



Mark William Stremic

May 2, 1966 - January 11, 2014

On Saturday January 11, 2014, Mark Stremic of Haymarket, Virginia went home to be with the Lord. He was 47 years old. Mark Stremic was born on May 2, 1966 in Monterey California. Mark is survived by his parents, Anthony W. Stremic and Nancy U. Stremic, his sister Lynn Johnson (Payne), his brother David Stremic, his nieces Kelly and Meghan Johnson, and his brother-in-law Chris Payne.

Mark was born with a rare disorder called congenital anesthesia, which means that he could not feel any physical sensations. Doctors said that Mark would not live very long, but they were wrong.

Mark graduated from West Springfield High School in 1984. He was an avid soccer player, who idealized Pele, and fulfilled his dream by actually seeing the famous soccer player in person. After high school, Mark chose to pursue another one of his passions, music and the drums, by attending Shenandoah College and Conservatory. Mark was an outstanding musician, whose skills on a drum set impressed his teachers and peers alike. He graduated from Shenandoah in May of 1991 with a bachelor's degree in music with an emphasis in Jazz Studies. After college, Mark traveled around the DC metro area playing the drums with a variety of jazz bands in an assortment of different venues. Music was his passion and he loved sharing his gift with everyone. In addition to music, Mark loved the military (especially The Navy Seals), old cars, watching professional sports, Western and Martial Arts films, animals, tai chi, making people laugh, and his family.

Mark was a compassionate person, who loved the Lord. Mark's love of life, and his positive attitude, despite all circumstances, served as a reminder to his family, friends, and anyone who ever came in contact with him, to be thankful for the precious gift of life. His family and friends give thanks that Mark is reunited with his heavenly Father, and is whole and healthy, playing the drums for the Lord.

Mark's funeral will be held Friday, January 17, 2014 at 1:30pm at Quantico National Cemetery in Triangle, Virginia. Family and friends are invited to celebrate and remember Mark's life during a memorial service conducted by Pastor Bob Perdue.

In lieu of flowers, his family asks that any donations be given in Mark's name to Friends of Homeless Animals, PO Box 415, Aldie, VA 20105 OR Angels of Mercy, related to the Wounded Warriors Project, Ms Marion Chirichella, 1906 Toyon Way, Vienna, VA 22182 (make sure you specify 'memorial donation for Mark Stremic').

Previous Events

Graveside

JAN 17. 1:30 PM (ET)

Quantico National Cemetery
18424 Joplin Road
Triangle, VA

Tribute Wall

“ It has been 5 years on since we lost Mark, and I am only now able to realize what this world really needs right now.

Mark invited himself into my life very early on in elementary school. You see, I was the introverted, awkward kid with coke bottle glasses and a patch over my left eye (the doctor's best attempt to cure my astigmatism)). I also had a bad case of what is now known as ADHD. Back then, I just agitated all my classmates and frustrated my teachers to their wit's end, usually sitting as far in the back of the room next to the coat closet, or right up front where I could be closely "monitored". After a particularly bad day of ridicule at recess, Mark must have seen that I really needed a friend, and he just came right up to me and started a friendship that would last 40 years. There were many fond memories through our school years of Mark shredding up many a drum solo, and later on in high school playing soccer together in the same house league. Mark was always very encouraging and uplifting of others. I was very privileged to know Mark on a deeper level. Even when he shared his innermost feelings about life, how he was feeling, or the next test or procedure he had upcoming, he always had a way of turning it back around to something else, about encouraging those around him, or painting this very different and uplifting picture of the future. His was an indomitable spirit and optimism that I have never encountered since. You see, that is where Mark drew his strength, from those around him. He didn't stop for one second, living his life like there was no tomorrow, even when he wasn't feeling his best that day. After high school, we would occasionally catch up when his jazz trio was playing clubs around NOVA, or at the occasional party or reunion, or when our mutual best friend Adrian was back in town. But alas, I really let the time slip on by, and didn't see Mark again since the mid-2000s. And my final thought comes right back to my first recollection here...As we become more divided and current events seem to tear us apart, I just had a thought of how well Mark brought people together, of all different interests, and different backgrounds. Different imperfections and flaws. Regardless of whether someone carried physical scars, or emotional scars, or even some lonely and dejected kid on the playground who needed a

