

The One Where We Lost Our Best Friend”

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By Samantha DeWeese

Just two weeks ago, on October 28th, we all were shocked by the news: we had lost our dear friend, Matthew Perry. Passing only at age 54, this came as an unexpected loss for everyone.

Matthew Perry, a Canadian actor most famous for his role as Chandler Bing on *Friends*, was an incredibly talented individual. On *Friends*, he never failed to make his viewers and coworkers laugh; his lighthearted and comedic personality naturally gifted him with this ability. Aside from his contagious humor, Perry also showed remarkable selflessness and kindness to everyone he knew. He established close connections with his coworkers on *Friends*, in addition to many others whom he met in other parts of his life.

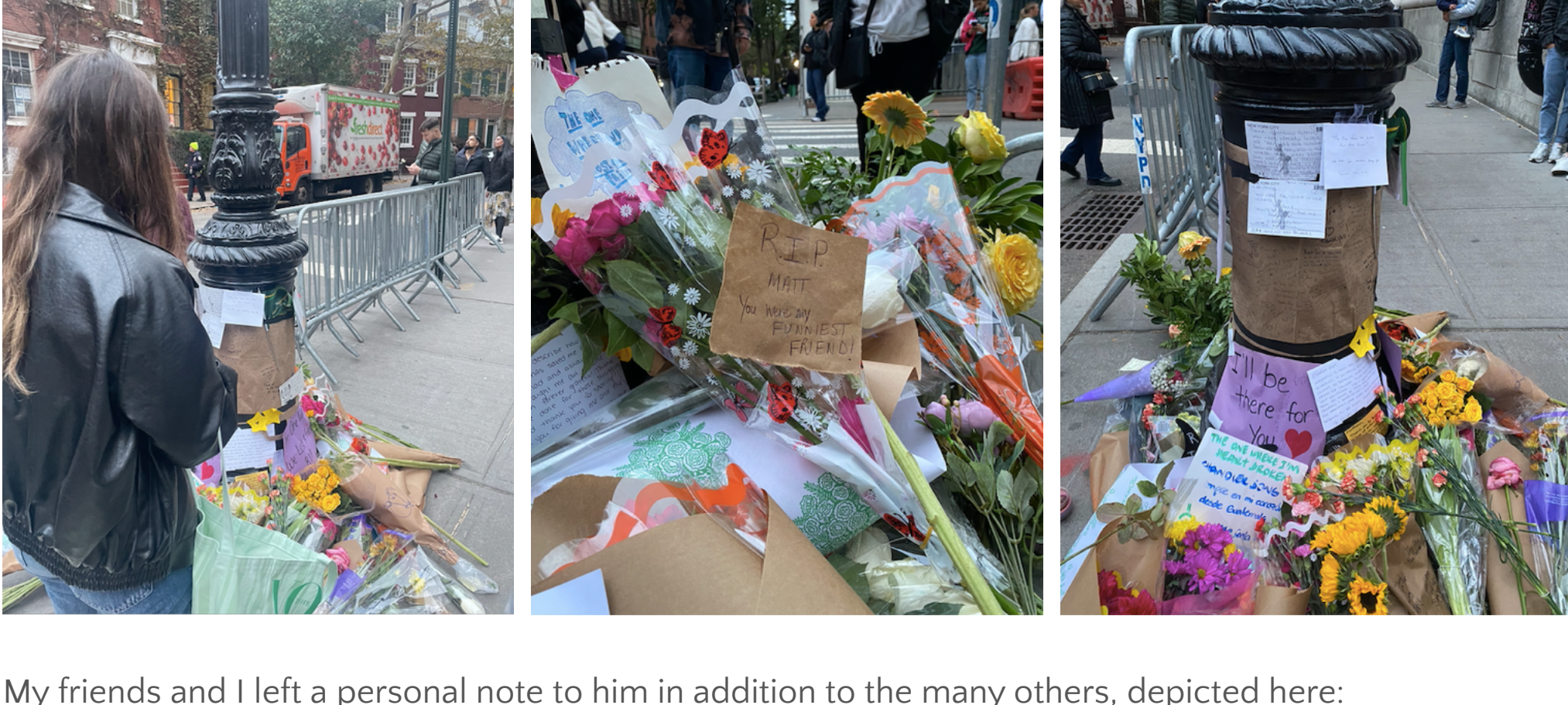


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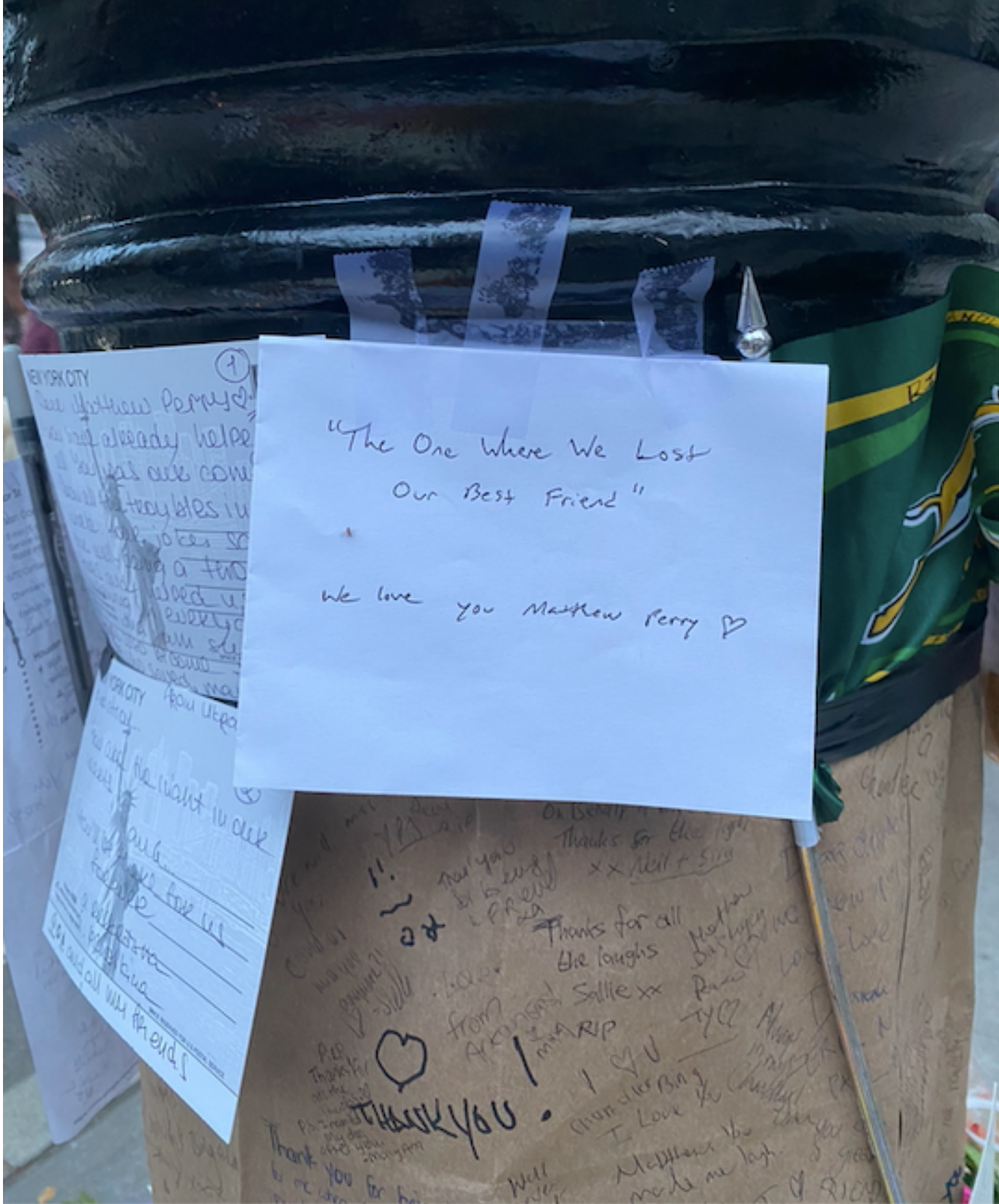
However, Perry will not solely be remembered for his acting talents. Throughout his time on *Friends*, he struggled periodically with addiction but exhibited great perseverance as he was able to become sober after the show. After this strenuous journey, he selflessly helped others who similarly struggled with addiction, in ways such as creating a sober living facility named “Perry House.” He strived to continue this work until the day he passed, and we will never forget his efforts towards the cause.

As seen from his exceptional skills, traits, and achievements, it is obvious why Matthew Perry made such an impact on our lives. Although I only knew him through watching *Friends*, he always stood out to me in comparison to the others on the show. Ever since watching *Friends* in 8th grade, Chandler was always tied for my favorite character (with Joey). His charisma captures not only mine but many others’ attention so well through the screen. Watching him and the other characters on the show became a comfort of mine that I still have not given up to this day.

