



Kirk Hornburg

November 30, 1963 - January 11, 2020

CAPT Kirk Hornburg, USN

Our beloved, CAPT Kirk Hornburg, United States Navy, age 56, was taken from us too early on January 11, 2020, in Saudi Arabia. After three years of working abroad, while making preparations to return home permanently to his wife and family in Traverse City, Michigan, he suffered a sudden and massive heart attack.

Kirk was born November 30, 1963 in Hilton, NY. After graduating from Hilton High School in 1981, he was accepted into the Naval ROTC program at the University of Michigan. He graduated in 1986 with degrees in German, History, and Economics along with a newfound passion for U of M football. More significantly, as a sophomore, he found the love of his life, Linda, introducing himself in the cafeteria of Markley dorm on a dare.

Kirk was commissioned into the United States Navy upon graduation in May 1986 as a Surface Warfare Officer, and was assigned to the USS John A Moore out of Long Beach, CA. Kirk and Linda were secretly married October 16, 1987, days before Kirk's ship was deployed into combat in the Persian Gulf for 6 months.

On December 30, 1988, Kirk and Linda were married in front of family and friends in Detroit, Michigan. Kirk was later stationed in Stuttgart, Germany for 4 years, where together with Linda, he witnessed firsthand the end of the Cold War and the reunification of Germany, ski raced for the United States Military Ski Team, and earned a Master's Degree in International Relations from Boston University.

In 1993, Kirk was stationed in Riga, Latvia, as part of a Military Liaison team tasked with aiding the newly independent nation. He and Linda, working in the US Embassy, enjoyed this time as one of their greatest adventures together. Between military meetings over home-brewed vodka, harassing hungover Russian officers sleeping in their trucks, and "accidentally" snapping pictures of a Soviet nuclear submarine base (the photos were never returned by the US intelligence officer...) there was never a dull moment. Getting to

work alongside Linda, they helped to coordinate the visit of President Clinton, with Kirk ultimately helping to write the speech delivered during that first visit by a US President to the freshly sovereign nation.

The adventures continued when Kirk was later stationed in England, where his first son, Kalvis, was born in 1995. To be able to spend more time with his young family, Kirk transferred to the Navy Reserves, and moved back to Michigan. He earned yet another degree, this time a law degree from Wayne State University in Detroit. 1997 brought more joy with the birth of his son Lars, a national championship for his Wolverines, and a Stanley Cup for the Red Wings. After briefly working as a lawyer in Detroit, he felt the draw of the lake and of beautiful Northern Michigan, and took a job as the executive director of MTEC in Traverse City, Michigan.

Two years after celebrating the birth of his favorite daughter Kaija in 2002, he was recalled into the Navy and worked overseas at US European Command and at the Naval Operations Center in the Pentagon for 2 years. He continued to work as a civilian and Naval Reserve Officer in Washington DC until 2016, commuting back to his home in Traverse City. He retired from the Navy after 30 years of service in June 2016 having achieved the rank of Captain. In September 2016 he went to work as a consultant in Saudi Arabia with Booz Allen Hamilton.

Kirk's wife and children were his greatest joy. He loved to ski and passed on this love to his kids, who have all been alpine racers. He was a certified alpine coach and official, coached whenever he could, spent countless hours waxing skis, and volunteered at nearly every race. In addition, he assisted in coaching his kids' soccer teams, and his passion was always evident from the sidelines. He also loved swimming, hiking, canoeing, snorkeling, biking, camping, doing triathlons, and basically enjoying the outdoors in every way possible. He felt happiest and most at peace swimming in Lake Michigan at nearby Haserot Beach. He had an intense zest for life, loved to cook and enjoy good food, write poetry, and was a voracious reader. His curiosity, fantastic intelligence, and near constant booming laughter were appreciated by all he met.

His final moments were spent on FaceTime with his very beloved wife, Linda, while in loving banter about his imminent return to the US and his reunion with her and his adored daughter Kaija after many years abroad.

