



Andrew William Stokes

September 3, 2013

Stokes, Andrew W. age 31. Survived by parents, Kathleen and Todd Olufson. Memorial service 7 PM Thursday, September 5 at Coon Rapids Evangelical Free Church, 2650 128th Ave NW, Coon Rapids. www.Washburn-McReavy.com Coon Rapids Chapel 763-767-1000

Tribute Wall

BR

“ I am very surprised to hear of his passing, and saddened by it. I didn't know him that well, nor for that long, but he made an impact on my life in high school.

My friends and I nicknamed him "Surge" after his fondness for the soft drink of the same name. I met Andrew in my Small Gas Engines class, I a senior and he a sophomore (if memory serves. We sat near each other and I took to him almost right away. He was drawing a picture of Alucard from Castlevania, and on other occasions was looking at his new Metallica and Ozzy Osbourne albums of that year.

I shared my (rather crude) drawings and let him in on the stories I was writing with my other friends, and he was very encouraging about my work. He always told me to do more and inspired me in my writing at the time, no matter how bad my work was in retrospect. I even introduced him to my friends and he fit in with us like he had always belonged. He was mature beyond his years, and my other friends and I, obviously less so.

Andrew was also a great lab partner working on engines. Often as not, he had as many extra parts as I did. He also didn't take to the tomfoolery that the freshman kids engaged in and had no tolerance for it. We also used to joke that our teacher looked like the T1000 from T2, and that the bad kids should probably watch out. Especially once one of those punks dissolved a wire brush in the bucket of carburetor cleaner.

I ran into Andrew a year or two after I graduated and as he was about to. Maybe he already had. He told me that he'd be headed to some sort of college or was on break from the same. But we didn't really reconnect, unfortunately. Email was still young, Facebook and Skype hadn't been invented yet. And I was struggling to find my way in life and as a new Christian. Both of us were quite busy at the time and I didn't wish to add to his list of things to. We parted ways on good terms and it was my hope to maybe reconnect at some later

date.

I thought of Andrew in recent years, thought about maybe reconnecting. Instead I found that Andrew has passed. My shock and sadness is more than one would think after such a brief and irregular friendship, but Andrew really was a good friend and made an impact on me. I knew him really only for a few months, the school year of 1997 - 1998 and a chance meeting several years later, but Andrew will always be in my heart. Remembered as one of my best friends in my senior year.

Farewell Surge.

B. Lloyd Reese, aka "Frank"

B. Lloyd Reese - October 23, 2015 at 09:08 AM

JO

“*I used to play video games with Andrew online for years. I had no idea this happened. Sorry for the late post but Andrew was a great guy and I can tell you from everyone he gamed with he will be missed.*

So sorry for your lost.

James Olsen - January 08, 2014 at 01:37 PM

KO

“ Todd and I are just overwhelmed by the outpouring of sympathy, concern, affection and generosity of everyone. We miss Andrew so bad. Thank you to everyone who was able to show up for Andrew's memorial service, as well as those who wished they could. Thank you for the cards, gifts, flowers, memories and sentiments. God bless you all.

Kathleen Olufson

Kathleen Olufson - September 07, 2013 at 07:24 PM



Is there a gravesite for Andrew? I would like to pay my last respects. I recently moved back to MN and i think of him from time to time.

- brett

B Lloyd Re - February 14, 2025 at 08:10 AM

JW

“ *I will miss you Andrew, Cousin Jeff.*

Jeff Welsh - September 06, 2013 at 02:02 PM

Mak Korntheuer

“ *We have been online gaming with Andrew on and off for 12 years or so (back to the Hexapalooza days). In the past year, we've been playing together nearly every day and communicating with voice chat made it seem as if we were in the same room. We are proud to have been Andrew's friends and will greatly miss his commentary and laughter.*

Mak "Jethro [dx]" and Andrea "Pantera [dx]" Korntheuer

Mak Korntheuer - September 06, 2013 at 10:40 AM

PZ

“ Andrew was a beautiful young man who always had an insight and a smile, no matter what the topic at hand. Our family hurts at this loss and we will always miss him.

