



Mark William Okiishi

March 14, 1975 - July 16, 2016

Mark William Okiishi, age 41, of Herndon, VA passed away Saturday, July 16, 2016. He was born on March 14, 1975, in Ames, Iowa the son of Theodore and Rae (Wiemers) Okiishi. He was the third of four brothers. He grew up in Ames, Iowa where he attended grade school and high school. Mark served a two year, full-time mission for the LDS Church. He was assigned to the Fresno, California Spanish-speaking mission. He attended Brigham Young University graduating summa cum laude with a BA in 1998. Mark flourished in his social life as well and met and married his best friend and love of his life, Heather Searle, a woman who saw past the quirk and the wit to the tender, gentle, soul inside.

After graduating, Mark fulfilled his childhood fantasy, standing for justice and working to rid the world of evil, by joining the United States State Department in Washington DC. When given a hard time about all the vacation time he was accruing, Mark would quip, "Terror doesn't take three day weekends, so neither do I." Mark and his family lived in Japan, Korea and Israel while serving the State Department.

While living in Okinawa, Japan, Mark and Heather welcomed their first child, Muneo, named for Mark's beloved grandfather. Ian and Mikaela joined the family not long after, bringing their individual light and joy to the family. He served in many positions in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints including Seminary Instructor, Bishopric, Temple coordinator and many

teaching assignments and youth presidencies.

He would want his family to know that he loves them and will be patiently waiting for them in the clearing at the end of the path. He would ask us to remember him in all his contradictions and imperfections. Remember his sophisticated, brilliant mind and his childlike love of simplicity. Remember him as a man—husband, father, brother, son, friend--who tried so hard to matter, to mean something in the world, and to make a difference.

Mark's love, charity, humor and kindness were felt by all those in his life, and we are better for having known him.

Survivors include his loving wife, Heather Marie Searle Okiishi; three children, William Muneo Okiishi(14), Ian Hisao Okiishi(12), Mikaela Kimiyo Okiishi(8); his parents, Theodore Okiishi and Rae (Wiemers) Okiishi; three brothers, Christopher Okiishi of Iowa City, IA, John Okiishi and wife Alana of Cary, NC, Kenneth Okiishi of New York, NY.

Mark Okiishi's funeral services will be held Monday, July 25, at 10:30 AM at the Herndon/Reston ward building, 1515 Poplar Grove Drive, Reston, Virginia 20194 Bishop Michael Hunsaker officiating. The family will receive guests on Sunday, July 24th, from 6 to 8 PM at the Herndon/Reston ward building and Monday, July 25, 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM.

Interment will be held at the Ames Municipal Cemetery in Ames, Iowa.

In lieu of flowers please donate to the Okiishi Children Fund at:

www.gofundme.com/2f4txus

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 24. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
1515 Poplar Grove Drive
Reston, VA 20194

Visitation

JUL 25. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
1515 Poplar Grove Drive
Reston, VA 20194

Service

JUL 25. 10:30 AM (ET)

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
1515 Poplar Grove Drive
Reston, VA 20194

Tribute Wall

DB

“ *I wish I could say something wise besides I am sorry
Our time together in Seoul was short where we worked together.
If I can lend any help please lorinserr@state.gov*

Dr. Bob

Dr. Bob - July 27, 2016 at 07:46 AM

JK

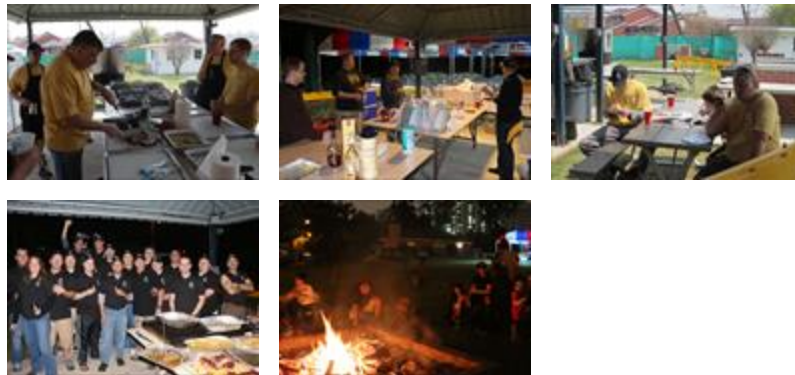
“ *We've lost a truly good soul. Mark was gracious, creative, funny,
and caring. My work life was richer for the interactions we had. My
deepest condolences.*

Jane Kuhar

Jane Kuhar - July 25, 2016 at 02:42 PM

PW

“ *5 files added to the album Mark*



Pat Weber - July 23, 2016 at 11:17 PM

JA

“ I remember Mark as a friend to my Ryan. Maybe they are together once again. We have had many great times with the okiishi's We share our love to you and yours. Mark was a great man and will be remembered fondly. June Angus

June Angus - July 23, 2016 at 09:26 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mark William Okiishi.



July 22, 2016 at 05:52 PM



“ Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Mark William Okiishi.



July 22, 2016 at 01:27 PM

PW

“ 1 file added to the album Mark



Pat Weber - July 22, 2016 at 12:29 PM

HO

Thank you for sharing this!

Heather Okiishi - July 22, 2016 at 02:03 PM

JV

“ Chris and family, I will pray for you during this time of grief. May God embrace you during this sad time in your life. Julie, David, Dan, Vicky,
Shannon Vaughn Coralville, Iowa.

Julie Vaughn - July 22, 2016 at 09:46 AM

NF

“ Heather: I am so sorry for your loss. I remember the special times we had in church in Okinawa sitting behind you and Mark while Don played with your oldest son. Mark and Don are both now doing the work they love. You and your family are in my prayers.

Norma Field - July 21, 2016 at 11:02 PM

HO

I certainly think they had a happy reunion!

Heather Okiishi - July 22, 2016 at 10:24 PM

JW

“ Mark was my nephew, a beloved soul in my life. His wry wit and spark were infectious to those around him. I fondly remember the words he spoke at his Grandmother Wiemers funeral. His ability to sprinkle tender thoughts with humor made this remarks pleasing to all in the company. Mark, my good man, I will miss you.

John Wiemers - July 21, 2016 at 09:46 PM

BB

“ Heather, We did not know your dear husband, but our hearts are broken for you right now. We can't imagine how difficult this must be for you and your sweet children. Our prayers and thoughts of peace and comfort are with you. Love the Biesingers.

Becky Biesinger - July 21, 2016 at 09:43 PM

L(

Heather, my heart just hurts for you and your family! It's so hard to know what to say at times like this! Please just know that we are thinking of you all & praying that the Lord will hold you in his arms and comfort you with his love. Lenore Sharapata Amundsen

Lenore Amundsen (Sharapata) - July 22, 2016 at 12:28 AM

DB

Jill and I are so sorry for your loss. You and your family are in our prayers. What a blessing the gospel and its doctrine are in our lives. What would we do with out it.
Love, Jill and Denny Blodgett

denny blodgett - July 22, 2016 at 01:15 AM

JG

“ Big hugs to you and prayers ,I hope you find peace .There are no words ,only time will heal the pain ,Love you .God peace

Jeffrey Garner - July 21, 2016 at 09:41 PM