

June is Pride Month, a time to celebrate the resilience, contributions, and diversity of LGBTQIA+ people throughout Kitsap County and beyond.

As we recognize Pride Month, we also wanted to pause to honor the life of Juniper Blessing, a 19-year-old University of Washington student who brought brilliance, kindness, talent, compassion, and extraordinary voice to Washington State. Juniper's life touched many people across Washington and beyond, and her loss continues to be felt deeply throughout our communities.

The Kitsap County Council for Human Rights extends our heartfelt condolences to Juniper's family, friends, and all those grieving this loss. Every person deserves the opportunity to live openly, safely, and authentically within their community.

We continue to reaffirm our commitment to dignity, inclusion, belonging, and respect for all people. We encourage our community to support one another, learn from one another, and continue building a Kitsap County where everyone is valued.

Those wishing to honor Juniper's legacy may learn more about the University of Washington's Juniper Blessing Memorial Scholarship, which supports students engaged in music and LGBTQ+ community leadership.

Scholarship: <https://together.uw.edu/i/uw/campaign/blessing-memorial>

To learn more about Kitsap's Pride Month events this month visit <https://kitsappride.org>.

For local resources, check out the Washington LGBTQ

Commission: <https://lgbtq.wa.gov/resources/county/kitsap>

We will continue to remember Juniper and honor her life. We carry forward the values of compassion, dignity, and community that she brought to our community.