

Abby is living in my heart-- JHF remarks at JWT's inauguration of the Abby Freeman Artist-In-Residence Program 10-27-19

On behalf of the Freeman and Larsen families, Isabel and I would like to thank Ronda and Sharon again for coming up with the idea of honoring Abby's life and work by naming JWT's Artist-In-Residence Program in memory of her.

Ronda told us that they thought it would be inspiring, because not only was Abby a treasured performing artist with her own star power, in addition everyone loved working with her. She connected with the other artists and made them feel at home—that they had a base from which to fly, as Abby literally had done in her career as an aerialist.

Of course we were very moved by the idea, and offered to contribute financial support.

Abby's residence on earth was all too short. But she is still living in my heart, and the hearts of all who know her. I talk to her every day. You can, too. I tell her that I love her, and that Bella and I consider it our mission to visit Merlin, Owen and Julia often, to be a steady and loving presence in their lives.

When Abby died, Julia, age 3, asked sadly "Where did Mommy go?" Despite our sorrow, we answered simply that her spirit was now watching over us, that she will always love us, and we will always remember how beautiful and wonderful she was.

Tributes such as JWT's help to keep that promise.

Jack Freeman