We'll miss his immensely entertaining and diverse stories, positive attitude, unflappable humor, gregariousness, eloquence, and most of all his heartfelt bear hugs. He is survived by loving wife Linda, children Kalvis, Lars and Kaija, and in-laws. He will be interred this spring in Arlington National Cemetery.

A Funeral Service for Kirk will take place at 3:00 pm on Saturday, January 25, 2020 at the Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home with a visitation for family and friends beginning at 2:00 pm. Kirk will be laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date. Kirk's service will be broadcasted live at www.rjfh.tv for anyone that would like to watch the service where internet is available.

In lieu of flowers the family asks that memorial contributions be directed to 22 Until None, 18402 N 19th Ave., Box 370, Phoenix, AZ 85023; or to Hornburg Children's Education Fund, c/o Linda Vitins, 305 Sixth Street, Traverse City, MI 49684.

Comments



“ An external video has been added.



Reynolds Jonkhoff Funeral Home & Cremation Services - January 25, 2020 at 12:49 PM



“ Sorry to hear the loss of a good man and friend you were taken too soon and hope that you are watching down upon us all to protect us all. Your memories and good times is and will always be instilled into us all.

Tony - August 12, 2020 at 05:54 AM



“ I had the great honor of working with Kirk in Saudi Arabia, and am heartbroken that he left us so soon. Kirk had boundless energy, a real appetite for life, and always brought a smile to our faces. Above all, Kirk cared for others. Whether it was baking homemade pizza for his colleagues, brewing exceptional coffee, dropping everything to help us run personal errands, or simply making our compound feel like home, Kirk made us feel like family.

Linda, Kirk never stopped talking about your grace and beauty, and as you well know, he included you virtually in all of our activities! I'll miss his obligatory impromptu selfies and your FaceTime drop-ins. Kalvis, Lars, and Kaija, Kirk was incredibly proud of your achievements, and would grill me about the best tech, documentaries, and restaurant recommendations to share with you! I know you will carry your father's energy and contagious passion for life even further in your own journeys.

A loss like this hurts no like no other, but I hope you find peace and comfort knowing that we remember Kirk fondly as a force for good and compassion, and that his legacy will continue through those of us who knew him.

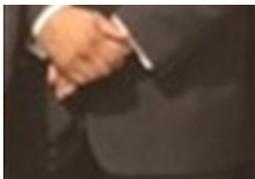
With love and respect,
Christopher Mun



Christopher Mun - January 28, 2020 at 02:44 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



David Hubbard - January 27, 2020 at 08:56 AM



“ To Linda, Kalvis, Lars and Kaija, I cannot begin to express the sympathy I have for you on the passing of your husband and father. I can honestly say I enjoyed every encounter I ever had with Kirk. He was always positive and I left every encounter with him feeling better about myself, my family, and the human race in general. Every time I spoke with Kirk, it was clear that despite his significant accomplishments and talents, his family was always his biggest source of pride and joy. If we are fortunate, as we go through life we meet a few people who always leave us feeling better about ourselves and all those around us. Kirk was one of those very few and special people. We will all miss him.

Doug McKay - January 25, 2020 at 10:50 PM



“ Kirk was a kind and authentic man who made the world a better place just by being himself. We are so sorry for your loss, Linda, Kalvis, Lars, and Kaija. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Dagny Monette - January 25, 2020 at 10:46 PM



“ Never met you. Thank you for your service and love of your family. Tough times always in Saudi Arabia. May God welcome you into the life eternal. Brent Nichols, LTC (P), Green Beret retired. God Bless your family.

brent nichols - January 25, 2020 at 05:16 PM



“ A lovely service.

