



Chris Leigh KING

January 24, 1959 - December 28, 2018

Chris was ready to go – he told us the morning of his death. He'd fought the good fight, he finished the race, he kept the faith.

Chris Leigh King was born 1/24/59 but he was born again on Father's Day 1983, a date he would want you to remember more than his age. His earthly father abandoned him at the tender age of 5 but his heavenly Father never did.

Chris and his 3 siblings were raised by their mom and her parents in Colorado. Chris graduated from high school in Longmont, CO and immediately went into the army and was stationed in Hawaii.

He used the GI Bill to attend Colorado State University where he graduated in 1985 with a degree in Computer Science. CSU is where he met the love of his life...Jesus Christ. It was a strange set of circumstances involving a friend from high school, some crazy Christians, and a reprobate girlfriend named Donna. Donna also made Jesus the Lord of her life and they eventually married in 1986 after Chris graduated and accepted a job offer with Boeing in Seattle, WA.

Chris and Donna moved to Washington state where Chris worked on the B-2 Stealth Bomber. They had 7 outstanding children together and over 3 decades of amazing memories serving Jesus with other wonderful families in Washington State.

Chris ended up working on the F-22 simulator, which he absolutely loved! When the F-22 program moved to St. Louis, Missouri, he moved with it, along with his wife and three youngest children. It was awful to leave everyone behind, but he later said that was one of the best decisions he ever made.

In Missouri, he found more incredible friends and renewed spiritual strength and purpose, which helped him through his final days. Chris was diagnosed with lung cancer in August 2018, probably the result of radiation he received nearly 30 years ago to treat Hodgkin's

Lymphoma. His heart was also damaged by that radiation, as were his lungs, so he was battling cancer, severe asthma and a bad heart valve all at the same time. Although he was making progress on the cancer, the heart valve and bad lungs finally took his life on December 28, 2018.

Chris was first and foremost passionately devoted to God. Never flashy, but working behind the scenes to help those in need, in the name of Jesus. He was passionate about his family. He tried to be the best husband and father he could be, protecting and serving his wife and children, and making every effort to guide them to a right relationship with God. He was passionate about the body of Christ, the church. He served where needed, participated whole-heartedly, and tried to be the best example he could be for others. He was passionate about his work, trying to give his very best despite his string of health issues. He had a great sense of humor that really helped him get through life's challenges and blessed his family, friends and co-workers. Lastly, he was passionate about sports, with his first love being the Denver Broncos, but he enjoyed many other teams as well.

Chris did not want anyone to be sad at his departure because he was looking forward to finally being with Jesus. We will be having a celebration of Chris' life on February 9th, at 2pm at the Maryland Heights Church of Christ, 107 Midland Ave, Maryland Heights, MO 63043.

If you cannot be there, would you please share a memory (or two) about Chris on this website? We're hoping to gather as many memories as we can, from different perspectives, so our kids will have the largest collection of memories about their dad! Thanks!

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation in Chris' name to either: Healing Hands International (www.hhi.org) or CFS (www.stlcfs.org)

Events

FEB **Celebration of Life** 02:00PM - 04:00PM

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Maryland Heights Church of Christ

107 Midland Ave, Maryland Heights, MO, US, 63043

Comments



“ I met Chris shortly after moving to Longmont in January, 1976. He and his friends, Greg and Dick, were a year ahead of me, but Greg, Chris and I were in the same German class and the four of us became (to me, anyway) good friends. Thankfully, I don't remember too much of my high school days, but one highlight I do remember is the version of Snow White we staged in German class. We had few props and what we had were pretty much makeshift. I was the hunter and, instead of a deer, had to "stab" a small toy horse from which I withdrew a plastic heart borrowed from biology that was nearly as large as the horse. Chris was the mirror ("Spiegel, Spiegel an der Wand, wer ist die Schönste in diesem Land?") and stood behind a large piece of cardboard covered in foil, if I remember right. It was far more comical than professional and it was hard to watch the video and not laugh aloud. I believe the video was submitted to some regional German class contest and actually won a prize for its humor. Sadly, German is no longer offered at the school, the instructor has long since retired, and the video is nowhere to be found. Fortunately, memories (more or less) last longer than VHS tape.

Chris graduated in 1977 and joined the Army. I graduated in 1978 and attended Colorado State. In 1981, Chris left the Army and came to CSU and we roomed together at Ramblewood. I graduated in 1982 and left for a year to work in Boulder with Chris' mother, Sue, where I learned what a proud mother she was of her son. I went back to CSU in 1983, and Chris and I again shared an apartment. That was the year I saw Chris' outlook and demeanor change. He was the happiest I had ever seen him, and the reason was clear -- he had met the two true loves of his life -- Donna and Christ. I could go on and on about the Domino's pizzas, the water polo in the Ramblewood pool, the British comedies on PBS, and so on that made CSU tolerable, but those were all secondary to the joy that Chris found in love and life. After grad school, I moved to New Mexico, and our interaction was pretty much the occasional Christmas card, but I saw Chris once more when Dick and Kathy married in 2001. He had the same smile, the same love in his heart, and the same positive outlook that I remembered those years ago.

Chris' time with us was far too short. But the lives he touched, and the lives that touched him, will forever be blessed for knowing him. Words can neither express nor tears convey the depth of our sadness at this loss. My thoughts and prayers to Donna and the kids as we find some comfort in the sure knowledge that we will see Chris again.

-- Mike L.

Mike - February 25 at 05:21 PM



“ Our fondest memories of Chris are at one of the best places on earth. YBC. Good discussions, competitive game playing and challenging bible classes are the way Chris will always be remembered and how deeply he loved his family. Rest In Peace brother. You’ve won the race.

Mike and Kendy Anderson - February 15 at 12:38 AM



“ Our family is deeply saddened by the passing of this amazing, caring man of God. He always had a smile and a kind word. My fondest memory of him is the passion and love that he had for Donna and the children. I just remember him hugging and loving on Donna. He was so affectionate toward her. It is rare for a man to express his love to his wife the way that he did. We still cannot believe he is really gone on to be with Jesus. Jalen expressed how much fun he had hanging at the King home when he was little. Bill remembers him as a "godly man and a good father". We love the hospitality that he always extended to us at the various events we attended at your home, especially the annual New Year's bash! Just know that we love you deeply and are sorry that we were unable to attend the service. Much love and hugs from all of the Cope children, Bill and me.

