



Christopher Mornes

September 2, 1949 - May 17, 2012

Christopher Walter Mornes Born: September 2, 1949 in Grand Rapids, Minnesota Died: May 17, 2012 in Sarasota, Florida A Life Well Lived ! Known and respected throughout the performance boating industry, Chris was employed by Douglas Marine (Skater Powerboats) for more than a decade as General Manager as well as Sales and Public Relations Manager, helping to establish Skater Powerboats on and off the race course. Chris was the face of Skater Powerboats. His presence and good nature were ever present at boat shows, powerboat races and poker runs, as was his charismatic smile that will always be remembered. Despite his successful career, Chris did not boast about his past. However, his credentials were impressive, having held managerial and marketing positions with several companies of note, including Circus Circus Enterprises (Team Warlock), (Knight & Carver Yachts) and (Arneson Marine), Mann's Limited (Lehman Power Corp), and Nordskog Publishing (Powerboat Magazine). While at Sports International, a marketing agency, Chris developed European and domestic sponsorships for NASCAR Grand National, IRL, Formula 1 Tunnel Boats and U.S. Offshore Race events, and developed close working relationships with a number of renowned, international companies. He was also very instrumental in supporting the early Power Boating Canada/Poker Runs America's poker run events that were held on The Great Lakes in the mid-1980s as a sponsor when he was employed by Warlock Powerboats. These are just a few of his professional accomplishments. With his father, Chris established Florida Yacht Exchange,

Inc. in Ft Lauderdale, FL, building and marketing custom luxury yachts. Graduating from Grand Rapids High School, Chris lettered in football, track and wrestling, and attained a degree in Business Administration and Marketing from Itasca State College, University of Minnesota. Always looking for the next great adventure, Chris helped to establish hang gliding as a full-fledged sport. He flew flexible wing hang gliders with Bill Bennett, manufacturer of the Delta Wing water ski hang glider, and jumped off mountains in foot-launched, flexible wing gliders. In the military, Chris served in both the Minnesota National Guard and the United States Army's Air Cavalry & Armament Reconnaissance Division. He piloted Huey helicopter gunships during the Vietnam War, where they were called Angels. He also flew Minnesota Civil Air Patrol's Search, Rescue & Air Ambulance. Chris was an Underwater Dive Search Rescue & Recovery Specialist. He held Land and Sea Federal Aviation Administration Ratings in Rotor, Single and Multi-Engine aircraft. Chris lived his life with passion and dedication, and will continue to soar with the Angels. He was greatly loved, and he will be greatly missed. Chris is survived by his wife of 11 years, Sherry L. Smith; Son Nathaniel Christian Lee Mornes, Fort Lauderdale, FL; Daughter Carissa Marie Lee Mornes, New York, NY and Sisters Jeraldine Ennis and Ruean Taylor. He was predeceased by his father Walter Jaye Mornes, and mother Aurora Yolanda Mornes. A mass will be held on June 15 at 3 pm at St. Martha's Catholic Church, 200 N Orange Ave, Sarasota, FL 34236, followed by an Honor Guard ceremony accompanied by members of The Vietnam Brotherhood. At a later date, interment will be at the Sarasota National Veteran's Cemetery. A Celebration of Life will follow at 4 pm at The Gator Club, 1490 Main St, Sarasota, FL 34236. Condolences may be sent to Sherry Smith, LMT, c/o Health Naturally, 2831 Ringling Blvd, Ste D114, Sarasota, FL 34237-5352. Phone 941-954-1909. In lieu of flowers, please make donations in memory of Chris Mornes to www.catdepot.org, 2542 17th St, Sarasota FL 34234-1905, and The Vietnam Brotherhood, c/o Alan Penn, Commander, 4361 Whispering Woods Pl, Sarasota, FL 34233-3628. Funeral arrangements under the

direction of Gendron Funeral & Cremation Services Inc., 135 N. Lime Ave,
Sarasota, Florida 34237 941-365-1767. Online condolences may be made at
www.gendronfuneralhome.com.

Tribute Wall



“ *Christopher Mornes*

October 09, 2023 at 02:01 AM



“ *Christopher Mornes*

January 28, 2023 at 12:09 PM



“ *Christopher Mornes*

Pete Wachsberger - August 06, 2013 at 03:33 PM



“ *Sherry, I am so sorry to hear of*

Chris' passing. I remember the first time I met him at Jerry & Ann's engagement party. He was a lot of fun and we had a blast. I'm so glad I got to know him that day. He will be missed.