friend, Mark made the effort. That is what we really need, more people in this world with the heart and courage and ability to really leave your imperfections at the door, to make a positive effort to lift those around you up, despite the hardships you are going through. A big thank you to Mark for changing this kid's outlook on life for the better. - Bill

bill - August 06, 2019 at 12:04 AM

DS

*Thank you, we miss him every day.
Dave (Mark's brother)*

Dave stremic - May 27, 2020 at 01:50 PM

SH

*“ Mark was my bestfriend I knew him almost my whole life. Him and I use to get together and play drums at my home all the time. I will truly miss him and I hold a very special place for him in my heart. From Eric Awagain If any family members see this please give me a call at (941)266-6958
Today's date is September 20, 2016*

Shelia Hutchins - September 20, 2016 at 06:27 PM

SH

I am writing this for Eric Awagain per his permission. Eric had a stroke several months ago and needed a little help in writing something in Marks memorial book. Please contact him if you are a family member he would like to speak with you. Thank you Shelia Hutchins

Shelia Hutchins - September 20, 2016 at 06:34 PM

CA

“ I was just trying to locate Mark this morning and have sadly found this. I taught Mark drumset at Shenendoah Conservatory back in the 80's. Mark was the best student I have ever had the pleasure of working with. He was so much fun, worked hard at his craft, and was an excellent player and musician. My life is better for having stood in his shadow. I'm so sorry for your loss but I know he is looking down on all and smiling while playing a mean set of drums in heaven. My prayers to all and especially for Mark.

Claude Askew

Claude Askew - October 30, 2014 at 01:23 PM

DH

“ So sorry I did not stay in touch. Such fond memories of our time together. Blessed to have known you... ..wished I'd been a better friend. doug

Doug Harrson - May 01, 2014 at 11:09 PM



“ James Schade lit a candle in memory of Mark William Stremic



James Schade - April 23, 2014 at 10:22 PM

SS

“ So sorry to learn of Mark's passing. I remember him as relentlessly positive and sweet. Always with a smile and kind word. May the family find peace and comfort in the memories of Mark.

Stephanie Small - April 08, 2014 at 03:31 PM

KL

“ *Kate Stockhausen Lukunic lit a candle in memory of Mark William Stremic*



Kate Stockhausen Lukunic - February 19, 2014 at 08:36 PM

LE

“ *A Beautiful Soul. Fun, friendly, talented, and continually upbeat. You made this world a better place. Rest in Peace, Brother Mark. May the light that you are continue to shine brighter than ever.*

- Laurence Elder, Shenandoah Conservatory Class of '92


Laurence Elder - February 06, 2014 at 09:45 AM

SW

“ *Susan Williams-heatr lit a candle in memory of Mark William Stremic*



susan williams-heatr - February 05, 2014 at 11:55 AM

 Natalie Holt

“ *So sorry to hear of Mark's passing. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.*

Natalie Holt - February 05, 2014 at 07:41 AM

PH

“ Dear Nancy and Tony, Mark and his determination and courage, as well as yours, were apparent on Edmonton Court - truly inspirational. It appears from all the comments that spirit continued. What a gift! My most sincere condolences to you and Dave and Lynn. Pam Hennessey

Pam Hennessey - February 03, 2014 at 02:06 PM

CE

“ So sorry to hear of Mark's passing.



Cindy Pennell Evans - January 20, 2014 at 11:23 AM

Mike
Ahearne

“ Mike Ahearne lit a candle in memory of Mark
William Stremic



Mike Ahearne - January 18, 2014 at 08:10 PM

KJ

“ Mark lit up any room he entered and especially the halls of West Springfield High School. He was friends with everyone and never seemed to let anything get the better of him. He transcended all the different groups that existed during those high school years. Mark seemed to be the one thing we all had in common. It was a gift to know him and receive his high fives. A special "thank you" to his family for sharing such a wonderful friend and inspiration with so many of us. He will be missed and never forgotten.

Kristia England Jones - January 17, 2014 at 10:59 AM

TM

“ I posted a tribute to Mark elsewhere online and got an overwhelming response. Everyone said the same thing: Mark was an inspiration and a true leader, because his example taught the rest of us huge life lessons. With the benefit of time, I think it is safe to say that Mark Stremic may be the "Most Influential" person in our entire graduating class. He leaves a great legacy. Thank you, Mark, and condolences to the Stremic family.