Linda Cope - February 11 at 09:22 PM



“ (Read on Saturday)
Dear Donna & family,
I’m truly heartbroken for your loss. My attempt to capture memories of Chris turned into my random thoughts & ramblings, which doesn’t do your husband/father justice. Nonetheless, here it is!
I met Chris in 1995, which began a long stretch of us working together at Boeing. He always greeted everyone with a smile & positive attitude!
On B-2, Chris was the subject matter expert on three software products. One of them was the key interface for the software I was developing. Chris was helpful, patient & kind, especially to a newbie on the program. I had a lot of questions and a lot to learn... I couldn’t have asked for a better mentor!
Over the years, we got to know each other, carpoled occasionally... and became friends. I even met some of you when you were babies and toddlers. On Chris’ 40th birthday, I decorated his desk to celebrate this milestone. Three months later he got me back by returning some of “over the hill” decorations for my 30th. I was thinking about this recently since Chris would’ve had a big-OH birthday in January. He would remind me to “Respect your elders”... but it never felt like we he was 10 years my senior. He was more like a protective brother, but that’s a story for another time.
We worked on B-2 together until the program relocated OKC. Chris and I were part of the cadre who stayed to the end of the program in Puget Sound, training up our replacements and supporting a successful transition of our software. In 2003 we parted ways as Chris went to NATO Midterm and I went to F-22 program.
Quick tangent... Chris crossed paths with my father on NATO Midterm. I used to tell

my dad stories about how my co-workers used to say “oh, you are Ken's daughter” early in my Boeing career. It was a little surreal for him to hear Chris say “oh, you are Becky's father... and Fred's father-in-law”! Yes, Chris knew my husband way before I did LOL. It's just funny how career paths intertwine within our Boeing family.

Chris would refer to his time on NATO Midterm as “purgatory”. He was learning new skills, but his software engineering expertise was certainly underutilized. He always took pride and ownership in his work, but this was not a rewarding job for him. As soon as an opportunity opened up on F-22, I reached to Chris to join my team. Once again I had the pleasure of working with Chris! However, this time roles were slightly reversed. I was mentor to this newbie to the program! I joke, but we were always peers with mutual respect.

Chris and I traveled to together to support F-22 and the Warfighter in STL. We even worked directly with our ultimate customers, while they “flew” our simulation in various joint service events. As a huge aviation aficionado, how cool was it for Chris to work with fighter pilots and other platform operators!!! I'm sure he'd talk about people he met and all of their various call signs. Chris and I were in agreement that F-22 was one of the best jobs either of us have ever had. When Chris joined Team Raptor, I said “we could both retire on this program”. Well, that was the truth at the time... and I'm glad I didn't add “in Seattle”.

An announcement in September 2014 to relocate various Boeing programs out of Washington, including the F-22 program. It was troubling times for all of us, as we struggled with the decision to go with the program we loved, or roll the dice to find something new in the area. The ever shrinking BDS footprint in Puget Sound limited options to find a local job opportunities within the company! Some programs has a short runway for moving, while F-22's move date extended to 2016 for our organization. At the last moment before papers were signed, a job opportunity opened up for me on P-8. That was the end of Chris and I working together, but certainly not the end of our friendship!

I had the honor & privilege of knowing Chris for over 23 years! His contribution to the Warfighter will live on in Raptor Nation FOREVER!

Becky Buck - February 11 at 11:28 AM



“ I knew Chris--mainly through his wife Donna--for more than 10 years. He & Donna were a team. And they were completely devoted to each other--an encouraging & inspiring example to the rest if us. Chris was the firm and sheltering hearth on which the King-family fire burned & which warmed others. I am reminded of this quote: "Enjoy your sojourn on earth, going forth with the power and the knowledge that you are a child of God, born to an eternal heritage of royalty. RETURN WITH HONOR." Chris has returned with honor!

Kelli Wilson Rigsby - February 09 at 12:16 PM



“ We knew Chris mostly in a casual setting at YBC or at his home. We always observed a humble servant that was a loving father with a neat sense of humor. He always displayed leadership and affection for his family. He will be missed here on earth for a time, but heaven is keeping him healthy and happy.

patricia bryan - February 09 at 11:12 AM



“ I had the pleasure of working with Chris in St. Louis as part of the F-22 simulators for the past several years. Every F-22 pilot that was fortunate enough to spend time with him can attest to his kindness and how excited he always was to make the sims exceed expectations. He also loved asking the pilots why they did certain things with the jet, how it worked in reality, and anything else that could feed his love for the airplane. Chris was one of a kind, we will sorely miss his tenacity and his smiling face.

Kevin Dormer - February 08 at 09:54 PM



“ "I would tell them (Chris' family) that I worked closely with Chris while I was producing F-22 Courseware in Seattle, and that it my pleasure to work with him. He always went the extra mile to help me get the information I needed, even when it was not directly his responsibility to do so. We became friends, and chatted frequently. Chris would be my first choice of someone to go to because of his friendly, pleasant nature, in addition to his expertise. I know it's hard losing a loved one, and they have my deepest sympathy."
- John Cushing (via email)

Shannon Hawkins - February 08 at 09:47 PM



“ I had the pleasure of knowing Chris at Boeing for the last six years. I was his manager in Seattle and quickly appreciated that nothing was rushed when talking with Chris. He used every interaction to have genuine conversations that made me reflect on the intentionality he brought of himself with our team. Chris was very intelligent and gifted with the products he developed. He was a modest engineer who preferred the recognition in having the respect of the pilots (his customers) to speak for the quality of his work. He was so humbly proud and his work ethic was very firmly aligned to the importance his work had to those pilots.