Love, Jody

Jody Brogan - June 20, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *I am so sorry. Hope you're all well. And it is so interesting.... we go to Sarasota (Lido and downtown) about 3 times a year... it would have been so fun to bump into Chris there. What a great life.*

Leon Zobel

leon zobel - June 14, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LZ

“ sorry, I should have introduced myself.... I was a classmate of Chris and we met again in the past year or so thru facebook.

leon zobel - June 14, 2012 at 12:00 AM

TW

“ May eteranl light shine forever on your soul. May God hold those close to you forever in his heart and comfort them in this difficult time.

Rest in peace my friend. I will miss you

Terry

Terry Weaver - June 14, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ What an incredible person! I knew Chris from Skater powerboats. Whenever I needed something, He would go out of his way to help. The more Chris and I talked, the more we had in common, a true friend! We often spoke of helicopters, Airplanes....and of course boats.

Even after Skater, Chris and I continued to keep in touch. I will always miss our talks, but will always cherish the times. My heart goes out to Sherry and Chris's family and friends. Chris will be forever missed, but Never forgotten! Rest in peace my friend!

Steve Freeman

Steve Freeman - June 14, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JK

“ *My most sincere sympathy. God's Peace.*

Jacque (Mueller) Kuykendall - June 14, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LL

“ *Rest in peace. Christopher, wish we could have seen more of each other throughout the years.*

Your Cousin Lester Louden and Joy too

Lester & Joy Louden - June 14, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SE

“ *I remember a few springs having fun water skiing with Chris on Mckinny lake, and once on Ice lake. Great times with a good friend.*

Steven Erickson - June 14, 2012 at 12:00 AM

EW

“ *Oh my goodness! Im so sorry to hear this horrible news. My heart & prayers go out to you. R.I.P Christopher!*

Edward Walker - June 10, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ *Chris, I miss You and our long talks , Rest Buddy See you later my friend !!*

Steve Freeman - June 10, 2012 at 12:00 AM

VW

“ *My love to his family, and strength to his beautiful wife!*

Vicky Kelm Williams - June 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM

NH

“ Sherry,

Our thoughts have been with you and will remain with you. We are so sorry to hear of the passing of Chris.

We love you, Fred and Noel

Noel Hackett - June 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BK

“ Sherry - *I am so sorry to hear this. I went to school with Chris - probably from 1st grade through high school. We were at St Joseph's 1st-8th grades. His mom was our phys ed teacher. I'm so so sorry. I know all his classmates will be saddened.*

Barb Wourms Kilpatrick - June 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SC

“ *Thinking of you and all of his family during this time, Sherry*

Shirley Van Tassel Campbell - June 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ *Sorry to hear of Chris passing. We went to school together and I worked with he and his dad at thier store for 3 years. He will be missed.*

God bless you in your time of need Sherry.

James Mowry - June 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JL

“ *Les and I don't even know what to say.....So very very sorry.*

Joy Louden - June 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SM

“ *I am so sorry to hear about your recent loss and we certainly send our deepest condolences to you and your family.*

Steve Fennell for Poker Runs Magazine - June 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LH

“ *Oh no! I went to school him & am so sorry to hear about this.*

All of us in his class have special memories of him.

God bless you.

Linda O'Brien Hendrix - June 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

PO

“ *I am so very sorry to hear about Chris...he and I dated right out of high school....just little 17 yr olds...of course, we didn't know then what love was but he and I stayed in touch for many years after that...I loved him dearly as a person and feel so very saddened for you..I hope you can find peace with this terrible tragedy and may God be with you at this sad time. Thank you for posting for all of our classmates to know of this!*

Pamela Scherf Oaks - June 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

WR

“ *My deepest condolences on Christopher's passing.*

I am sending you comfort from the healing Green ray of Love to help you through this hard time.

Warm Night Rain - June 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

AM

“ *I love you very much and wish I could be there to help you through this. I am there, however, in spirit.*

Annemarie St Michael - June 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

AW

“ *BE comforted in knowing God holds you in the sorrow.*

Ann Wood - June 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

PP

“ *My Condolence go out to you and your family on the loss of your loved one, CHRIS*

Phil Pesiri - June 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

ND

“ *My condolences to you, dear friend. May you feel comfort and peace coming your way in the near future.*

Nancy Dewitz - June 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SE

“ I remember water skiing with him one spring day on ice lake. I still remember how cold the water was.

