



Raja Anton Chinnakotla

January 31, 2006 - June 14, 2026

We are profoundly sad to share the passing of our beloved Raja Anton Chinnakotla, who departed this life on June 14, 2026, at the age of 20. Born on January 31, 2006, Raja lived a life defined by connection, adventure, and an infectious warmth that drew everyone toward him. Raja embraced life with open arms.

He was deeply proud of his Indian heritage and sharing his culture through his passion for Bollywood dance and participation in Asian American activities; while also bringing his Midwestern spirit to every ball game he attended. His adventurous heart took him across the globe. Whether he was traveling solo with his father or exploring on family trips, he cherished every experience, from discovering new cultures to unforgettable moments like an accidental meeting with President Macron.

Raja was humble and down to earth, despite being exemplary and talented in so many things. He found joy in the simple things, often spending time exploring local farmers markets with his mother or seeking out new culinary experiences, with a particular love for fine dining. He was also a devoted animal lover who found great companionship in his pug, Osso, who has since passed, and the family cat, Jelly along with many hamsters and fish.

More than anything, Raja lived for the people he loved. He possessed a rare

and beautiful gift for making his friends feel like family, and he treated his own family with the unwavering devotion of a best friend. He possessed the rare gift of looking past the surface, finding the heart of every person he met. He was a natural advocate for the newcomer and a steadfast champion of those living on the margins.

His love for his sister and parents was unparalleled. To know Raja was to be touched by his kindness. He was a person who was truly loved by all, leaving behind a community of friends and family who were made better for having known him.

Raja had beautiful plans for the future. He moved through life with the conviction that he could change the world for the better, not realizing that he already had.

He leaves behind a legacy of love, inclusivity, and the pursuit of finding joy in every second. He will be missed beyond measure by his mother, Ann; his father, Srinath; his sister, Adelle; and the vast, devoted family and friends he built throughout his life.

A service to honor Raja's life will be held on June 19th at 4pm at Washburn-McReavy, Edina Chapel.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that contributions be made to 'The Raja Chinnakotla Memorial Fund' (<https://give.edinaedfund.org/RajaChinnakotla>).

Reflecting Raja's deep commitment to travel, music, and ensuring no Edina student is left behind, this fund will be used to support children in need, pursuing activities that were dear to him.

Though he is no longer with us, Raja made the world brighter and more

beautiful. May he rest in peace.

Upcoming Events

Chapel Service

JUN **19**. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Edina Chapel
5000 West 50th & Highway 100
Edina, MN 55436

Tribute Wall

IM

“From the day I met Raja, he was always a ray of sunshine. Working on Nakshatra together, I got to see the passion he held in everything he did. He dedicated himself in everything and his passion spread to me and others. He spent so much time working on things, and was so detailed with the things he did. It was so inspiring.

Every time I would see Raja on campus, he would especially make the effort to wave to me, call out my name and start up a conversation with me. He did everything to make people feel welcome and incredibly special. I felt so welcomed and accepted by him.

He was also just absolutely brilliant. From our conversations, we got to talk about so many things, our culture, our experiences, cats and the things we wanted to accomplish. He spoke about the books he was reading, and little tid bits of knowledge he had. He always came to conversations with an open mind, and was eager to learn more about the people he cared about. He always showed up for me and my friends, and I was so proud of everything he was accomplishing. I loved getting to see his updates on his life, and sharing videos with each other. Truly, he was so bright, thoughtful and loving.

No matter what Raja and I talked about, I always felt heard by him and loved. He had a smile that would instantly put a smile to your face, and a drive to impact people deeply, which always reflected in his actions. He was also incredibly humble with all that he did. In so many ways, he pushed me to be better, and to spread the love that he held.

It's hard to word exactly how amazing Raja is, but he had a profound impact on my life, and his good nature will always continue to inspire me. Our memories are so fond to me. I'm incredibly grateful I got to know him.

To his family, I am so sorry for your loss. I wish all the healing, love and will be keeping you in my prayers.