When I moved to St Louis, Chris was one of the few familiar faces that I saw in a sea of new people now charged with the responsibility of continuing the important charge of our program. Chris was an ambassador and provided that continuity to our engineers for people to see his example of values, work ethic, and service to our customer. He has established a legacy with good people who will carry on the charge

with what he taught them.

Chris was a good man with an incredible heart. I will miss dearly.

Shannon Hawkins - February 08 at 09:40 PM



“ I remember Chris, Donna, and kids coming to visit us in Nebraska a few years ago. I hadn't seen them in person but a handful of times and the one thing that always stuck with me is how much love was shown between him and Donna. There was a comfort between the two of them. He will be missed greatly.

Jeremy Hopper - February 08 at 07:39 PM



“ Wishing that I had pictures of Chris from high school / Colorado State University. SO many memories from those days. Chris was encouraging, funny as can be, serious when the moment called for it. The nights at Roosevelt Park football field with our friends that were in the Longmont HS band, and hanging with those of us that just went to the games to have fun and cheer on our Trojan football team. Goofiness with him, Dick Lovenburg, Greg Yakel, Mike Little, Alan Yakel and our assorted "circles of friends" was always a welcome part of those high school days.

The time several of us were at Dick's house baking cookies with Dick's mom, being utterly silly / goofy / messy with the cookie dough, flour, and decorating ingredients. Flour fight in the kitchen, laughing so hard we were crying! Then Dick's dad came home from work -- Uh Oh...he was not amused, at first -- he couldn't stay aggravated for long with all of us and Mrs Lovenburg being so silly, but what a MESS we had to clean up! What a sweet, vivid, FUN memory I have of that day.

As a student at Northeastern Junior College in Sterling Colorado, while Chris was in the military, we kept our friendship going the "old fashioned ways" letters, phone calls. At NJC we only had one phone on each dormitory floor -- a pay phone in the hallway. (This was 1979-1981 folks!) So Chris would write me, tell me he'd call at 'such and such' a day / time frame. I'd wait in my room to hear that very LOUD clanging pay phone in a tile and concrete hallway -- WHEW did those phone calls reverberate through the halls!! EVERYONE would know that ONE of us was getting a call! Nosy neighbors we were all in those days! Run to the phone, hear the operator say "Chris King was calling from Hawaii, please hold to be connected." The 'jingle' of quarters being dropped into the phone to give us so many minutes to talk. Then the operator says "more \$\$ needed to continue your call" so Chris would drop more coins, the jingle jingle jingle then we could talk for a few more minutes. Sometimes if we went on and on, we'd lose track of the minutes and then suddenly be cut off! OH the frustration!!

Colorado State University -- I was there and then Chris came to school there after

discharge from the military. Many times walking around campus, meeting up in town, going back to Longmont to meet up with our high school friends together. SWEET! I never met a man so determined to use his military GI bill to further his education, had a CAREER not just a job, and then be able to raise a family later on. When he met Donna, they just seemed to really connect. She enjoyed the goofiness and the studious side of Chris. And I will ALWAYS be grateful that she was accepting / welcoming to his friends from school - youth...even this gal. To become friends with Donna was a blessing i will always treasure. To see Chris and Donna become a couple, then man and wife, showed me how two people can support, challenge, encourage, conflict at tiimes yet grow together while never losing their own personalities.

Even though I never got to see them together, or meet their kids after they moved to Seattle, our friendship has continued all these years. THANK YOU to the KING family for sharing your life with me via social media, letters, occasional phone calls all these years.

Donna, my heart goes out to you, my prayers will always include you and your kids, and I look forward to the day we can reconnect face to face again! HUGS and much love to you always my sweet friend, Donna, Mrs Chris King.

Susan Arms - February 08 at 01:35 PM



“ "Share a memory..." How do you share just one, one defining memory of a man you've known from your teen years and on into your adulthood? I first met Chris King when I was a 13 or 14 year old in Washington state. I remember camping with his family by the beach, I remember singing with them, I remember the late night card games that Chris and Donna would have with my own parents. We moved away when I was 16 but kept in touch, and 5 or 6 years later I was back in Washington to meet a friend and to help my grandparents move. That first night I stayed at Chris and Donna's house and as always was treated like family. Many years later I finally had the chance to repay their hospitality when they stayed with my husband and I and our growing family in Nebraska. At least, that's what I thought I would finally be able to do, but I was wrong. They brought *me* food, and the night we went out to eat with my family, their family, my husband's entire family, and our exchange student, Chris paid for the whole table with no fanfare and in complete humility. But we never stood a chance. When I look back over the years of the time I knew Chris King, I see a man whose faith came first in his life and never stopped growing in that faith. Jeremy and I will forever be encouraged by that example, and by the knowledge that he's still cheering the rest of us on today.
Kristin (Capehart) & Jeremy Hopper

Kristin Hopper - February 08 at 09:32 AM



“ Remembering Chris King:

In thinking of my Friend and Brother in the Lord Chris King, I think back over the years I knew Chris and It's hard for me to think of times of Chris alone without his wife Donna and/or his Children. You see, Chris was a devoted Husband and Family man, this much was very evident throughout the time that I knew him. Some find their passion and self-worth in their career, sports, good looks, financial or material goods, education, influence or powerful position. When I think of Chris and what I witnessed in him, I saw a man that really enjoyed and took seriously his role in the life that God gave him. There were many more times I saw a smile on his face than a scowl. He was a leader, not in mere responsibilities but he was engaged in the people and conversations around him. He never left himself out of what was going on. I recall him unashamed to sing out at church, whether it be leading singing or in the mix with his brothers and sisters singing songs of Praise and Encouragement. Chris had an energetic spirit that spilled over into whatever he took on. This Spirit lives on, not in this world but in the one that is fashioned for his resting place. Be at peace my Brother, one day we will all shout and sing together once again in glory!

Galen N. Liebelt

Galen - February 07 at 09:54 PM



“ An introverted angel that helped a sinner like me.