He will be in my thoughts today, I will miss him.

Steve Erickson - June 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BK

“ Our condolences to you. Chris will long be remembered.

Barb Wourms Kilpatrick - June 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

PO

“ Beautiful tribute to our friend and classmate...RIP Chris...

Pamela Scherf Oaks - June 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ RIP old Friend, you will be deeply missed.

It was an Honor knowing you Buddy!!

Steve Freeman - June 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

PB

“ RIP Chris

Pete Boden - June 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ *"RIP Chris ..*

Mike and George

Michael Stancombe - June 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RB

“ *So sad to hear about the passing of Chris. He was a good friend and always tried to help.*

He was the GM at Douglas Marine Skater, for 10+ years and had moved to Sarasota a year or so ago.

Our thoughts are with his family and wife Sherry.

RIP my friend, GODSPEED."

Ryan Beckley - June 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LM

“ *He will be missed. Always a gentle soul.*

R I P Chris.

Lisa Matthews - June 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ *I'm so sad to hear this....my heart goes out to Sherry*

Dustin Simon - June 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SR

“ *Our thoughts and prayers to Sherry and the family from everyone at Suncoast.*

Scott Ryerson - June 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RM

“ *So sorry to hear, Sherry. Thanks for letting us know.*

God?s peace and blessing to you as you grieve.

Rich Shields, Pastor of Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church, Grand Rapids, Minnesota - June 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LH

“ *Oh no! I went to school with him & am so sorry to hear about this.*

All of us in his class have special memories of him.

God bless you."

Linda O'Brien Hendrix - June 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JE

“ *So sorry for your loss. May memories of your time together bring you comfort.*

Jan Libby Every - June 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ Chris...I can still see you flying high over Pokagama Lake with your Kite. Or racing around Nessbit Island on your Hoobie Cat.

RIP old buddy.

Mark T Miner - June 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ So VERY sorry to learn of the passing of Chris.

He was the 1st to teach me scuba dive, and we worked together in Grand Rapids on recovery projects.

He was a great guy, I had always hoped we could meet up someday and catch up on old times.

I'm sorry for your loss.

Mark T Miner - June 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ Chris will be forever missed, but Never forgotten!! RIP Buddy.

Steve Freeman - June 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DC

“ *Hard to believe it was 2 years ago yesterday that I had a massive heart attack!*

Trying hard to live life to the fullest and thanking GOD every day for his blessings.

Tomorrow isn't promised to anyone...appreciate every day and give HIM thanks.

David Lobo Clark - June 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

FF

“ Sherry,

My heartfelt condolences, go out to you and your family.

I met Chris in Sep 2011, when I started my first Skater. He quickly earned my respect, and turned a 'customer - vendor' relationship, in to a friendship.

We ultimately worked on three boat projects together, the last of which I presently own.

After he left Skater, we remained friends, and called each other regularly.

He had invitations for both you and him, to come down and join me in boating, Ft Myers Offshore events, air shows, or just stop in and say hello.

We spoke quite often when his Mom got very ill. More recently flying was the topic of discussion, and he seemed to really be enjoying that activity.

My thoughts and prayers, go out to you and your family.

Frank Fasulo - June 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KA

“ *Loss of friends brings past memories to mind. Chris will be remembered for his kindness. Take care.*

Kris Altenbernd - June 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CL

“ *Thank you Sherry for sharing with us, the story of Christopher's life, it is wonderful to know he was such an active and vibrant man....that was him... and fantastic to read about..his kindnesss will always be remembered.*

Connie Jamsa Lefler - June 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RS

“ *I am sorry for you loss and for the light that was Chris.*

Robin Skinner - June 06, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ *Sherry, I am so sorry to hear about Chris. I didn't know him well, only met him once at the office but as your husband I'm sure Chris was a wonderful person. My condolences.*

Cary Simon - June 06, 2012 at 12:00 AM

Jl

“ *Sherry,*

"Perhaps they are not stars in the sky, but rather openings where our loved ones shine down to let us know they are there"

Jill - June 01, 2012 at 12:00 AM

AW

“ *Sherry, I send you my deepest sorrows for the passing of your husband.*

I know sorrow and may you find lightness in memory

God Bless you ,

Ann Wood

Ann Wood - June 01, 2012 at 12:00 AM

GS

“ *Rest in Peace-you will be missed*

GARY SMITH - May 31, 2012 at 12:00 AM