Paul Zeman - September 05, 2013 at 10:28 PM

CC

“ Courtney Cotter lit a candle in memory of Andrew William Stokes



Courtney Cotter - September 05, 2013 at 09:58 PM

GH

“ Greg "dkm" Hanson lit a candle in memory of Andrew William Stokes



Greg "dkm" Hanson - September 05, 2013 at 08:42 PM

AC

“ Aunt Carrie lit a candle in memory of Andrew William Stokes



Aunt Carrie - September 05, 2013 at 02:14 PM

AC

“ *My dear Andrew. I will miss your sardonic sense of humor, your great wit, your love of books, movies and our movie marathons. I'm blessed to have known you and bless Todd for bringing both you and Kathleen into my llfe. As all grief subsides over time, my memories of the man that was Andrew Stokes will continue and remain vivid and vibrant.*

Aunt Carrie - September 05, 2013 at 02:10 PM

CO

“ *To one of My many Nephews.
Andrew I will never forget your shy smile and your great big hug's.
You have always had a place in my heart you will be missed..
Kathleen and Todd. I am so sorry for your loss. I love you both very much..
It is indeed a sad day for our family.
Auntie Christy.....*

christy OLufson - September 05, 2013 at 02:07 PM

HT

“ *Ha N Truong lit a candle in memory of Andrew William Stokes*



Ha N Truong - September 05, 2013 at 12:47 PM



“ *Secret Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Andrew William Stokes.*



September 05, 2013 at 10:18 AM



“ *Todd and Kathleen*

We are so sorry to hear about Andrew. We only met him twice when visiting Andrea but he seemed like a nice young man. There are no words that can express our Sympathy to you both. You are in our prayers.

Fran and John Fedak

Fran and John Fedak - September 05, 2013 at 10:11 AM



“ *Thor, Keri, Daniel & Joe lit a candle in memory of Andrew William Stokes*



Thor, Keri, Daniel & Joe - September 05, 2013 at 09:03 AM



Thor, Keri, Daniel and Joe

Thor Keri Dan Joe - September 05, 2013 at 09:06 AM

TF

“ Tamara Flolo lit a candle in memory of Andrew William Stokes



Tamara Flolo - September 05, 2013 at 08:50 AM

SB

“ Sarah Brown lit a candle in memory of Andrew William Stokes



Sarah Brown - September 05, 2013 at 08:09 AM

AS

“ Ashley lit a candle in memory of Andrew William Stokes



Ashley - September 05, 2013 at 07:38 AM

TO

“ Tony lit a candle in memory of Andrew William Stokes



Tony - September 04, 2013 at 11:49 PM

SO

“ 6 files added to the album *Andrew Stokes*



Song - September 04, 2013 at 09:27 PM

AN

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Andrea - September 04, 2013 at 07:43 PM



Heather
McClintock

“ Andrew and I worked together and sat only a few cubes away from each other. I will miss seeing his smiling face when getting coffee in the morning and riding the elevator together on our way out of work. He was such a nice person who was always willing to help others, answer questions, and ask questions when he needed help. He knew more about movies than anyone I know and was a huge asset at movie trivia in training. Andrew will be missed greatly by so many people. I am praying for peace and comfort for his family. Rest in peace, Andrew. You were one of a kind.



Heather McClintock - September 04, 2013 at 06:12 PM

JB

“ Andrew, I'll miss the firm handshake and the respectful "look you in the eye" while doing it. I'll miss the sports talk at our family gatherings and the knowledge you passed on. I'll miss your personality and a lot of other things. You added your own dynamic to our family and it will simply be missed.

Deepest sympathies to Kathleen and Todd. Our love and support will be there for you forever.

Jake, Star, Tenzin and Axel

Jake Bazella - September 04, 2013 at 05:54 PM

AO

“ I will miss you very much, Andrew. All the holidays, picnics, and family get togethers won't be the same without you.



