



## Olivia Engel

July 17, 2006 - December 14, 2012

Outside the house where Olivia Engel, 6 years old, lived, a sign asked for privacy, an increasingly common request in these streets following Friday's mass shooting.

Olivia's parents, Brian and Shannon Engel, also have a little boy, Brayden, a toddler, said a cousin, John Engel III of New Canaan.

"It's been a difficult day to talk to the family," Mr. Engel said. The couple have been with their parents, he said, and attended Mass on Saturday afternoon.

Olivia was in first grade. "She loved dance and theater and boating with her family," Mr. Engel said.

Energetic and witty, Olivia was outgoing and had a creative streak, he said. "When she made us cards, you thought, 'Wow, that came from a first-grader?'"

She was, he said, "a tremendous little girl."

The images of Olivia Engel will live far beyond her short lifetime. There she is, visiting with Santa Claus, or feasting on a slice of birthday cake. There's the one of her swinging a pink baseball bat, and another posing on a boat. In some, she models a pretty white dress, in others she makes a silly face.

Dan Merton, a longtime friend of the girl's family, says he could never forget the child, and he has much to say when he thinks of her.

"She loved attention," he said. "She had perfect manners, perfect table manners. She was the teacher's pet, the line leader."

On Friday, Merton said, she was simply excited to go to school and return home and make a gingerbread house.

"Her only crime," he said, "is being a wiggly, smiley 6-year-old."