

Reverend Jonathan S. MacDonald
Pastor of Student Ministries
Sheboygan Evangelical Free Church
1710 N. 15th Street
Sheboygan, Wisconsin 53081

February 18, 2008

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

It was my pleasure to know GM2 Jared Krutke prior to his death in 2007. I was his friend, pastor and instructor for several years. When it came time for Jared to get married, I was greatly honored that he allowed me to be a part of that process. I led Jared and his future wife Nicole through pre-marital counseling and officiated their wedding. All too quickly, I was also asked by the family to officiate his funeral.

When I heard of the attack perpetrated against Jared and his subsequent, albeit brief, fight to survive I was absolutely shocked. Military personnel who are stationed in Guam are not supposed to have stories like his. They are supposed to come home in good shape, tanned and ready to re-connect with their young spouses and children. I was informed of Jared's death by a close family member. I was charged with breaking the news to literally hundreds of friends, neighbors and other congregants at Jared's home church. Along with other close family members I fielded questions for a local TV news station out of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. I was present with Nicole, Jared's mother and Nicole's mother as we planned the funeral together.

The impact of Jared's death was both life-changing and unbearable. It was life-changing because of the way that Jared lived his life. With his simple and tethered faith, Jared was a faithful Christ-follower who loved his Savior, his wife, his young family and his country. He is the kind of person that you want your son to grow up to become. He embodies all that is right and good in a young man. His death was unbearable, in my own strength, because of the gruesome and seemingly unfair way in which his life was taken. Jared's excellent life was taken while he served his country faithfully in a secure place by his own co-worker. A life that was celebrated for all that is right was ended by a death that was violent and which represents all that is wrong.

I will remember the way Jared lived his brief life, not the brutal way in which it ended. I will remember that service to a Savior and one's country is right even when tragedy strikes. I will learn from his simple and unwavering commitment to Jesus Christ.

May God lead the pursuit of justice even as He led Jared in his experience with grace. Jared would want each of you to know that life takes on real meaning as it is given over to Jesus Christ.

Sincerely,

Jonathan S. MacDonald
Pastor of Student Ministries