My fondest memories of Chris come on like a flood pouring over with emotions. I feel pride in recalling his precious words of approval and empowerment stating I am going places. I feel guilt as I recall being lectured for straying from Bible readings or spending too much time in the old testament. Most of all I can feel an overwhelming amount of Joy. in many of the final breakfasts we had he would quote James 1:2 Count it all joy. Even in our final breakfast you would have never been able to tell he was sick. These meals usually lasted an hour but on that day we went for an hour and a half. Chris, even with his condition, occupied a majority of the conversation. Coughing couldn't stop what was one of the brightest and best conversation of my life. He took his time, as he usually does, and i sat there like a starry eyed kid getting the secrets to life. He used to always tell me that he wasn't a role model nor a good christian. I haven't had many people in my life to look up to and with out a doubt God placed him in my life at critical point. Once I decided to get baptized I remember telling him at the next breakfast we had and he all but stood up ready to get it done. He said "We can't wait the devil knows he is about to lose one." He was my role model and a great christian.

It is impossible to summarize a year of such an impact friendship. For me the best memories of Chris come in three areas. First he was dedicated to his family and couldn't mention them without a brightness exploding across his face. We would share countless things we were doing to try and be better Husbands or fathers and

even if I thought i had a good idea he would add a layer to make it that much better. Second he invested in me. Something that shook me to my core. Males are portrayed in our society as vulgar and without compassion and here comes someone who took me under his wing and showed compassion and love to everyone in his life. Further shocking is the fact that Chris was an introvert. He told me one time that an hour of socializing was more exhausting than a day of yard work. This illuminated just how precious these breakfasts were. He was willing to exhaust himself for someone as insignificant as myself. Lastly he was a testament of what it means to be a christian. He admitted he wasn't perfect and still struggled as we all do from time to time. However, everything he did was with love. From adding valuable comments to class to getting on to me for not reading my bible. He was my introverted angel that shaped my life more than he will ever know. He was a dear friend who defined what I strive to be as a friend, as a father, as a husband and as a christian.

Bio Williams - February 07 at 09:17 AM



“ My all time favorite memory of Chris is of the time we all almost got kicked out of The Village Restaurant in Marysville WA. Us, the Kings and the Capeharts went out for coffee one evening, and when you get us all together it ends in abject hilarity. We thought we might save a few dollars on pie by purchasing a whole pie (with extra whipped cream) and cutting it at the table. Well, the waitress would not let us, said it was against their policy. So, we cancelled the pie and continued to drink our coffee, and laughing about that and a million other things. Well, we did not know it at the time but the other customers began to slowly disappear to the other side of the restaurant, away from us. After some time had passed we realized that the six of us were alone in that seating area, and asked the waitress if they had closed that section and if we should move over to the other side of the restaurant as well. She then informs us that the other customers had requested to be moved because we were so loud. Shame on us, we couldn't contain our laughter at that point. As we were getting ready to pay our bill and say goodnight, here comes the waitress with a dish containing the extra whipped cream we had asked for WITH our pie order. We laughed so hard we just about cried. Pie and Coffee, Chris. I look forward to sharing them again with you in heaven brother. Love you

Roger Todd - February 06 at 02:01 PM



“ I have started and stopped a few times here. What I most remember of Chris, from back when I met both he and Donna back in 1983, was his complete and overwhelming love for Donna. He was a logic based thinker but he always went above and beyond to make certain Donna knew she was loved and cared for, even learning her language of love before that was even a concept in the larger world.

Their wedding in the Old Stone Church was perfect. They did not choose to have attendants because it would have been impossible to pick those people...and it also was a celebration of the two of them as a couple.

I visited them in Seattle for a couple of Christmases and I remember how Chris would come home from work, smiling and happy, and would say, "I love my job, I cannot tell you why, that's classified, but I love my job!"

One Christmas he took me to Target to get presents for Donna. I knew she liked this particular shampoo/conditioner and I bought it for her. He said "that's an expensive shampoo!" I said "But it is a cheap Christmas present!"

He laughed and said "So it is!"

He loved Donna and all of his children so.very.much. Please carry that with you throughout your lives and use it as a source of strength in trying times.

Debra Giampaoli - February 06 at 11:37 AM



“ We met the Kings through our mutual Al friends, the Cates, many years ago. Chris loved people and showed God to them in a very real way. He and his family shared love and their home and belongings with many. I enjoyed that we could have deep spiritual conversations with him and Donna and my life was better for having known him. Chris also had his competitive side - he loved playing games and he loved to win at those games. Early on it could be a bit scary to play with him but he grew to enjoy the game and people as much as the winning. I am sad that he is gone and we won't get more time here on Earth with him but I rejoice in knowing that he is with Jesus and not struggling with physical ailments any longer. We shall meet again.

Pam Liebelt - February 05 at 03:10 PM



“ I worked with Chris at the St Louis Boeing plant. He was always quiet, kind and helpful which was crazy because the F-22 was never any of that. It was great to know him and work with him.

...Guido...

Guido - February 04 at 09:01 PM



“ My favorite memories of Chris will always be his desire to share the WORD of God. Even when unsure of his abilities he trusted God and stepped out in Faith. His actions taught me the importance of being willing to go where God leads because if HE takes you there HE will bring you all the WAY. CHRIS memory is visible strength in God with a laughter and a smile



“ My introduction to the Kings came across the miles as Chris was battling Hodgkins. Our mutual friends the Cates asked us to pray for him and we did. As time went on we kept updated on his condition. We knew about their children Rachel and Matt. We knew each other's ups and downs. We were in Logan, Ohio and they were in Seattle.

Our journey would soon lead us back to Sea-Tac where we would meet face to face. I felt like I already knew Chris and Donna! We shared some wonderful times together. I can still remember sunny days with all the kids playing together as we gathered to enjoy play days, learning days, and swimming days. Friday evening gatherings at the Cate's house were special because all of the men could be there, home from their work responsibilities. The kids would prepare skits and of course, there was food! Sometimes we would all bring the same thing because we all did Once A Month Cooking! Singings at our house were great together times.