Andrea Olufson - September 04, 2013 at 05:13 PM

RW

“ *I am still at a loss for words, I still considered Andrew one of my best friends, even though we had drifted apart over the last 2-3 years since we both moved, and hadn't spoken much recently. How I wish we could have another movie night, or meet up for drinks again. Andrew, your memory will live on with all of us.*

Ryan Wallmow - September 04, 2013 at 04:28 PM

DB

“ *Daisy & Ben Bjork lit a candle in memory of Andrew William Stokes*



Daisy & Ben Bjork - September 04, 2013 at 04:16 PM

BB

“ *Dear Cousin Andrew,
It's hard to imagine the get-togethers without you-void of your smile and laugh. I will miss your interesting and knowledgeable conversation. I LOVED your personality. I wish things could have turned out much differently.
Peace and Love to Uncle Todd and Aunt Kathleen and the scores friends and family who are so deeply saddened by your passing.
-Cousin Bonnie*

Bonnie Bazella - September 04, 2013 at 04:14 PM

BE

“ *Bennett lit a candle in memory of Andrew William Stokes*



Bennett - September 04, 2013 at 04:08 PM

BB

“ *Bonnie Bazella lit a candle in memory of Andrew William Stokes*



Bonnie Bazella - September 04, 2013 at 04:07 PM

KS

“ *Kenzie Sorenson lit a candle in memory of Andrew William Stokes*



Kenzie Sorenson - September 04, 2013 at 03:42 PM



“ *Erick Olufson lit a candle in memory of Andrew William Stokes*



Erick Olufson - September 04, 2013 at 03:37 PM

JW

“ *Jeff Welsh lit a candle in memory of Andrew William Stokes*



Jeff Welsh - September 04, 2013 at 03:14 PM

SB

“ *Star Bazella lit a candle in memory of Andrew William Stokes*



Star Bazella - September 04, 2013 at 02:59 PM

EF

“ *While I did not know Andrew well, I can echo the previous comments made by his coworkers. Andrew was more than willing to help out when asked. He followed up with me a couple times to make sure I understood what he was helping me with. He was kind and showed a genuine interest and caring when helping other people. My condolences to Andrew's family. Andrew - thank you and Godspeed.*

Emily Froelich - September 04, 2013 at 02:59 PM

KA

“ *Katie Anderson lit a candle in memory of Andrew William Stokes*



Katie Anderson - September 04, 2013 at 02:52 PM

BW

“ I met Andrew, or "Stokes" as I called him in my training class at work last year. I realized immediatly that we shared the same sense of humor and same attitude towards our work so we instantly got along. Every day in class and almost every day since then we would go outside together for a smoke (he would use his "e-cig" in the past couple months) and discuss the days trials and victories.

He spoke from the heart, and always said exactly what was on his mind, which for me is hard to find in someone. We talked about quitting smoking, the T-Wolves, girls, workload, a new beer we'd tried, video games, movies and music, and once in a while we'd go down the road to grab a burger and a Fulton beer on tap. We'd complain about our day to eachother, and celebrate our wins, he was agreat listener and would look you in the eye when you spoke to him.

Whenever I had a question at work, he would stop what he was doing to come over and help me out, and he was a very busy guy with his own work, but always found the time. He would bum me a smoke when I ran out and could tell I was stressed, and would let me know when it was BBQ day in the cafeteria. He was always looking to help someone out or make their day a little brighter, even if it was at the expense of his own.

My only regret is that I only knew him for under a year, he was such a great person and helped make so many peoples days easier and less stressful. I will miss you buddy, I hope you are drinking a delicious Fulton Sweet Child of Vine on tap up there and having a big juicy burger.