Tim McEvoy - January 17, 2014 at 10:25 AM

 Courtney King

“ Courtney King lit a candle in memory of Mark William Stremic



Courtney King - January 17, 2014 at 09:44 AM

 Joe Barcia


“ Every day in high school was a good day when Mark was in the room. His smile, jokes, and positive attitude were infectious to all those around him. He knew he was funny and never let a moment pass to take a round of high fives when he got the laughter started. I was blessed to have known him.

"Permanence, perseverance and persistence in spite of all obstacles, discouragements, and impossibilities: It is this, that in all things distinguishes the strong soul from the weak".

Thomas Carlyle

Mark was a strong soul.

Joe Barcia - January 17, 2014 at 09:41 AM

 Christopher LeFevre

“ Mark was able to put a smile on all of our faces and we are all blessed to have known him. I will forever remember Mark!
Chris LeFevre

Christopher LeFevre - January 17, 2014 at 07:45 AM

 DK

“ Nancy, Tony, Dave and Lynn, I am grateful to have called him a friend, and though saddened by the loss, will always consider myself richer to have had him in my life. I hope you will find comfort in the days ahead knowing that he touched so many of us in such a positive way.

Dave Kirby - January 16, 2014 at 09:07 PM

RR

“ *Ray Rose lit a candle in memory of Mark William Stremic*



Ray Rose - January 16, 2014 at 07:32 PM



“ *Throughout the years after high school, I thought of Mark often. He seemed invincible. His remarkably positive attitude left quite an impression on me. He didn't allow anything to keep him from pushing forward. He was my role model. Not to mention, he always made me laugh!..Always! In fact I remember one incident , when I was running down a flight of stairs at school with my Drill team uniform on, only to be greeted at the bottom by Mark, saying, "Oh no! here comes ostrich legs!., Followed by a high five! Rest in Peace Dear soul! Oh, and say hello to my brother up there! My most sincere condolences to Mark's family & friends ?*

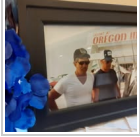
Eva Rudolf - January 16, 2014 at 03:19 PM

AC

“ *Andrew Cizek lit a candle in memory of Mark William Stremic*



Andrew Cizek - January 15, 2014 at 07:28 PM



“ *Craig Mitchell lit a candle in memory of Mark William Stremic*



Craig Mitchell - January 15, 2014 at 06:15 PM

BF

“ *One weekend in junior high school I was strolling through the fields at Rolling Valley Elementary and froze in my tracks when I saw Mark tending the goal in his soccer game. I had never seen that type of effort and determination in someone our age. I was in awe. Mark and I became friends during those years and over time I learned of his passion not only for soccer but for music, friends and family, and Jesus Christ. He astounded me with his positive attitude and hope. To this day when I need to dig deeper and try harder because life is hurling something at me, I picture Mark in that goal for inspiration. I am grateful for the impact Mark has left on my life and look forward to the day when we reunite.*

Beth Duckworth Flecker - January 15, 2014 at 01:21 PM

NW

“ *Dear Nancy and Tony,*

I am so ad to learn of Mark's passing. I remember the fun he and Brian had a WSHS passsing barbs! Both of our boys were born about the same time in Monterey. He was a very special young man --I remember him so fondly. My deepest sympathy to you.

Nancy Wright

Nancy Wright - January 15, 2014 at 12:29 PM

PC

“ Mark courageously showed all of WSHS true grit and determination. I remember always smiling face and I was proud to call him a friend. I remember graduation particularly and how happy Mark and our whole class was as he walked across the stage.

RIP Mark
Paul Cady

Paul Cady - January 15, 2014 at 11:58 AM

JR

“ Mr. And Mrs. Stremic, Dave,Lynn. Please accept my sincerest condolences on the passing of Mark. He truly was one of the best friends a kid could ask for growing up. We had lots of great times together I often think of those days as the best times of my life. I hadn't spoke to Mark in many years but I still consider him a great friend and he will be missed.