Iman - 2 hours ago

PB

“ *Padma B. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Raja Anton Chinnakotla.*

Padma B. - 4 hours ago

DC

“ It was so obvious how brilliant and singular Raja was. I remember the first conversation that I had with him in Witte, he recommended that I read Giovanni’s Room by James Baldwin. I remember being impressed by his reading and continued to learn from him and admire how he articulated himself in our MLC seminar. When I think about him, I remember a sharp mind that intimidated me, but a warm smile and laugh that convinced me of how well rounded and wonderful he was.

I was not close to Raja, and still I feel myself devastated that I did not get to spend more time with him, to catch up, and especially to see him go off into the world and continue to dazzle everyone else. He was incredibly giving; I can’t stop thinking about how he offered me an extra ticket to see the Madison Philharmonic after knowing me for only a couple weeks. I really wish I could have gone with him.

I spent the last couple of days looking at his beautiful smile in his photos in Madison, listening to SZA to share the music he enjoyed, surrounding myself in MLC gear, and hopefully I’ll get a chance to pick up Giovanni’s Room soon. I deeply regret that I didn’t get to know him better, and for what it is worth, I feel his loss redirecting my life already. I hope that by pursuing my passions and caring for my classmates that I can cast even a sliver of the light he radiated.

I am lingering on the words in his obituary, that perhaps Raja had no idea how much he had already changed the world. I am realizing how much he changed mine, and I am grateful to have known him.

To Adelle, Ann, and Srinath, I am so terribly sorry for your loss. You are in my thoughts constantly. You raised and cared for an amazing soul. Thank you for nurturing Raja and for loving him so deeply.

Darcy Combs - 6 hours ago



“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



Jasmy Mavilla - Yesterday at 11:29 PM



“ Raja was the kindest most genuine soul out there. He made me feel welcome when I was new to Madison and missing home. He came to Hindi class every day ready to learn with a smile on his face. I will continue to celebrate Raja's life for the rest of mine. धन्यवाद राजा ❤️



Jasmy Mavilla - Yesterday at 11:19 PM

KJ

“ Raja was the happiest face in the dorm always doing his best to help someone. He was always smiling and willing to talk about anything, even the Viking’s poor form. I know he was so excited to spend the next year at London’s School of Economics. He had such a bright future and I am truly devastated he doesn’t get to live out the life he deserved. My heart goes out to his family and everyone who knew him. Raja was truly a light for so many.

Kate Jacobs - Yesterday at 10:46 PM

KZ

“ Kaiping Zhang lit a candle in memory of Raja Anton Chinnakotla



Kaiping Zhang - Yesterday at 10:45 PM

KZ

A life taken too soon. Rest well.

Kaiping Zhang - Yesterday at 10:45 PM

CA

“ I light this candle in your honor, my friend. Purple means royalty, and that you are. Also, because we both loved Prince and Purple Rain and Minnesota. 🙏💜-Charity



Charity Alfred - Yesterday at 10:39 PM

CA

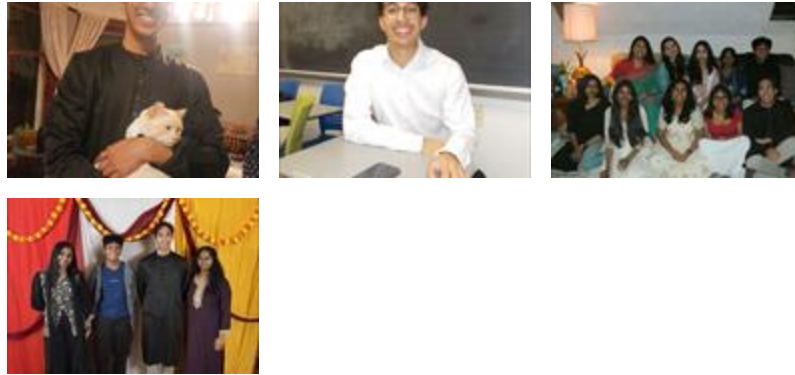
“Raja was our dearest friend, laughing buddy, coworker, and, most importantly, an adopted member of our little workplace family. Sharing all of our memories together at this vigil would take far more space in this text box. What mattered most was who Raja was: a person rooted in kindness, tenacity, and leadership. He approached everything with an open heart and always gave his full effort. Even in the midst of our pain, we can still feel his spirit through the contagious sarcasm, humor, and joy he brought to those around him. At this time, I wish peace, comfort, and healing for his family—especially his parents and sister, whom he always spoke of with such love and admiration.