Breton Williams - September 04, 2013 at 02:31 PM

KS

“ *Karen Susterick lit a candle in memory of Andrew William Stokes*



Karen Susterick - September 04, 2013 at 02:21 PM

AM

“ *Annie Myles lit a candle in memory of Andrew William Stokes*



Annie Myles - September 04, 2013 at 02:14 PM

SL

“ *Scott Lein lit a candle in memory of Andrew William Stokes*



Scott Lein - September 04, 2013 at 02:02 PM

AN

“ Andrew is a treasured member on our team at Fireman's Fund. I cannot express how grateful I have been to have had him as part of our unit for the past few years. Words can't adequately express or illustrate the void that now exists with his passing. Andrew's smile and laughter will live on with the rest of us as we try to pick up the pieces and move forward with life without him. The debates over technology and movies/TV will never be the same without him by our side.

Andrew you are sorely missed. You will forever be in our thoughts as well as have a special place in our hearts for eternity.

Angela - September 04, 2013 at 01:52 PM

NI

“ *Nicolle lit a candle in memory of Andrew
William Stokes*



Nicolle - September 04, 2013 at 01:34 PM

NI

Rest in peace Andrew

Nicolle - September 04, 2013 at 01:35 PM

BR

“ *Bridgette lit a candle in memory of Andrew
William Stokes*



Bridgette - September 04, 2013 at 01:28 PM

TS

“ *Theah Smith lit a candle in memory of Andrew William Stokes*



Theah Smith - September 04, 2013 at 01:17 PM

“ Two years ago today Dre (the nickname I gave Andrew) showed up to our training class at work with a birthday cake for me. It was the first of many unprompted kind acts Dre would do for me. Over the course of the last two years I learned a lot, not just about the person but about people in general. I learned if you don't take the time to get to know someone because of some perceived difference you might miss out on the opportunity to gain a really good friend.

Over the last two years Dre and I discussed many things, mostly sports, some video games and even a few facts of life. We talked mostly about Basketball and Hockey, the Wolves and Wild to be exact. I'm not sure if Dre really liked those sports when we first started discussing them or if He was just the kind of guy willing to discuss my interests and put his own aside (baseball is true favorite, but He knew I wasn't a big fan) but I do know over time He became a huge fan. From the draft to the games to the stats and players we discussed everything Wolves, We didn't always agree but the banter was always in good fun.

Over the last few weeks I have been swamped at work, stressed because I didn't have time to juggle the half a day I spend in training and my work load, that is until Dre came to my rescue offering to do several of my work items and pulling me out from what seemed like an impossible hole to climb out of but that's the kind of guy Dre was, He would never put himself first. I did get the chance to thank him for the help but I don't know if He ever took the time to realize what a huge help He was.

If I could say anything to Dre today it would be "keep your head up!" He had a lot to be proud of, most people are so worried about themselves that they don't take the time to see that others might need help or encouragement, the Dre I know never had this problem. I would define him as selfless, honest, kind, intelligent and caring. A true connoisseur of the golden rule, He always treated others well.

*Thanks for everything, you will be missed
Bennett*

Bennett Houck - September 04, 2013 at 01:13 PM

JH

Bennett, what a heartfelt and beautifully-written tribute. Bless you for sharing your insights and a piece of Andrew that I never knew.

Jane P. Halverson - September 04, 2013 at 01:51 PM

AO

Bennet, your tribute made me cry (Andrew's Aunt Andrea)

Andrea Olufson - September 04, 2013 at 04:06 PM

SB

“ 4 files added to the album *New Album Name*



Star Bazella - September 04, 2013 at 12:37 PM

CO

“ *I will never forget you Andrew, your sweet smile you great big hugs..
You will always have a place in my heart.. Love always..Auntie..*

Christy Kay Olufson - September 04, 2013 at 11:10 AM

DB

“ We were sorry to hear of Andy passing. You Todd and Andy will always be in our thoughts We Love you very much. Dot and Buster

Dot and Buster - September 04, 2013 at 10:36 AM

KO

“ 2 files added to the album New Album Name



Kathleen Olufson - September 04, 2013 at 10:22 AM

MW

“ Andrew was such an amazing man. He was funny, super smart and always so helpful. He will be missed so much by his friends at Fireman's Fund. He was an amazing coworker and I will miss having him as a point of reference, a friend and someone to talk to. My heart and prayers go out to not only Andrew but to his family as well, I am so sorry for your loss. - Michelle Willy



