Leah Way’s legacy lives on at PGHS

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CLIMAX — She was just a firecracker and everyone always looked up to her, is the way Dawn Remsburg remembers Leah Way.

The 12-year-old tragically died in a car accident on Feb. 26, 2013.

On Friday evening, the concession stand near the softball and baseball fields at Providence Grove High School were dedicated in her honor and named the “Leah E. Way Concession Stand” in her memory. Leah, a seventh-grader at Northeastern Randolph Middle School when she died, would have graduated from Providence Grove with the Class of 2018.

It was also fitting because she had such a passion for sports, especially softball.

Remsburg said that the Athletic Booster Club at PGHS had planned this concession stand for several years.

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REMEMBERING LEAH — Members of the softball team unveil a sign honoring Leah Way at the newly constructed concession stand at Providence Grove High School on March 9. Leah would have graduated with the Class of 2018.

Way

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“She made a large donation anonymously,” she said. “It was donated in Leah’s name. You would be surprised at how many people looked up to her. She was just 12 years old when she died, but she made an impression on everyone she knew.”

Leah, the daughter of Martha Thomas Way and the late Tripp Way, was remembered as someone who enjoyed spending time with her family and friends. She was passionate about sports, and enjoyed playing softball, basketball and volleyball. Leah especially loved being on the softball field. She started playing softball at 5 years old and touched many lives through all the recreational ball seasons and travel ball tournaments she played.

“This project was a true labor of love to remember such a special young lady,” said booster club member Vickie Rhoney. “Even though she was just 12 years old, her legacy continues to touch our hearts today.”

Tonda Hinson also spoke of the little red-headed “ball of fire.”

“It is with sadness that she will never get to see the impact she made on this community,” Hinson said. “She was described (by some) as driven, passionate, fun and being ‘all heart’.

“I hope Leah’s legacy will inspire student athletes to dig a little deeper and maybe laugh a little louder.”

HEART-FELT — Martha Way (white coat) gets a hug from Kaitlynn Perrin, who, along with others, presented flowers to the family of Leah Way during the dedication of the concession stand at Providence Grove High School.

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