Through the years our families grew. We would each add more children to our families. We changed jobs and made a few cross country moves. But we would always reunite along the way. The Kings stayed put in Seattle so we always knew where to find them. There were birthday parties and worship times together and sometimes camping trips. And of course more singings. Leadership Training for Christ and Mission Trips. I've known them almost half my life!

Through the years a few things have been clear to me:

Chris loved God and his people (his Church) and wanted to share that love with others. They opened their home to the homeless, weary travelers, neighbors and friends. They lost sleep I am sure many times shuttling us and others to and from the airport expressing their love and comfort.

I was impressed with his decision-making skills. It shouldn't surprise me that he approached it with his programming mind. Of course, Donna and he worked together in an incredible way. They were open-minded when studying the scriptures and making application to their lives, as well as making family decisions. They examined things from so many angles not accepting the way everyone else approached things unless that made sense. Not just taking the easy path they may have been accustomed to. They worked for the best in every situation!

Chris was very committed to his wife and family. His love for them and joy in them was very obvious to all who met him. His gentleness and tenderness were impressive to me. He thought of how things would impact them and truly acted in their best interests. I have a lot to learn still from his example.

Somewhere it needs to go in here that Chris had a great appreciation for Apple products!

I cannot remember him without remembering his smile and his laugh. Especially

when he was rejoicing over his children's accomplishments. I especially remember him at LTC and his joy and pride in the kids.

The last time I saw Chris he was playing host to me and my son Josiah. Donna had a prior commitment and would be out late. We had a nice visit with Chris and the kids. Chris asked about breakfast and I told him no need. He was adamant that I could not deprive his wife of the joy and opportunity to fix breakfast for us. I knew he was being absolutely serious. Their move to St. Louis was a good one in so many ways I could tell. I knew their new home was perfect for all the things that are a natural overflow of their lives. Chris would be at work in the morning so we said our goodbyes to him, not knowing it would be the last. The next morning we would have a short visit and breakfast with Donna before we would head to the hospital. We were in St. Louis because we had a loved one in the hospital. It was a joy and encouragement to be with the Kings. I am so thankful God gave us the King family!

I am sad that Chris is gone but I know we will meet again. I know that Chris would want you to be there for the great reunion! He will be waiting with that big smile on!

Reda Redding - January 31 at 10:08 AM



“ You should know, we found a hilarious video of Lawrence and Chris dancing at the LTC party after our first year with Lakeview!

Donna - February 02 at 09:00 PM



“ I remember calling you guys when Mark and I got engaged and how utterly thrilled and delighted you both were on our behalf. Listening to you both on the phone celebrating marriage is one of my happiest announcing-engagement memories.

Nicole R. - January 31 at 01:35 AM



“ We enjoyed getting together with Chris and Donna on several occasions. I remember one time when we lived in Everett, Washington, playing a game with lots of singing. (I think it was called encore). It was a great time of singing, laughing and family. Perhaps a small glimpse of what heaven is like. Thanks for spending some special time with us.

Diane Lord - January 30 at 06:52 AM



“ I've known Chris and Donna for 29-30 years. As their family grew, I was given the great honor of being present at all but one of the births of their children. I got to be the picture taker! :) It was very special for me! I saw how Chris lovingly and with care supported Donna through this, as well as how he loved his family through the years. I

spent many days with them over the years as our children played together, went to each others birthday parties, outings, and more.

Some of my favorite memories of Chris are when he was being funny, with his words or actions. One time we went with their family to a Mexican food restaurant. I can't remember why he did this, but for some reason Chris stood up at the table and did a little dance. It was short, but funny nevertheless. It was eye opening to me, as I wouldn't have expected him to do that. But I loved it!

It was also fun to go to the parties at their house on New Years Eve. We would play board games, laugh, and have fun. I have great memories of funny things Chris would say, and it was also the way he said it that would be so funny to me.

Besides loving his family and friends, he loved God...and that is most precious of all!

I will miss being able to see Chris again (until Heaven). I love you all, miss you all, and can't wait to see you again! And to Donna I would say, you are truly one of my very best friends, and I appreciate you more than you can know.

You and your family will continue to be in my prayers.

Love, Lisa Sleppy

Lisa Sleppy - January 28 at 11:11 PM



“ We loved to play pinochle, but Donna and I played for the socializing, the cards were just an excuse. Chris and Bill were more competitive and they sometime got frustrated when we couldn't play our turn without asking a lot of question that would not have needed to be asked if we'd been paying any attention to the game. Since the guys liked to win and we liked to chat, one game we gals decided just to lose. We thought everybody would be happy. Of course Chris figured out what we were doing early on. Chris's disappointment was kind of heartbreaking. I realized then that while he did enjoy winning, he never wanted a win just handed to him. He wanted to win with honour, he wanted to deserve the win, he wanted to enjoy the challenge of a game where everybody did their best.

Another memory: We had two pet mice (Jane and Cassandra). We needed somebody to keep them for us- I don't remember why or for how long. I do remember the King kids had asked their dad several times and he was adamant about not wanting them in his house. Later Chris shocked me by volunteering to keep them for us. I was so moved.

He was often like that- adamant, firm, and it was all about protecting the soft marshmallow center in the middle.=)

Mostly, what I remember and cherish the most about Chris is that he loved us and cherished our friendship, and he made sure we knew it.

Wendi Capehart - January 28 at 11:17 AM



“ Oh Captain! My Captain!
Chris ran a tight ship, and with the best First Mate on the planet they maintained order and civility within their busy household. Not to say there wasn't an air of general silliness that could pervade at any moment; I remember asking a question about Star Wars (Star Wars, right? Not Star Trek—I cant keep them straight. And yes, I'm sure that sound you hear is Chris rolling in his grave!) I asked a question and got such a schooling in all things Star Wars/Trek, whatever, augmented with children chiming in with various character and plot descriptions/ relationships and debating story outcome/possible outcomes, that I and my question were soon forgotten, which was fine; it was so entertaining to watch him surrounded by his family, in his element! He and Donna were an excellent team. Our prayers for the whole family.

