

Ladies and Gentleman,

My name is Michael Meyer and I am married to Patricia Gibson Meyer. I would be the husband - to the sister - to the mother of GM2 Jared Krutke. I am and have been a resident of Sheboygan county since 1996 and presently reside in the city of Sheboygan, WI. I am Technical Specialist in the Plumbing division of Kohler Co., a leader in plumbing, hospitality and furniture. I have had the blessing of knowing GM2 Jared Krutke since about 1992.

I heard about GM2 Jared Krutke's injuries at about 10 pm on the night of the shooting. Though not knowing at the time that his injuries were fatal, the fact that Jared's mother was not immediately heading to the airport to catch a plane to Guam struck me as what I would later learn, the probable death of GM2 Krutke. As I recall, a day or two later, my wife and I eventually were told of his death.

I spent over 3 years of my life from 1985 to 1988 serving in the US Army in Ft Benning, GA. I was part of the first group of soldiers under the re-activation of the 10th Mountain Division based out of Ft Drum, NY. I was fortunate enough not to have to see combat, though I would have with honor served in this fashion if deployed. My former unit now stands tall in the mountains of Afghanistan, fighting for our freedoms and the freedom for a people who have seen nothing but misery. When I heard that my nephew was shot to death by a member of his own unit, I spent days asking over and over again,,,,why? why? how can he be taken away when the enemy and the wars are a half a world away from him?

A call, if Jared was deployed in Afganistan or Iraq, hearing of his death would have meant something. It would have been for something. A death that would have been with honor. Instead a murder at the hands of a friend.

I will not be able to see Jared proudly wear his Navy whites when coming home for Thanksgiving and Christmas. I will not be able to see the trademark grin that only Jared could light up a room with. He knew the seriousness of what he did in the Navy. He never took it too seriously though. I will miss that demeanor of him too. I will miss seeing him grow with his wife and daughter. He always was very loving and playful with my children, always making time for them when with them. I will miss seeing him 'play wrestle' with his little sister on the floor. Always letting her get the final pin. Our family will always remember Jared, wishing we had spent more time with him, wishing he would have had more time to spend with us, his wife, his family. It will be a little less joyful, a little more empty, and a lot more sadness in our hearts around the holidays and any day we know we should have seen Jared.