

March 11, 2008

To Whom It May Concern,

I had the pleasure of knowing Jared Krutke through being friends with his mother, Jackie Walston.

As a young boy I was impressed with Jared's gentle nature and creativity. As a young man I was even more impressed with his commitment to shaping a positive future for himself. Given the choice of attending Public High School or Christian High School, he chose the structure and values of Christian High.

This sense of dedication also carried him to the U.S. Navy and to his wife, Nicole. Many people would not have high hopes for a marriage between two people so young. But in my heart I felt that Jared and Nicole were very blessed to have found each other so early on in life. Two like minds and souls, they found a way to be happy and stay connected even when Jared was away serving his country.

I had the honor of taking their wedding photos in 2002. It was heartbreakingly sad to be attending Jared's funeral in the same church 5 years later. Heartbreakingly sad because those surviving Jared have been robbed of a future with this special young man. A future with so many wonderful possibilities. Nicole no longer has the privilege of growing old with the man she fell in love with. Elizabeth, his daughter, no longer has her father to turn to as she grows up. He will not be there to share all those special father-daughter moments in life. Family and friends will never again see his smile, hear his voice, share a meal with him, have him play a joke on them. All those simple pleasures in life taken away.

I also think of all the people he had yet to meet in life that would have been touched by his faith and strength of character. The impact Jared had during his life was phenomenal; the impact of his untimely death is immeasurable.

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