Kathy Sanford - January 27 at 07:59 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Donna King - January 26 at 02:16 PM



“ Beautiful! Thanks for sharing these pictures! Lisa Sleppy

Lisa Sleppy - January 28 at 11:22 PM



“ WOW, do I SO remember that most joyous wedding celebration! You two were truly meant to be as one! THANK YOU as always for including me that day and allowing our friendship to continue through the miles and life changes. I love you both always!

Susan Arms - February 08 at 01:04 PM



“ I have precious memories of Chris, whose friendship I shared with my husband, Mike. We first met Chris in Fort Collins, CO when he was a student at Colorado State University and we were all members of Rocky Mountain Church of Christ. He later introduced us to Donna, the love of his life, and my husband was blessed to perform their marriage ceremony.

I remember Chris for his beautiful smile, his sense of humor, and his ability to always see the bright side of a situation. He was a very positive person. I always appreciated

how he loved his mother and cared for her. He was so very much in love with Donna and his children and so very proud of all of them. I am very blessed to have had his friendship all these years! Heaven has gained a beautiful soul!

Linda Richardson - January 26 at 12:49 PM



“ I uploaded the photos you sent. Looks like they need to be jpg not pdf.

Donna King - January 26 at 02:16 PM



“ It is my pleasure to share some memories of one of the most unusual friends that I have had the pleasure of knowing in my life of over 80 years. Chris is so well credited with his sense of humor, his love of Christ, love of Donna and love of his children in all the memories that were posted before mine. I have truly enjoyed reading each and every one of them.

Back in the 1980s in Fort Collins, CO, it was my pleasure to greet a young man at Rocky Mtn Church of Christ as he walked into the door with some of the campus kids from Colorado State University. Of course, I had no idea that he and I would become such close friends during the next years of both of our lives. His wit and sarcastic sense of humor was a blessing to get to know. As others have commented, his laugh was contagious and uplifting to hear and enjoy.

Over the next couple of years, we enjoyed meeting for breakfast at several restaurants in Fort Collins as he finished his college studies. Most of the time we met a Perkins restaurant in downtown near the campus. We studied the Bible most of those mornings and discussed the readings and how life was going during those years. He introduced me to his girl friend, Donna, as she started to come to Rocky as well. Watching them grow in their faith was a real blessing to me and my wife, Linda.

Truly hated when Chris took the job at Boeing as he left for Seattle. We discussed his next step before he left and that was to plan a marriage to his love -- Donna. So when they set the date and asked me to perform the ceremony, needless to say it was my honor. Of course, I enjoyed uniting those two and seeing the growth in both of them in their love for Christ and for each other over all these years.

They continued to reach out to Linda and me over the years and proudly announced the next little one starting with number one and going thru number seven! What a joy to hear their voices telling us about each and every one of them. Over the following years we got to see each other on occasions when they returned to Colorado for visits. Got to meet their precious children and see the love Chris and Donna poured into each one.

Fortunately, we got to meet Chris Mother thru them and became close to her for several years. The love that Chris showed his mother was a great lesson for all of us in Colorado. Then to hear her brag on her son, daughter-in-law and, of course, her grandchildren was a real blessing.

Linda and I were in St. Louis for a reunion this last September with several families that we had met when we all lived there in the early 1970s. I am so glad we were able to spend an evening with the King Clan while we were there. As you all know, they invited us into their home and fed us dinner and spent the evening re-living lots of memories that are precious to us. We were blessed with some of the children able to join us and to see the talent God has given each of them as well as the blessings from their Dad and Mom.

Many of you have pointed out the relationship that was so evident between Chris and Donna and how it was built on their love for Christ and for each other. There is a great lesson here for everyone to emulate in your relationship with Christ and with your mates. Hopefully, you will see how Christ has blessed their lives and their family and will want that for your families.

It will be a joy to meet Chris in Heaven when Jesus calls me home. I cannot wait to hear the laugh, see the smile and to sit at his feet and let him teach me about Heaven!

Love you Donna and family.

Mike Richardson

Mike Richardson - January 26 at 12:28 PM



“Wow. Chris is a guy who will ALWAYS be around because his footprint on anyone who knew him is large and lasting. Chris and Donna (and the kids) housed Kay, Kenny, Jr, Sam and myself in the fall of 1996. We stayed at their really cool house in the Seattle area for a few months while I tried to save up. It was a difficult time but the King family made it a special experience...especially at every meal!! We joked about the 'Nobles and Kings' under the same roof. This Noble always knew who was the King boss, as Chris ruled his brood and we Noble peasants with firmness, sternness, and a laugh that I will always remember. Man, Chris could enjoy a good laugh and as such made anyone near him laugh. Probably the funniest situation I recall was a Friday or Saturday evening when it was customary to watch a movie in the family room after dinner, dishes, etc. The movie was chosen carefully, thoughtfully and with much consideration for our sensitivities, sensibilities and high standards. So, Chris chose 'Monty Python and The Holy Grail'! Haha! I enjoyed watching Chris and Donna so much more than the movie. They LOVE that film! And by the way, knew every line with precision and of course bodily impressions of all the characters including the infamous rat bite. SO FUNNY! And we all lost it during the 'minor flesh wound' scene. I still laugh at that awesome memory. Chris, Donna and the kids were SO into their element, at home, relaxed and for a couple of hours with no worries, concerns or stresses to intrude. There were many opportunities to share thoughts about the Bible, science, and Boeing. Chris loved Boeing. His eyes lit up and his passion and pride overflowed when discussing these things. The days at West Seattle Church of Christ were priceless, precious and too few. Chris and Donna

(they are one, aren't they?) gave and still give so much love. Kay and I were so blessed to enjoy King hospitality in St. Louis during our move from Colorado to Georgia last fall. There was Chris out in the street with his cell phone directing us (locating us because we were lost) as we tried to navigate the weird street directions in their neighborhood, lol. Oh, I will miss Chris so very, very much. He stood for everything God stood for and he made an eternal impression on me. Love and great fondness always, Ken and Kay Noble

Kenny Noble Cortes - January 25 at 11:40 AM



“ I remember meeting Chris and Donna many years ago at Yellowstone Family Bible Encampment. My biggest impression was the amount of love Chris shared with his family. It was evident that he was deeply in love with Donna and was not afraid to show it! He was a strong man who was not shy about sharing his thoughts and clearly was the leader of his family. Even so, he was not afraid to shed a tear or physically demonstrate his love by holding hands, embracing, patting the backs or showing his affection to his admiring wife, daughters and sons! I can also remember how much Chris and Donna would make each other laugh!! They were pure joy to be around!!! What a blessing Chris was as a husband and father for all of us to observe! He will be missed!! I'm so thankful we will see him again one day with our Lord! We love you Donna and children! You will remain in our prayers!