Family from afar - January 25, 2020 at 04:26 PM



“ I met Kirk decades ago when we were undergrads at U of M. I met him through Linda, my first cousin. I was fortunate to witness when they first fell in love and to count Kirk among my best friends. He was always the guy to help you out when others demurred or were too busy. I cherished Kirk and Linda attending my wedding in Latvia back in 2002. For those unaware, Latvian weddings have many, many, many speeches. But of all the speeches at my wedding, I recall his speech as one of the most memorable. I will always remember Kirk for his zest for life, his keen interest in everything and everyone he met, and his big heart. Dear Linda, Kalvis, Lars, and Kaija, my deepest sympathies for your loss. Kirk, "Fair winds and following seas."

Edgar Kalns - January 25, 2020 at 03:54 PM



“ Kirk will be missed. He was a great role model for me growing up. I cherished his replies to letters I wrote to him while he was in the Gulf. Although infrequent, I enjoyed every opportunity afterwards to catch up and share a laugh together. My condolences to all family and friends. -Cousin Chris

Chris Haas - January 25, 2020 at 01:20 AM



“ Dear Linda, Kalvis, Lars and Kaija,

My thoughts and prayers are with you. May you all know the peace of God as we look forward to the resurrection. I pray that God wraps you all in His loving warm embrace. Remember John 11:25-26 - Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.

In His Love,
Trish Reinbold

Trish Reinbold - January 24, 2020 at 11:37 AM



“ Dear Linda, Kalvis, Lars, & Kaija
Memories flow:

As Godmother I held tiny baby Kirk in wonder and honor. Since that day, I have prayed for him. Another memory was when he took me to his classes and events at the University of Michigan. It was my campus too. What crazy fun! Also, he took his grandfather, in his wheelchair, grandma and I to a U of M and Michigan State football game. He proudly served that day as honor guard in his naval uniform for the game. We left the game for East Lansing and our Brenner cousins. They greeted us with a huge Michigan State banner. State had won! We all laughed.

I remember the Sherwin, Brenner and Hornburg, picnic reunions at our house on Crystal Lake for family joy. All the cousins could laugh, swim and eat. Their Uncle Don knew how to grill, and the food disappeared like lightening.

My final best gift from Kirk was his prompt advice to me on how to plan a military funeral for his Uncle Don. Like his Uncle, Kirk loved the Navy. His gifts to our nation, as an officer are too many to count.

I pray for the entire family, for the Holy Spirit to help us know the comfort of “Today you will be with me in Paradise.” Luke 23:43

Love to all who loved Kirk

Aunt Ruth & Family

Aunt Ruth - January 23, 2020 at 03:16 PM



“ Although we only met Kirk a few times at the Harvard races, Margaret and I really enjoyed his company. He was immediately engaging and extremely friendly. It is very apparent the kind of man he was by seeing the young men he and Linda raised. Calvus is like a big brother to Courtney and Lars is a good friend. When we met Kirk, we knew why his boys were such fine young men. Our hearts are breaking for your family's loss.

Dan and Margaret Clark - January 23, 2020 at 08:07 AM



“ Dearest Linda, Kalvis, Lars and Kajia,
As said by many, we are all so sorry to hear of Kirk's passing. He was a brilliant and charming man. His laughter was contagious, and smile was profound. He always made you want to smile back. I truly enjoyed being his cousin, and loved our childhood memories that will never be lost. Kirk left this earth way too soon. I can not imagine the pain you are suffering with the loss of a husband and dad. We are sending you all healing and peace now and forever.

With our Deepest Sympathy,

Stephanie, Jonny, Reese and Braeden

Stephanie Blass - January 22, 2020 at 10:08 PM



“ Linda, Kalvis, Lars, and Kaija.... Mark and I have no words to express our sorrow. Your family, including Kirk, had a big presence in ours and for that we are so grateful. Sending good thoughts and memories to each of you.
Your friend,
Marge

Marjorie Doherty - January 22, 2020 at 08:49 PM



“ What a wonderful surprise to meet another American Military Officer sitting at Cafe Lewandowsky in Bad Aussee back in the early 90's! We met Kirk and Linda one afternoon and discovered that Kirk had a similar history growing up as an American with Austrian relatives in our little town in the Salzkammergut. It was an honor to have you stand in our wedding and a great honor to call you and Linda our friends. Rest well. Much Love to the entire Hornburg Family.
Peter and Stephanie Zwack