Michelle Willy - September 04, 2013 at 10:03 AM



“ I would definitely say Andrew was my closest cousin. Most of my memories with him are from our childhood. I remember us being obsessed with ninja turtles and video games. I remember playing him in mortal kombat for Sega genesis over and over again losing to him round after round and when I finally got one win out of the 50 rounds we would play he would say he wasn't paying attention Lol. I remember playing streets of rage with him and lots of sonic the hedgehog. We both liked baseball when we were younger and played catch in the backyard whenever he came over. During family Christmas and thanksgiving me and him would be together the whole time talking about sports and stuff. He was the closest person to my age in my family, As we got older we we drifted apart handling our responsibilities in our adult lives mainly only seeing each other during holidays or family events. Thanksgiving and Christmas will never be the same without his fantasy football suggestions. I will miss him so much.

Erick Olufson - September 04, 2013 at 09:13 AM



“ I wanted to send my deepest condolences to your family. I was reading some of the tributes to Andrew and I can tell he was a really cool, trusted and loved friend. I'm so sorry for your loss and I will keep your family in my prayers. God bless you and your family. Sincerely...Jen Clark (carol's Daughter, Elaine's Granddaughter)

Jen Clark - September 04, 2013 at 06:56 AM

SO

“ I met Andrew through Erik (his best friend and my fiancé). They had a very special bond over the 15 years they were friends, and I also quickly grew to love and admire him. He shared so many things with us - his vast music and movie collection, his extensive knowledge of film and media, his wry sense of humor, his amazing cooking skills, his computer know-how/gadget/tech skills, and his bold and comedic thoughts and opinions on popular media and current events. He was always up for a late night movie or a game of all-night Tekken at our house. I'll always miss those nights we played Cards Against Humanity until 2AM and his infectious booming laughter would echo all through our house. I can still hear him singing Steel Panther songs in our game room while kicking Erik's ass in Tekken over and over again.

Andrew was so important to us. In the time that I've known Erik, there has never been a day has gone by where Erik did not talk about Andrew, wondered where he was or when he'd see him next, or shared an interesting tidbit about a memory from their past or something that Andrew introduced him to/inspired an interest of his in. Andrew definitely helped shaped who Erik is today and I thank him for that. They were like brothers and shared so much with one another, and needed each other so much. Erik could have never asked for a better friend, and I am so lucky to have known him and had him in my life as well.

I was looking forward to seeing him and Erik pick me up from work on Fridays like they always do, and then heading back to our place to hang out, watch a movie, or play video games. It will never be the same.

We will forever miss you, Andrew - your warm smile, your infectious laughter, your hilarious commentary, and all of the good times we've had together over the years. We love you and will carry your memory in our hearts forever.

Song - September 03, 2013 at 11:31 PM

PZ

This is very beautiful. Thank you - Andrew's Uncle Paul

Paul Zeman - September 04, 2013 at 01:27 AM

SO

Thank you, Paul. We will never forget Andrew.

Song - September 04, 2013 at 01:00 PM

CC

“ *We worked together briefly, but I could tell you were "one of the good ones." Too smart for your own good. Nobody could forget your sense of humor. Gone too soon.* ”

Courtney C - September 03, 2013 at 09:35 PM

JS

“ Like Mel and Mah, I mostly knew Andrew through online gaming. At the time I was the leader of the team that Mah Deus was recruiting for. Most of the team were in their 20s and 30s with a couple of us in our 40s. Andrew was still in high school when he joined our team but had a degree of maturity that was refreshing to see. He fit in almost immediately and was a unanimous shoo-in for membership when his trial period was up.

Andrew was always one of those guys you could always count on to be where he was supposed to be and doing what needed to be done to help out the team. He frequently had a sarcastic quip ready when things went wrong. When they went right he sometimes seemed a tad outraged, as if the world was depriving him of an opportunity to throw another well aimed zinger.