Laura Warnes - January 14 at 06:30 PM



“ I had always known Chris as a nice guy, engaged dad, a Christian brother, but I was able to see yet another character role one Youth & Government season finale. Donna encountered some nasty vermin at our hotel, which robbed her of a nights sleep, and she feared it would seriously compromise her responsibility the long next couple days. But no worries, her knight in shining armor came to support his beloved damsel in distress, and saved the days to follow, for all of us. His chivalry will be missed on this earth, but the model lives on in our memories.

Tandra Birkebak WA - January 14 at 01:56 AM



“ I've known Mr. Chris for his gentle and kindness. He always gave me a friendly greeting with a smile and hug. Him and Donna opened there home to me if I ever needed a place to stay. He will be missed greatly by not only family but friends as well. I'm thankful for the time I did get to spend with Him. May his soul be at rest. Amen

Vanessa Brewer - January 13 at 08:45 PM



“ When our family met Chris and Donna they always had open arms . Chris very humble and deeply in love with Jesus. Communion was always beautiful. Seeing his spiritual life grew my heart more towards Christ . Chris taught his children well and honor for his wife. His personality was contagious. My memories are so wonderful . Time let me realize he was a character of Christ . Loving memories he changed our lives. The ripple in our lives have transformed us by knowing Chris King .

Janette Barnard - January 16 at 12:31 AM



“ The thing that I noticed first about Chris King and his beautiful wife was how much he loved her and she him! Tenderness and affection in their looks to each other and their touches and tone. I'm not sure I've ever seen such genuine Christian love in a husband and wife. I think of that example quite often. He did a fine job as a dad to some amazing children! My prayer is that, when the time comes for his children to marry, they will follow their parent's example! We sure love you all! Love and many prayers from the Smith family (your Yellowstone family)

Chris-Missy Smith - January 12 at 06:22 PM



“ Our history with Chris and the King family is certainly not as extensive as others but our love and appreciation for them is profound. Certainly it is difficult to talk about Chris without talking about Donna because they were truly one--united in name, purpose and love for God and others. We met Chris and Donna and three of their children when they moved to the Saint Louis area not quite three years ago. We will never forget walking into that Wednesday evening Bible class at the Maryland Heights Church of Christ and hearing his voice say, "We know you!" As it turned out we had met at a 'Marriage Matters' conference in Seattle a few years earlier. That original greeting seemed to be the hallmark of their lives--regardless if they knew others or not! I don't think either of them ever met a stranger. As they settled into their new church home, they hit the ground running. Not to be ones who waited for others to initiate conversation or even areas of service, Chris and Donna had the ability to read people, evaluate needs, and act accordingly. Regardless of whether they were opening their home to a family who needed a place to live for a few weeks, initiating congregational gatherings, encouraging new converts or mentoring married couples, they were always serving.

Chris may have lost the physical battle but he won the war. We will miss him, but his spirit will continue to live in all of us who knew and loved him. We are better people because he lived!

Jerry and Lynn Jones

Jerry and Lynn Jones - January 12 at 06:08 PM



“ Chris was the brother that I never had. Such a giving, sharing and caring man that I would have liked to have in my life for many more years, however, I am so very grateful for the time I was able to spend with him and know him personally.

When my daughter, granddaughter's and I were literally homeless, Chris and Donna took us in their home and housed us. We at that time hardly knew Chris or his family, however, they showed us the Christian love that God would show and accepted us. We were so blessed to live with them and watch them share their Christian love for us and others.

We would have blessings at all the meals, which Chris would lead. Once a week we had a devotional, reading of the Bible and singing with them which was amazing.

Watching them daily, show and practice their Christian Faith was a great inspiration for me. During that time they even helped parent the granddaughters with their Faith and Christ-like love.

It was a joke between Chris and I, that I made the family cat (Sam) to mouthy and sassy for him. Sam was a pretty quiet cat, until I started spoiling her and talking to her all the time.

From then on Sam would greet Chris every morning, meowing wanting to be fed and every evening when he came home meowing at him.

Even though I know I won't see Chris any more here on earth, I can't wait to give him a hug again in Heaven.

I know Chris is not in pain anymore and I know that he is still with all of us that knew him in perfect Spirt.

Love you Chris.....

Donna Neal - January 12 at 05:57 PM



“ My husband and I were introduced to the King family through my stepson's family. We were included at many gatherings of their expanded church family. My husband Esko Sr. was sort of an adopted grandfather or elder to Chris (and others). We loved hanging out at holiday gatherings, wonderfully wacky game nights, campouts at the beach, and picnic games. What I remember most about Chris is his love for his family and his occasionally sarcastic sense of humor. We discussed many things, serious and casual, and his insights were thought-provoking. We could tease each other and not take it personally. Esko and I enjoyed watching the King children as they grew up, interacting with our grandchildren and the other church kids. My thoughts are with them and Donna as they navigate the coming years without Chris' physical presence. After Esko died, I would sometimes be confronted with a problem or situation that I felt inadequate to handle, and I would stop, take a deep breath and ask myself, "What would Esko say or do about this." I swear that answers came to me. Remember, the love is still present in your hearts and minds.