Stephanie Zwack - January 22, 2020 at 06:08 PM



“ So sorry to hear of Kirk's passing - lots of old memories there from Trinity, Hickory and many hours of soccer- May you find comfort in all the wonderful memories you carry in your heart- The DeMoulied's

Kerri DeMoulied - January 22, 2020 at 04:14 PM



“ Oh, Linda -- I can't find the words to say how very sorry we are to hear about Kirk's passing. Know that you are all in our thoughts and prayers, and will continue to be in the days and months ahead. If there is anything that we might be able to do, please do not hesitate. Love to you all. Laura Shumate

Laura Shumate - January 22, 2020 at 02:43 PM



“ To Linda, Calvus, Lars and Kaija.

As I areas through all these memories and praises of Kirk, my nephew, it is readily apparent that I missed much not knowing him and his family better. Yet it is nothing compared to your loss of a husband and father. My heart goes out to you and I send you my sincere condolences. Perhaps there will still be an opportunity to reestablish some family bond. Life is too short not to. So to you love and peace. Klaus and Bea

Klaus Haas - January 22, 2020 at 02:08 PM



“ I am so sorry for your loss! I was lucky to be coached by kirk for one season on north storm in the spring season of 2013. He believed in me when I didn't believe in myself and pushed me as a player to never quit. He was a great coach and an even more incredible father!

Clary Walker II - January 22, 2020 at 10:01 AM



“ Dear Linda, Kalvis, Lars and Kaija, We are hardly able to express how shocked and saddened we were to hear of Kirk's much too early passing and send you all our deeply felt condolences. As a young aunt I knew Kirk almost from the day he was born, singing together with him and his sister Tanya when they were small children, later admiring how he grew into a successful young man as well as husband and father of a wonderful family, of which he was so immensely proud. Our heartfelt sympathy goes our to you all, wishing you much strength in these difficult times. May many happy memories of the years spent together with Kirk help you overcome your present grief. „Dona nobis pacem...“ With much love, Verena, Bruno, Sabrina with Family and Aniela

Verena Frey - January 22, 2020 at 08:24 AM



“ Hornburg Family ...

I am so sorry for your loss. I worked for Kirk at MTEC in Traverse City, I also was a reservist in the Air National Guard as he was a reservist in the Navy of which was shared many experiences. As the 2nd plane hit the towers on 911 I made my way back to my office where he met me shortly after I arrived. I remember him saying "You saw what just happened.", " Yes, I am expecting a call.", "Let me know what I can do to help." Within a few hours I was on my way to my base in Battle Creek to respond and then after that I was activated for 14 months. During that time Kirk and NMC gave me and my wife all the support and help we needed to deal with my activation. Kirk thank you for you service to our country, and to the Hornburg family thank you for your sacrifice the times he was away. Kirk was a carrying, supportive and kind man and I am glad to have worked with him in my life. I am sad for your loss. May God bless Kirk and you his family, and may the peace of God come to you in this difficult time.

Steve Dix

Steve Dix - January 22, 2020 at 08:15 AM



“ Hornburg Family ...

I am so sorry for your loss. I met Kirk at the beginning of our tour in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia in August 2016. He was always a positive influence and had a keen sense of what to do next and when to do it. He was mentor to me and always led by example. Kirk was a preeminent conversationalist. He could keep an audience at the edge of its seat waiting for the minute details of whatever he was describing. He made my year in Riyadh bearable. We will miss him. The world was a better place with Kirk in it. God Bless Kirk ... God Bless you all.

Michael Provost - January 22, 2020 at 07:12 AM



“ I lost twice the message I had written. I finally got it on , but forgot to add How proud his father Donval was of Kirk and his accomplishments. He was also proud of the grandchildren and their academic and skiing successes. Donval died only six months ahead of Kirk. We send our prayers and sympathies to Tanya and her family, to Linda, Kalvis, Lars and Kaijia.