He and I only met in person maybe a dozen times at gaming parties, shooting trips to Bill's Gun Range, and the occasional movie marathon. In person, the wit was still there albeit with a softer edge. He was still someone you could count to do exactly what he said he would do. This is an unfortunately very rare trait which I value highly.

We quit gaming together about 10 years ago. I had to put our team on indefinite hiatus when family responsibilities became almost all consuming after my divorce and my kids obviously had to come first. Most of us had drifted apart over the years and I hadn't spoken to Andrew in quite some time. I sent my youngest off to college just last week and was toying with the idea of starting up the team again.

To find out that one of our youngest members was the first to pass on is an incredibly painful reminder of our shared mortality. To know that I'll never again hear him cheerfully laying down smack while simultaneously doing his level best to pull out yet another last minute win... while ultimately a very trivial thing, it's heart wrenching.

Goodbye, Andrew. Others knew you far better than I and I'm sure will miss you far more. As much as it hurts me to think of you gone, I can only imagine their pain.

Jim "SgtRock" Smilanich - September 03, 2013 at 08:53 PM

JE

“*Andrew was always one of the first people I'd ask where they were no matter the event, because he belonged there. It never felt right without him present. He was a great and humble, giving and caring person. He and I would go on for hours talking about music and philosophy. I miss him very much, and will continue to. My apologies go out to all who have been affected by his passing. He was one of the best, and no one can say different.*”

Jonathan Elsenpeter - September 03, 2013 at 07:25 PM

RP

“*Robin PaDelford lit a candle in memory of Andrew William Stokes*”



Robin PaDelford - September 03, 2013 at 07:22 PM

KH

“*Andrew was one of my closest friends...I loved him and will never forget him - wonderful quirks and all. We started at the Girl Scouts, same day, same year, different organizations. When we finally got to talk, the friendship was instantaneous. I saw him only a few weeks ago and was supposed to meet him for lunch today. I went to 'our' restaurant today - just to let him know. I love you, dear A.*”



Kami Hall - September 03, 2013 at 07:04 PM

JE

“ Andrew was a good man and trusted friend. We met playing online games about 15 years ago. At the time I was serving as the recruiting person for our gaming team. I knew right away after meeting and talking with Andrew that he was someone who could add a great deal to our group dynamic in both gameplay and personality. And he did, in spades. Always on point and always with the sardonic wit. There was a great deal to appreciate about his style in everything that he did, not just gaming. He'd just posted on my Facebook wall a week or so ago letting me know about the Deltron tour coming up. I was really hoping to see him there... The Savages have not only lost a squad mate, we've lost a brother. I'm really going to miss you, man.

Joe "Mah Deus" Van Eschen - September 03, 2013 at 06:40 PM

MS

“ I wasn't the closest of friends, but online he was a trusted member of our group. I particularly liked his style of play and his perspective on the world late at night. But that was so many years ago... I wish I had more experiences with him.

Matt "Melanchre" Shively - September 03, 2013 at 05:59 PM

RG

“ Stokes was one of my good buddies... Having him hang out late night with me and the guys, playing board games, Dark Heresy with the guys, having some beers or having him convince me to go out on the town meant a great deal. There are many times when he would sit on the grill and make amazing food, joking and laughing about something he read on the internet with me would always be yet another one of the great times I've spent with him. He was a great friend... and one of the most memorable things I will remember from him is his laugh. I hope you rest easy man. I won't forget you.

Rob G. - September 03, 2013 at 05:55 PM

KO

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Kathleen Olufson - September 03, 2013 at 05:43 PM

RW

“ *What I remember about Andrew is the deep friendship he and my son have shared for years, and for which I am so humbly grateful. They shared so many interests--sarcasm, a love of the discussion especially about movies, Andrew's love of brownies and venison with onions, online games, and discussions which lasted for hours. How much I will miss him and his shy smile. Maybe now, Andrew, you will find peace. Rita Wilson*

Rita Wilson - September 03, 2013 at 04:51 PM