, IL to Myron and Diane (Stock) Brokaw.

He attended Greenwood School, Northwood Middle School and graduated from Woodstock North High School as his class salutatorian in 2013. From a very young age Zach had an unquenchable thirst for knowledge and excelled academically. While at Woodstock North he served as President of the National Honor Society, played trombone in the band, and was a member of both the track and cross country teams. He had just completed his freshman year at Carleton College in Northfield, MN, where he had been designated as a William Carleton Scholar in recognition of outstanding qualities of scholarship, character and promise of achievement.

He was employed as a Tech Support Assistant at Carleton College, as well as Nature Director at Camp Lowden in Oregon, IL. He had a passion for nature, was an avid birder, and had recently been selected to work as a Student Naturalist with the Cowling Arboretum’s Cole Naturalist Program this fall. He was a member of both the McHenry County and Illinois Audubon Societies, as well as the Climate Justice Coalition and was a writer for the Carletonian. Scouting was an important part of Zach’s life and at age 16 he earned the rank of Eagle Scout. He had also earned his black belt in Tae Kwon Do. He was passionate about genealogy and he spent many years researching and documenting his family history. Zach always marched to the beat of his own drum and never felt the need to conform to norms. He was his own person and highly regarded by all who knew him. He touched countless lives and will be terribly missed by many.

Survivors include his mother, Diane (Frank) Brokaw-Sieroslawski of Woodstock; his father, Myron (Kathy) Brokaw of Spring, TX; his grandparents, Robert Stock of Woodstock, Patricia (Benito) Diaz of Crystal Lake, Warren Brokaw of Branson West, MO and Sue Brokaw of Monticello, IA; aunts and uncles Dan (Sue) Brokaw of Woodstock, Dawn Brokaw of Nixa, MO, Guy (Debbie) Brokaw of Reeds Springs MO, and cousins Ryan Brokaw, Stephanie (Adam) Schaefer, Jeremy (Kristie) Brokaw, Hannah Gardner and Ben and Kristy Brokaw. He is also survived by step siblings Nick and Taylor Brown and Bailey (Gage) Daggett. Other special people in his life include his second mom Laura Brokaw, Godmother Shonda Skelton, Eric and Grace Dahle, and many other extended family members. He had many special friends in his life including Josiah, Tyler, Carlee, Madison, Will and Soren, among others. And he absolutely adored his dog, Bugsy.

He was proceeded in death by his beloved “Uncle Ronnie” Stock and cousin Brian Heine.

Visitation will be held on Thursday, June 25, 2015 at the Schneider Leucht Merwin & Cooney Funeral Home, 1211 N. Seminary Avenue, Woodstock, IL., from 3 to 9 pm. The visitation will continue at the funeral home on Friday, June 26th from 9 am until the 10 am funeral service. Interment will be private.

Memorials in his name may be made to BSA Troop 456 c/o Matt Kempster, 3909 W. Meadow Ln., Wonder Lake, IL 60097.