Marilyn Baird

Marilyn Baird - January 21, 2020 at 01:49 PM



“ Linda, Kalvis, Lars and Kaija, I was shocked and saddened when I learned of Kirk’s passing. We worked together at FACTIVA. He made work fun. He will be missed.
Betsy Bosnak

Betsy Bosnak - January 21, 2020 at 12:34 PM



“ I had the pleasure of working with Kirk on a few projects at Booz Allen. While I didn't know him well, a few things always stood out to me about him. Kirk DEEPLY loved his family and always kept them top of mind. Kirk took his work very seriously and his commitment to success was in everything he did. Lastly, Kirk was a patriot through and through. I will miss his sense of humor and wisdom. I send my sincere condolences to the family.



Howard Foard - January 21, 2020 at 11:06 AM



“ Dear Linda, we are so shocked and still in disbelief over Kirk's passing. Kirk was so supportive of Evan's skiing. He always shared great tips with my son and enthusiasm for the sport. It was always a delight to be in his company, he always had nice things to share about your child and he was always so proud of his own children. Our thoughts and prayers go out to you and your family. Sending our love and prayers to you and your family.

Dan, Janelle, Morgan, and Evan Culp

Janelle Culp - January 21, 2020 at 09:55 AM



“ Dearest Hornburg Family, You are such a beautiful family. It is hard to imagine your broken hearts. We, the Rennie Family send you all hugs, prayers and love. So many wonderful, laughing and encouraging ski memories and stories are in our thoughts. Jim, Karen, Peter, and Christina.

Jim and Karen Rennie - January 21, 2020 at 09:44 AM



“ Dear Linda, Kaija, Lars and Kalvis, we are so sorry and saddened to hear this news. Kirk and of course Kaija were such an important part of the Northstar family and Rachel's childhood experience here in Traverse City. I will miss our long, impassioned soccer discussions before and after (sometimes long after!) games and practices, and watching Kirk help coach the girls. His energy and enthusiasm were infectious. I know our daughter Rachel is a better person for having known Kirk.
With love,
The Dows

Michael Dow - January 21, 2020 at 08:43 AM



“ Dear Linda and Hornburg family,
Todd, Olivia, Eva and I are so sorry to hear this devastating news. We all enjoyed being alongside you all throughout our years at Central High. Kirk was always a positive, trusted support of the tasks he shouldered behind the scenes through choir events and musical performances. We remember how much he enjoyed that we were traveling to familiar areas when we traveled with the choir program to Cesis and other parts of Latvia, Estonia and Germany. Please know how much he loved his family, and we know he spent more time sharing his pride of his family than anything else we discussed. We send condolences beside the volumes of friends that very much respect Kirk and hold your family in our hearts.
With love,
Wendy, Todd, Olivia and Eva Nienhouse

Wendy Nienhouse - January 20, 2020 at 09:11 PM



“ Dear Linda and family,

We are both saddened and shocked at Kirk's passing, as we imagine you all are as well. We would like to send our sincerest condolences on this tragic event. Know that there are many, many friends and family thinking of you right now, and gain strength from your many wonderful memories together. Hopefully, the coming days, weeks and months will ease your pain from this tragic loss.

Valdis and Teresa Revalds

Valdis Revalds - January 20, 2020 at 07:07 PM



“ We are saddened to learn of Kirk's passing. We hope that your family and friends will be a source of comfort during this difficult time. Sending our condolences and prayers of peace.
The Nelson family

KN - January 20, 2020 at 07:00 PM



“ Rosa and I met Kirk together on a project in Riyadh, KSA. We loved how he always had some sort of homespun tale to tell...and of course he loved to talk Italian cuisine with Rosa. Some of my fondest memories were when Kirk, a colleague named Todd, and I would take a coffee break on Sundays following football Saturday. There we were - a Wolverine, a Spartan, and a Buckeye - all enjoying one another's company in a land 8000 miles from "home" but having a common bond despite our "rivalries".

