



## Christopher James Handke

January 1, 1984 - August 31, 2013

Christopher James Handke, 29, passed away unexpectedly on August 31, 2013.

Chris was born August 13, 1984 in Lake Forest, IL to David and Katherine Handke and has a younger sister, Michelle. He grew up in Grayslake, IL and later went on to Purdue University where he received a degree in Industrial Management. After graduation he volunteered at Lake Country Caring in Hartland, WI until he found a position as a contract specialist with NSWC Crane in Crane, IN.

Chris enjoyed fishing (always hoping to snag that elusive musky), hiking, going to the shooting range, working on his truck, and hanging out with his friends. His compassion and friendliness made him an instant friend to those that met him and his quick wit put a smile on everyone's face. He will truly be missed by those that knew him.

Chris was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents, Richard and Nancy Handke; his maternal grandparents, Winfred and Esther Killman; and his uncles, Forrest Killman and Steven Krellwitz.

Cremation has taken place and his final interment will be decided at a later date. A memorial service will be held Saturday, September 14th at the Allen Funeral Home in

Bloomington, IN. Visitation will be at 10:00am with the service following at 11:00am. If you are able to attend, the family would appreciate the sharing of stories and remembrances of Chris. In memory of Chris, donations may be given to the Alzheimer's Association.

# Tribute Wall

PA

“ Chris, I want to say thank you for many things.

*Thank you for serving as my Mentor upon my arrival to Crane Naval Base and contracting on 8-1-2011.*

*Thank you for answering my questions on contract modifications or for directing me to the Federal Acquisition Regulation.*

*Thank you for showing me how to understand funding documents and how they relate and apply to Government contracts.*

*Thank you for serving as our lead during contract operations and meetings about Government contract processes.*

*Thank you for treating others with respect and professionalism in and around the work place.*

*Thank you for being a proud Purdue graduate while working in an Indiana University atmosphere.*

*Thank you for having such a great attitude when dealing with a diverse group of people.*

*Thank you for your care and concern when someone was having a bad day at work.*

*Thank you for driving me in your FORD truck to lunch in the rain because I rode my Harley that day.*

*Thank you for lending an ear and giving advice when complaints came your way.*

*Thank you for your friendly smile day in and day out.*

*Thank you for making us laugh with your clever comeback comments.*

*And lastly, thank you for your public appreciation of our Military men and women who defend the United States of American and our freedom. It was an honor to work beside you Chris. You will be sadly missed by me and all of the Crane Naval Base Contracting and Acquisition Personnel.*

*Respectfully,  
Paul Gibson  
Crane Naval Base  
Contract Specialist  
Retired Military Veteran*

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**Paul Gibson** - October 26, 2015 at 04:09 PM

JR

“*Chris will sincerely be missed. He was helped people at work and outside of work. From all of the stories, I'm sure you realize the positive impact Chris had on people's lives either directly or indirectly. Thank you for you and your family visiting all of his co-workers at NSWC Crane. Thank you for sharing stories about Chris which helped with the grieving process. My thoughts and prayers will be with your family.*

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**Joel Roberson** - October 26, 2015 at 04:09 PM

TI

“ *Mr. and Mrs. Handke,  
I just want you to know that I think Chris was an exceptional person. He was smart, funny, kind, and had an incredible work ethic. Chris meant so much to those he worked with. Chris was taken from us too soon and it feels unfair that such a smart and talented young man's life has ended with so much living left to do. Please know that Chris will live on in our hearts, thoughts and memories. I am so very sorry for your loss. I am so very sorry for our loss. He will be missed.*

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**Tisha Langell** - October 26, 2015 at 04:09 PM

SU

“ *I am so sorry for your loss. While I did not work w/Chris, we worked in the same Bldg. I saw him everyday and spoke with him. He was always so nice, friendly, outgoing, and smiling. His presence was noticed and his absence very missed.*

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**Summer Shafer** - October 26, 2015 at 04:09 PM

DA

“ *It is tragic to see such a promising life snatched away. Chris always had a smile on his face when I saw him. He will be missed.*

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**Dawn Sollman** - October 26, 2015 at 04:09 PM

KS

“ Dear Mr. & Ms. Handke and Michelle - Thank you for sharing your beautiful son with us. I had the pleaseure of working with Chris in the contracting office at Crane. He was super. He was smart, he was hard-working and resourceful, he was kind and thoughtful, and he was dedicated to solving problems for the Navy and the nation. He was a super analyst, who could solve tough problems in costing, in acquisition strategy, and at the same time, he could deal with people (people who weren't always patient or understanding about the contracting process!) I always enjoyed chatting with Chris in the office - he and I would be here late sometimes and we'd talk about work, but we'd also talk about fishing or car racing, or whatever might be going on over the weekend.

Thank you so very much for coming to Crane last week to meet people in the office, and to share stories, and love and laughter and tears with us. We miss Chris, and we keep Chris and you in our thoughts and prayers.

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**Kelly Siffin** - October 26, 2015 at 04:09 PM