Joe Rebelo - January 15, 2014 at 11:34 AM

BA

“ Mr. & Mrs. Stremic, Please accept my sympathies on your loss of Mark. I had the opportunity to meet Mark many years ago at a jazz club in Reston, via Joe Rebelo my husband. Mark was a very sweet man, and always had a smile on his face every single time I saw him. I could see his love for music!! Mark will be missed by many. RIP Mark.

Barbi - January 15, 2014 at 11:16 AM

PW

“ Tony and Nancy,
Please accept our deepest sympathies on your loss of Mark. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time.
Semper Fidelis,
Pete and Kathie Winer

Pete Winer - January 15, 2014 at 10:28 AM

TG

“ Mark demonstrated more courage every day than many do in their lifetime. Those that befriended Mark demonstrated more character than many do in their lifetime. So without even trying Mark helped teach us about two qualities that are all too often absent in today's world. RIP Mark.

Tighe Gillis - January 15, 2014 at 05:48 AM

RS

“ In high school I played music with Mark. He played the drums and I played the keyboards. I haven't lived in the DC area in many years but John Sabo and I had a nice visit with Mark in the late 90s. He was inspiring. He loved music and shared a tape with me of songs he had recorded. We had a good visit. He had such a warm heart. My prayers and condolences are with his family. - Robert Steele

robert steele - January 14, 2014 at 09:05 PM

WM

“ My favorite memory of Mark was when we were little. As cousins, we would see each other at Jule and PopPop's house in OC, NJ. He would use Jule's laundry baskets as a make-shift drum set and set up his "band" in the garage. Then he charged us a quarter to hear him play!!! He was really good, even on laundry baskets. He was a great guy who was loved and will be missed.

Wendy McElhinney - January 14, 2014 at 07:06 PM

MG

“ I'll never forget Mark....He was always the life of the party!! The times we had growing up in Springfield. Thinking back to 8th grade....I remember the midnight raids and TPing houses at all hours of the night and getting caught because he was recognized. Then having to go back the next day to clean it up...LOL. I remember us hanging out at Springfield Mall going to Timeout to play arcade games. The days at WSHS were amazing, and the class of 84' would not had been the same without our Mark. I too remember the standing ovation for Mark, it was well deserved.

Well, my friend I'm wishing you God speed....a cold brew and an awesome set of drums!!

Till we meet again, Rest In Peace...old friend.

Mike Grisillo/Shelby - January 14, 2014 at 05:55 PM

 Andy
Catsakis

Sorry to hear of Marks passing. I remember that night well Mike. We had found all that toilet paper and did not know who's house to TP when mark suggested we TP his soccer coach . Little did we know his coach was the Chief of police. Fun times. RIP Mark

Andy Catsakis - January 14, 2014 at 08:21 PM

CJ

“ He was a bright light in this world and I'm glad to have known him.



Curt Johnson - January 14, 2014 at 04:53 PM

TG

“ Mark you will be greatly miss my friend and in class we had a blast now you can beat your drums from heaven my friend and let us hear the echo's through the clouds.Prays to you and your family.



Thomas Edward Gibson - January 14, 2014 at 03:45 PM

LH

“ Lisa Hoel-Leach lit a candle in memory of Mark William Stremic



Lisa Hoel-Leach - January 14, 2014 at 03:32 AM

LH

What an inspiration he was. I always remembered Mark from school for his amazing personality and sense of humor. My condolences to all of his family.

Lisa Hoel-Leach - January 14, 2014 at 03:49 AM

KC

“ Kerry Carpenter lit a candle in memory of Mark William Stremic



Kerry Carpenter - January 13, 2014 at 08:28 PM

KC

I will always remember our graduation and the standing ovation Mark received. He had such a big heart and was such a wonderful person.

Kerry Carpenter - January 13, 2014 at 08:30 PM

TS

“ We loved Mark so much! We had so much fun as kids down the shore. I remember being so excited when our cousins were going to be at the shore with us. I remember playing cards with Mark up in our attic of our grandparents shore house, and he would have me laughing the whole time! (Mark's cousin Tammy)

Tammy Slivka - January 13, 2014 at 07:00 PM

LA

“ Linda Auffhammer lit a candle in memory of Mark William Stremic



Linda Auffhammer - January 13, 2014 at 04:38 PM

LA

“ We send our love and prayers to all the family. Don and Linda Auffhammer

Linda Auffhammer - January 13, 2014 at 04:37 PM