He is missed.

Rosa & Erik - January 20, 2020 at 02:24 PM



“ My husband was a college roommate of Donval Hornburg at the U of Michigan, and they stayed friends until Don's death last year. Don was a member of the Lutheran Chapel and ran around with a number of "Chapelites.". He remained a fast friend of Arnie, Ray, and Ivan. My husband joined the group and eventually the Lutheran Church. All of them have passed away now except my husband Wally and me. Wally was in the wedding party when Don married Catrin. They moved to Hilton, NY. When they passed through Ann Arbor when going to visit the Hornburg grandparents, they always stopped for a visit with Tanya and Kirk. We also visited them in Hilton. We continued friends with both Don and Catrin when their marriage failed. In later years when Don "baby sat" the boys when Kirk and Linda were away with Kaija, he would bring them to our cottage on Silver Lake, They loved swimming at my brother's beach. On one occasion they were there to celebrate my granddaughter, Kerrigan's birthday. They always said they would come back with their parents, but they never did. I didn't know Kirk as a man, and saw him last at Kaija's Baptism. I weep for the little boy I once knew.

Marilyn Baird

Marilyn Baird - January 20, 2020 at 12:24 PM



“ I got to know Kirk as Captain Kirk when he was the senior reservist for our joint reserve component supporting the Joint Staff J6 in Suffolk VA. An absolute pleasure to work with, a great American, a great guy, and an amazing dedicated professional. During our off-hours time we talked a lot about family, and it seemed he could not have been happier or prouder with his. The earth is a much poorer place without him!

Frank Hunt, CAPT USN (ret.) - January 20, 2020 at 09:44 AM



“ Like many others sharing memories, I was one Kirk's professional colleagues for many years. We spent countless hours together in small rooms analyzing problems, brainstorming and proposing solutions. What was immediately evident in becoming Kirk's friend and colleague was his high energy, good humor and refreshing candor. Kirk was the kind of person to whom you gravitated because of his openness, warm personality and honesty. Although we hadn't seen each other in several years, we continued to stay in virtual touch. Kirk will be missed by many. While I never met Kirk's family, it was clear he was devoted to them. May his memory be In our hearts and blessing to all.

Oscar - January 19, 2020 at 07:05 PM



“ Dear Linda, Kaija, Laris and Kalvis: on behalf of my family, I send my deepest condolences. My heart aches for all of you. Mara Sipols

Mara Sipols - January 19, 2020 at 02:39 PM



“ I met with Kirk in Riyadh and worked with him.

Kirk stood out as role model for integrity and professionalism. He was also the biggest bag of laughs under all the daily work pressures. He always had the sharpest comment in the house any day any time hands down.

I will miss cap'n kirks' smirks and comments.

Rest In Peace and Be well my friend.

Said

Said - January 19, 2020 at 07:16 AM



“ Oh dear I am shocked to hear of the loss of Kirk. Was he I'll?

kathy daunheimer - January 19, 2020 at 10:16 PM



“Kirk and I met when we both first arrived in Riyadh to work for Booz Allen in August 2016. Kirk arrived 5 days before me and we were both getting used to life in the desert together. We had a small group when our project first started, about 15 or so people and we quickly found, like most who have served in the military on remote or isolated assignments, that the way to survive and stay sane and to watch out for others is the bond built thru friendship.

Kirk became my career manager and he and I were placed on the same Workstream team, Kirk as lead and I was his deputy. We became very close and talked of family, and food, all the time. We had a small band of close, tight-knit friends whom got together every Friday for what affectionately became known as "paint-operations or paint ops." We all liked our Vino Tinto but being in Saudi we could not get any. So we all became master vintners. Kirk loved cooking and talking of food and he was no different with paint ops. We compared our recipes and our vintages (none longer than 6 weeks of course). We laughed and commiserated together on virtually any subject. Kirk of course suffered most however because of the Maize and Blue..and we of course were relentless in teasing him. You would never know he went to Michigan however because his whole wardrobe seemed to consist of a Crimson colored T-shirt and wet bike short, dripping wet from his daily swimming. I know that he had to have had some Michigan attire on underneath that Harvard T!