Through the comfort and happiness that he provided for me on the show, I felt I owed it to him to say thank you. However, this was certainly not an uncommon idea for fellow *Friends* viewers. Over the past two weeks, hundreds of New Yorkers flocked to the *Friends* apartment to honor Perry by leaving flowers, notes, candles, and pictures on the light post across the street.



My friends and I left a personal note to him in addition to the many others, depicted here:



The top line, “The One Where We Lost Our Best Friend,” is a reference to each title of *Friends* episodes, since they begin with “The One Where...”

Throughout my visit to the memorial, it felt as if every mourner was part of a community to honor our best friend. It did not matter what background we came from; we all had a unified connection to Perry.



It is impressive to see how many people Matthew Perry touched throughout his life. In a place like New York City where everyone is wrapped up in their own world, one would not expect this level of commitment to honoring a person who most have never even met. However, New Yorkers defied this norm by taking the time out of their day to make this memorial for Perry. Nobody was asked or forced to do this, but rather did it out of the love in their hearts.

It is unclear how long this memorial will stand for, given the possibility of bad weather or city regulations, but the act itself of making it is a testament to how great of a person Perry was.

Although he will no longer be with us here, his legacy will live on through his efforts to help others towards sobriety, his time on *Friends*, and his close connections.

We love you, Matthew Perry.



Works Cited

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