Charity Alfred - Yesterday at 10:33 PM

SS

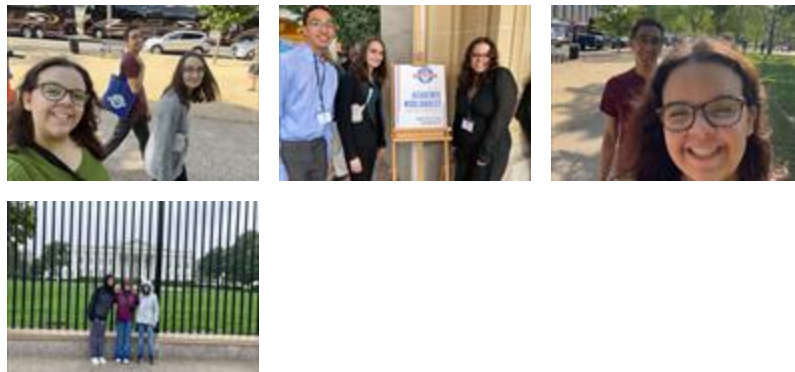
“ Raja was such an incredible person and every time he walked into a room, he brought such a loving energy. My favorite memory of his is when he played Om in our Hindi class skit, nothing has ever made me laugh as much as his performance that day. Raja was so passionate about everything he put his mind towards and I'm so lucky to have had the opportunity to know him. My condolences to his family and may he rest in peace.



Sananda Shyamkumar - Yesterday at 09:58 PM

OM

“ the brightest person I've ever gotten the chance to know. I'll forever hold our high school memories close and the jokes we've shared since. Sorry for backing into the rock on your driveway last year. Love you forever and always xx



Olivia Machart - Yesterday at 09:58 PM

JN

“ Jaimie Nathan purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Raja Anton Chinnakotla.



Jaimie Nathan - Yesterday at 09:54 PM

JN

“ Jaimie Nathan planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Raja Anton Chinnakotla.

Jaimie Nathan - Yesterday at 09:54 PM

SA

“ Sayali Amarapurkar planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Raja Anton Chinnakotla.

Sayali Amarapurkar - Yesterday at 09:54 PM

SK

“ Stephen K. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Raja Anton Chinnakotla.

Stephen K. - Yesterday at 09:41 PM

VS

“ He was an incredible person, and I feel so lucky to have called him a friend. His warm presence will be deeply missed, especially at our Hindi class potlucks. He was always up for a silly little side quest and I'll cherish those moments. He was truly loved by everyone who knew him. ❤️



Vibha Srinivasan - Yesterday at 09:40 PM

DF

“ Raja was one of the most caring people I have ever met at Edina, he really put care and attention to everything he ever did. I'm so lucky to have gotten to know him as a teammate.

Daniel Frohling - Yesterday at 09:29 PM

KH

“ I may not have known Raja well, but everywhere I saw him he lit the world up, whether with his music or his words he brought warmth to the world. I had wanted to get to know him better, and I always felt an admiration for him and what he did.

Kaitlyn Hou - Yesterday at 09:17 PM

SI

“ I first met Raja when he was in 3rd grade, dressed up as Mahatma Ghandhi and he wanted me to help him fix his "dhothi". He was a truly sweet and kind soul and he is going to be missed so much by all of us. May his beautiful soul rest in eternal peace.