Kirk was my dear friend, we talked all the time and visited with each other and were members of the Friday morning coffee and shopping club (our activity before paint ops.)

There will be a void in my life with him gone but I have many funny, happy memories of a fellow brother-in-arms and colleague but mostly a friend, that I will always carry with me.

My sincere heartfelt condolences to Linda, Kalvis, Lars, and Kaija."

Fran Campbell

Fran Campbell - January 19, 2020 at 06:41 AM



“ I knew Kirk and Tanya when they were children. They skied at my parents' ski resort, Swain Ski Center in Swain, NY. Their Mom and Dad were avid skiers, and they spent all their weekends skiing, staying in a little camping trailer right at the foot of the ski slopes. I was very fond of Kirk and Tanya and watched them grow up. They would come and seek me out (I worked in the ski shop most weekend days) whenever they were in the lodge. I am so sorry to learn of Kirk's passing. Jeanie Robinson-Pownall

Jeanie Robinson-Pownall - January 18, 2020 at 11:15 PM



“ Linda, Kalvis, Lars and Kaija: William and I are shocked and saddened to read of Kirk's passing. Our hearts ache for you and our prayers are with you at this difficult time. Love, William and Bethany Cain

Bethany and William Cain - January 18, 2020 at 10:31 AM



“ So sorry to hear of Kirk's passing. We worked at Factiva together many years ago. Always a great friend. Kirk was pure energy. He was infectious in all the right ways. Sleep well shipmate.

Sean Coleman - January 18, 2020 at 09:26 AM



“ Our prayers are with Kirks family. He will certainly be missed by many. Kalvis, Lars and Kaiya are such incredible people...a true testament to both Kirk and Linda! Our family is blessed to have our kids grow up around this family, and I am forever thankful for all the the help/time I got to spend with Kirk through those years. Special man and friend.

Dale Tumey - January 18, 2020 at 09:11 AM



“ On the USS John A Moore, he was one of the best officers I ever served under. Just a great guy.

Eric Quackenbush - January 17, 2020 at 10:57 PM



“ I met Kirk thru ski racing, such a good guy. I am so very sorry for his family and friends loss.
Bob Cole

Bob cole - January 17, 2020 at 09:13 PM



“ My heart is heavy to be seeing this. My prayers and thoughts are with you, may God hold you close and comfort you at this time.

The Schreiber's

Debi Ri-chard - January 17, 2020 at 06:49 PM



“ Our thoughts and prayers for Linda and her family. As their principal at Trinity for those many years, their contributions as a family were many. Shakespeare said it better than I: he only in honest thought and good to all...his life was gentle and the elements so mixed that all the world could stand and say; THIS WAS A MAN.

Dr. Cal and Carol Schmucker - January 17, 2020 at 11:51 AM



“ I met Kirk and Linda right after they moved into the neighborhood. A neighbor informed me that a family with boys my son's age had moved nearby. Having two sisters, my son was so excited to meet some new friends, so one day we walked up to their house to meet the kids. Kirk was in the driveway and immediately came right over to introduce himself. Over the years we spent many fun times - the crazy boat breakdown, lots of ski racing, watching all the kids grow up. Kirk was always willing to help with anything just by jumping in. Most of all, he was an incredible father, and Kalvis, Lars and Kaija have become amazing young adults. I know he will be the guardian angel for his grieving family. I will miss his booming voice, his powerful presence, and his wonderful heart. Go Blue!