“ The King family were our neighbors for many years. We were invited to years of birthday parties, social events and in home haircuts!! We broke bread and said prayers together, we laughed and cried together. We shared our love for animals, food, children and each other. We had one child, they had seven! We had many dogs, and some times horses, they had none! We had a large yard where they would come over and play, but sometimes we would just meet at the fence and share life. At the holidays they would come caroling and sing their heart songs, and we would listen with blessed ears. We shared many stories and watched as our children grew into young adults. Although we lived differently, we had the Lord as a common denominator. God brought this family into our life and we were blessed because of it. We are saddened for the loss of a husband and father, but we are rejoiced knowing Chris King is in the arms of Jesus!

To Donna and your children, please know you are in our deepest thoughts and prayers...

Karen Pounders Cole Pounders & Kathleen Lasco

Karen Pounders - January 12 at 03:33 AM



“ I have been blessed to have had two best friends during my life. Best friends that were so close that we were literally brothers from another mother.

Chris and I became friends following an exchange trip between schools in Longmont, Colorado and Lihue, Kauai Hawaii. It was 1975 and we were both sophomores at Longmont High School. Chris played saxophone in White Band and I was first chair trumpet in Blue Band, Rhythm Aires and Orchestra. We didn't even know each other until after my parents who had accompanied the group as chaperones helped Chris when he ran short of money during the trip.

It was during the last couple days on that trip when my Dad was taken to the hospital in Lihue with concerns about his heart. Thankfully he was allowed to return to Colorado with the group, but our chartered DC8-stretch was on alert as we approached San Francisco in case an emergency landing was needed. Fortunately we continued on to Denver and returned by bus to Longmont where my Dad was immediately admitted to Longmont United Hospital with the sack around his heart filling with water.

What began with my parents befriending Chris in his time of need had quickly progressed to Chris befriending me after my Dads sudden illness.

Chris and I were both geeks, misfits that were laughed at and ignored. That was was the norm. We were the butt of jokes and the targets of upper class-men, and as our friendship grew we became inseparable. At the start of our senior year we worked

together organizing our new band uniforms and pep band music. Finally we were rising to a level of respect and acceptance as upper class-men. Upon my urging, we ditched class on numerous occasions to play football near the band room and even went so far as fabricating a story about the band traveling to an away game so that we could sneak off to south Denver to go to a haunted house!

Chris fell in love with Hawaii and returned to the islands shortly after high school and for most of his four year hitch in the Army he was stationed at Schofield Barracks on the island of Oahu. With several time zones and thousands of miles separating us we remained friends and Chris never failed to call. Every Christmas his "adopted family" always received a couple boxes of our favorite macadamia nut chocolates.

One Christmas, Chris was home on leave and because he didn't have a car he repeatedly asked me and my folks if we could take him to town so he could find a Denver Broncos ball cap. It seemed we always had a reason that delayed or prevented us from honoring his request. Days passed and his discouragement grew until the night the truth surfaced. While we were making Christmas cookies we gave Chris the Broncos hat that we had already purchased as a gift.

Chris had found a way to return to Hawaii, serve in the Army and earn G.I. benefits that would pay for his college. Afterwards he reconnected with a high school friend from German Club who was also attending CSU and they became roommates. Mike Little studied computer information systems and Chris studied computer science. Thanks to enrolling in continuing education I began playing trumpet in the CSU jazz bands and one night a week I would cook them a REAL meal in exchange for spending the night on their couch so I didn't have to drive home after the late night rehearsals.

I have many memories of the hours we spent playing swimming pool basketball, watching British comedy on late night TV, and playing card... LOTS OF CARDS! Chris even threw a surprise Birthday party for me complete with a cake that Susan Killion had baked. Chris, Susan and I had become friends towards the end of high school and now she too had enrolled at CSU.

The most significant memory is giving Chris a Bible shortly after his arrival at CSU. I know we discussed God on numerous occasions and my Mom continually prayed for both Chris and I. It was with good reason I might add... trust me when I say we needed it! After all Chris and I were like brothers and that's what good Moms do!

To quote the lyrics of a song by Michael W Smith...

"Packing up the dreams God planted, in the fertile soil of you... Can't believe the hopes He's granted, means a chapter in your life is through... But we'll keep you close as always, it won't even seem you've gone... 'Cause our hearts in big and small ways, will keep the love that keeps us strong...

And friends are friends forever

If the Lord's the Lord of them

And a friend will not say never

'Cause the welcome will not end... Though it's hard to let you go, in the Father's

hands we know...That a lifetime's not too long - to live as friends.”



Dick Lovenburg - January 12 at 12:40 AM



“ Last summer, you guys graciously let our family invade multiple times. The last time I was traveling solo with my kids, and I ran sooo much later than planned, then got lost, so I didn't make it until after Chris's normal bedtime. He stayed waiting up for us anyway, ready with a kind greeting before he took his exhausted self to bed. I so appreciated his kindness in staying up.

When you grow up in states hundreds of miles from the one where your husband grew up, it's not easy to introduce him to all those wonderful people that influenced your growing up years. So, so thankful that God granted us an exception with your family. I loved watching Mark get to spend more time with you this summer... we left and both said: “that was refreshing!” So thankful.

Nicole R. - January 11 at 10:58 PM



“ I knew Chris and Donna before kids and then again after the older kids were grown and on their own. When I reacquainted with Chris he was an older version of the man I knew as passionate for God and family (and unfortunately the Denver Broncos). It seems to me that he lived a life of purpose and meaning which will live on in his family. He fought the good fight and is certainly a good example for me. I was fortunate to have known him.

Tom Hyldahl - January 11 at 09:01 PM



“ I'm so sorry. I'm praying for your family.

Amy Ritchal - January 11 at 05:46 PM



“ I simple remember his smile and his ferocious love for his family. He was a very good man and an excellent Pinochle player who could count cards better than I.

Once, in Washington, our two families were playing kickball together. His oldest daughter (Rachel) was running from third to home. I threw the ball at her, but hit her

near her ankles. She fell and skinned up her knees. This is the only time that I ever saw him angry, he approached me and chewed me out for hurting his, "little girl." He quickly calmed down and did forgive me, but I will never forget the look on his face and new he loved his family.

He will be missed my so many.

Bill Capehart - January 11 at 03:12 PM



“ Donna L King is following this tribute.

Donna King - January 11 at 12:37 PM