Shelina Ishani - Yesterday at 09:13 PM



“ I still remember the first time I met Raja, his smile and ability to connect with people is impossible to forget. I am so grateful to have met an amazing person and to see Raja grow in college. He leaves behind a legacy that is unique. My heart goes to his family and all the loved ones who have lost him.



Damari Tello - Yesterday at 09:08 PM

HA

“ I am incredibly saddened to hear about the passing of Raja, he was one of the kindest, purest people I have encountered. My first memory of him was when he was a student in Witte, and I was an employee in his dorm. He was a frequent visitor of the Center for Cultural Enrichment, and one night, an unknown person was milling around the space. I remember we were all a bit startled, and Raja offered to walk me home from work that night to make sure I got there safely. I think this encapsulates Raja’s character perfectly. His selflessness and drive was admirable, and I am lucky to have known him. My deepest condolences to Raja’s loved ones. May his memory be a blessing.

hailey - Yesterday at 08:57 PM



“ Raja, I am so thankful to have known you. All my love to you and your family ☐

Emilia Houle - Yesterday at 07:49 PM

AM

“ I went to high school with Raja and throughout every interaction we had he was nothing but kind. Rest in peace.

Ashley McCormick - Yesterday at 07:37 PM

CS

“ Raja,
I will take our last time together at Adelle's graduation party and hold that time very close to my heart. We were so proud of the young man you were and so proud of the future that was waiting for you. The memory that keeps me laughing is when I came to spend some time after you were born and we had thought Mama cat had ran away. It was a little stressful 😊. I will miss hearing you play the piano, hearing about how your life is going and sharing with me. I know it wasn't said near enough, but I was always proud of you and loved you for you and so much more.
We(I) love you and miss you.
Uncle Brad & Aunt Cindy

Cindy Schellpeper - Yesterday at 06:59 PM

JT

“ My deepest condolences for this tragic loss

Joss Thomas - Yesterday at 06:30 PM

EB

“ Though I never met Raja, I worked along side his mother and heard a lot of stories over the years. As a fellow low brass musician, I would virtually view his Pop's concerts over the years as well. Hearing about his love of travel, being curious about everything, his passion to help others and make a positive difference for everyone, are just a few things that stand out to me. I can't imagine the profound grief and am keeping your family close in my thoughts. May the happy memories help guide you through the difficult, dark time. All my love.

Erica Brooks - Yesterday at 06:22 PM

KH

“ So sorry for your loss! Keeping your family in my thoughts and prayers 🙏



Kate Hoffmann - Yesterday at 05:54 PM

M(

“ Minnesota Transplant Fellows (2021-2024) purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Raja Anton Chinnakotla.



Minnesota Transplant Fellows (2021-2024) - Yesterday at 05:12 PM

MP

“ Mayo Clinic Transplant Program purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Raja Anton Chinnakotla.



Mayo Clinic Transplant Program - Yesterday at 05:12 PM

KM

“ My deepest condolences!



Karen Moore - Yesterday at 04:54 PM



“ *Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Raja Anton Chinnakotla.*



Yesterday at 04:38 PM



“ *Gladys P Dabu lit a candle in memory of Raja Anton Chinnakotla*



Gladys P Dabu - Yesterday at 04:33 PM



“ *A grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Raja Anton Chinnakotla.*

Yesterday at 04:31 PM



“ *Tranquil Seas was purchased for the family of Raja Anton Chinnakotla.*



Yesterday at 03:52 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Raja Anton Chinnakotla.

Yesterday at 03:52 PM



“ We are so sad and sorry for your loss. Ryan admired Raja and enjoyed playing trombone with him all through the years. Especially the fun they had in Concert and jazz band. I remember Raja well from Creek Valley- such a remarkable and kind young man.

Amy, Keith and Ryan Collins - Yesterday at 03:43 PM



“ Jessica Diaz purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Raja Anton Chinnakotla.



Jessica Diaz - Yesterday at 03:25 PM



“ Jessica Diaz planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Raja Anton Chinnakotla.

Jessica Diaz - Yesterday at 03:25 PM