Cheryl Sarlund - January 17, 2020 at 11:35 AM



“ We met Kirk nearly 20 years ago at Trinity Lutheran Church and School. I still recall the first time I met him - Kirk was self-assured, a bit loud (but in a good way), approachable and warm. His inviting nature drew people to him, and his positiveness was certainly infectious. Over the years our kids played sports together, sang in the school choir together, and served God together in church. His children Kalvis, Lars and daughter Kaija were all blessed with his awesome smile, piercing blue/green eyes and kind soul. His wife Linda is his kindred soul - thoughtful, kind but perfectly reserved as to make a perfect pair with Kirk. You could see the strength that Kirk lived his life with take root in his kids. I don't remember the last time I actually shook Kirk's hand because he had me in a bear hug before I could ever extend my arm to him. But Kirk reached out to me on December 3rd and said he was hoping to be in Traverse City for Christmas and that he was planning on coming home from Riyadh in January. We were planning on having a few pints, just another thing that Kirk excelled in! Unfortunately those pints were not consumed but the thought of seeing him again flooded my mind with all the greatness that he was, about how much i missed him, and how great it was going to be to catch up on all the little things he was going to tell me about his kids, his travels and his beautiful wife. We are all better people for having Kirk in our lives. I think I will toast him this evening by pouring that beer we could not have over the holidays and thank God for allowing me to know him. Thoughts go out to you and kids Linda and look forward to giving you a "Kirk hug" when I see you next. And to you Kirk, I will see you again, make sure you have that perfect pint ready for me when our Heavenly Father calls me home, too.

Lance Mead - January 17, 2020 at 10:49 AM



“ Well said Lance.

Marjorie Doherty - January 17, 2020 at 02:22 PM



“ I met Kirk a year ago out here in Riyadh when I first arrived. The first thing you notice about Kirk is his laugh; it's loud, it carries, it's unreserved, and infectious. When Kirk laughed, everybody around him couldn't help but laugh along. Never afraid to find humor in a situation, his friends, or himself. Once you get to know Kirk, the key feature about him you notice is fascination. Kirk's always curious, always looking to learn something new or talk through an idea or experience. Kirk also knew that he could learn something from anyone (and always wanted to), even a kid 30 years his junior with a funny accent. The next thing you notice about Kirk is generosity. Not a day went by when Kirk wasn't asking one of his friends on compound to go on some adventure, or offering to make dinner and have people over, or offering to show people how to do something or give some advice. Kirk was always looking for what he could learn from someone and what he could do for them. Kirk was the most encouraging and supportive guy I've ever met; he'd walk up to you and tell you exactly what he thought your strengths were and express confidence in your abilities and potential. I'd never met anyone before who would express admiration or confidence in another person so specifically and directly. The final aspect of Kirk that sticks in my mind was his pride and adoration for his family. Well before I ever met his wife Linda, Kirk had told me all about her accomplishments and strength and compassion. I never met his kids, but I knew well the stories of their accomplishments and quirks and goals. Kirk's favorite subject, by a mile, was his family and how proud he is of them. Kirk'll be sorely missed by everyone who knew him, but everyone who met him was left better for the experience. Love and strength to his family.

Lee Clark - January 17, 2020 at 02:39 AM



“ Nearly five years ago, I met Kirk as part of the initial core start-up team for Booz Allen's Project Quincy in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Kirk was smart, energetic, and well spoken. I cannot remember a time where he had EVER said a disparaging word about anyone, and I'm not just saying that! He was always there to bounce ideas and provide his opinion. I will truly miss his professionalism, candor, patients, and enthusiasm. A true loss. God Bless.

David Hubbard - January 16, 2020 at 08:26 PM



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Hornburg family,

Kirk was my manager at Booz Allen, and I will never forget his laugh, wisdom, and leadership. He walked me through the company bureaucracy to help me obtain reasonable accommodations so I could work hard while managing my multiple sclerosis. We spent a lot of time at the same DCA Delta gates, hilariously scheduling the same flights back to Detroit. He helped me find my professional voice. He spoke so often about you all. He was so proud of all of you. Kirk lit up the world, and while the planet feels a bit deflated, he is watching over you from great German beerhall in the sky.

Sincerely,

Maureen Russell

Maureen - January 16, 2020 at 05:58 PM