



Christopher Joel Anderson

June 20, 1951 - April 27, 2021

Chris Anderson, 69, died at his home in Albia, on Tuesday, April 27, 2021, following an eight-month illness.

Christopher Joel Anderson, was born June 20, 1951, to Roy L. and Jean Geneva Anderson. The second of four sons, "The 4 C's". Chris was quick to learn how to please his dad and to be an ornery irritant to his mom.

A 1970 graduate of Albia Community High School, he loved football, friends, cars, girls, and the backyard clubhouse on South Clinton Street, but not in any particular order.

Chris met his wife Sandra on a snow-capped sledding hill on a Sunday afternoon in 1965. Sandra, quite smitten by the Mr. Anderson, but upon realizing she was only twelve and he only dated teenagers, this budding romance stayed dormant until Chris came to his senses and they were married, January 6, 1973, while Chris was home on military leave.

Chris enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1970 and served during the Vietnam War as a Crew Chief on the C-130 Aircraft. A time he would do over in a heartbeat but seldom spoke about; his love and admiration for the American flag, one knew he never forgot.

Upon his Honorable Discharge in 1974, Chris and Sandra returned home to Albia to start their family, surrounded by loving grandparents and family members. In September 1975, they welcomed first daughter, Heather Kristeen. In April 1980, another beautiful daughter, Ashlee Maree, joined their family, and Chris quickly became a great girl dad. Their family was complete, or so they thought, until two little neighborhood children, Spenser and Victoria Ahn, often joined them around their kitchen table. Husband and dad were titles that Chris proudly wore, but it wasn't until the pitter-patter of tiny grandchildren feet that the title of Papa was his badge of honor. Ava Grace, Beckett Christopher, and Georgia Brynn, truly completed his family tree. Their Papa could fix anything. From broken toys in the driveway to hanging swings in the trees, the grandchildren realized very quickly their Papa had many qualities and talents and was always available.

Chris retired as Postmaster from the Moravia Post Office in 2008. Although proud of his career choice, he was ready to begin retirement at age 56. Golfing, motorcycling, and vacationing were high on his to-do list. Although, his beloved, had a list of her own!

Chris loved vehicles, but only Ford vehicles. He loved chrome, pinstriping, the new car smell, and never trusted an automatic car wash. Chris lived for his Kansas City and Minneapolis trips with the guys to pick up vehicles for Jack Scieszinski, and he would proudly wear his Albia Motor cap.

Chris loved the color red in absolutely everything. His favorite red object was his Goldwing. He and Sandy made lifetime memories on the back of their bike with friends Bob and Trish Russell.

Chris's closet is full of shoes and coats, and there is a cabinet full of cologne. In our opinion he was the best dressed and best smelling man in Monroe County.

He wore a dress suit better than most, which proved perfect for his position with the Tharp Funeral Home family. It was here that he realized his dislike of funeral flowers. From his first day of employment, you could hear him say "I don't want any #\$\$%@\$% flowers. A total waste of good money."

Chris joined the Catholic church when Heather was an infant. A devoted convert, and his quiet faith sustained him to the end. Active and sometimes, okay, most times, vocal on the business side of the church, he served on the church finance board and cemetery board for many years. He was a member of the 3rd and 4th Degree of the Knights of Columbus. Although volunteered at many a fish-fry, he was not a fan of fish, but his smile was so welcoming at the serving line.

Chris enjoyed his involvement in the community. He was a dedicated volunteer Albia Firefighter for 27 years and served on the city's Planning & Zoning Board for several years. He was beyond proud of the Welcome Home Soldier Monument and has a flag displayed in his honor and his name engraved on the wall. Chris and Steve Griffin together enjoyed the Eastern Iowa Honor Flight 37 to Washington DC on September 17, 2019. An event that created memories and many conversations.

New Years Day 2019, Sandy suggested that they winter somewhere warm. Chris challenged her to find an AIRBNB by midnight and he would go. At 7pm, a vacation rental was secured on the beautiful beach of Gulf Shores, Alabama. Winter 2019 and 2020 was

truly a highlight for them. Although his illness postponed their 2021 trip, a strong desire to return to their happy place remained.

It is with such great sadness that I write these words in memory of Chris, but I am so very happy that I traveled the majority of his life's highway with him. A good, decent, and handsome man he was. Truly top shelf!

Survivors include his wife of 48 years, Sandra; daughter, Heather, of Colorado; daughter, Ashlee and son-in-law, Bryon Stilley, and grandchildren, Ava, Beckett, and Georgia, of Colorado; and his Victoria, of Des Moines; brothers, Craig (Thomas) of Kansas City, Curt (Julie) of Melrose, Cevin (Monica) of Waukee, and brother-in-law, Jim (Karen) Hayworth of Albia. His quick-wit and loyalty was appreciated by his nieces and nephews, cousins, godchildren, and abundance of friends.

Friends may visit after 1p.m. on Friday, April 30, 2021, at the Tharp Funeral Home. Chris's family will be present throughout the afternoon and evening. A Rosary will be recited by the Knights of Columbus at 6:30 p.m., with a Christian Wake Service immediately following. Masks are strongly encouraged.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11a.m. on Saturday, May 1, 2021, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Albia. Burial will follow at St. Mary's Cemetery in Albia with full military rites.

In respect to Chris's wishes, his family is requesting no flowers, but if so inclined, please consider a donation to either memorial dear to his heart: The Albia Volunteer Fire Department or Welcome Home Soldier.

Cemetery

St. Mary's Cemetery

Albia, IA,

Events

APR 30 Visitation 01:00PM - 08:00PM

30

Tharp Funeral Home

116 Benton Ave., Albia, IA, US, 52531

APR 30 Rosary 06:30PM

30

Tharp Funeral Home

116 Benton Ave., Albia, IA, US, 52531

APR 30 Christian Wake Service 07:00PM

30

Tharp Funeral Home

116 Benton Ave., Albia, IA, US, 52531

MAY 1 Mass of Christian Burial 11:00AM

1

St. Mary's Catholic Church

730 Benton Ave W, Albia, IA, US

Comments



“ Sandy,
I'm so sorry. I had no idea Chris was ill and more than shocked when my brother called to tell me. The neighborhood of lower Albia was a zoo of kids with so many great memories.
Roy & Jean and my Parents were dear dear friends and our families did so many things together!
Here's to the Memories!
We are praying for you!

Jeffrey Bernard

Jeffrey Bernard - May 06, 2021 at 12:49 AM



“ Ann Anderson lit a candle in memory of Christopher Joel Anderson



Ann Anderson - May 01, 2021 at 09:38 AM



“ Sandy,
Heather, Ashlee and family

Am speaking for Sonny

Sonny has known the Anderson 4'cs for years and Hayworth's for years.
We are sending our condolence's for the Anderson's/Hayworth Family.

FYI, , Sandy
You are the best neighbor, that a neighbor would want,

Sincerely
Mike, Dumsile Williams

Mike Williams - April 30, 2021 at 10:16 PM



“ I remember the big smiles both Curt and Chris had when they would come for breakfast

theresa briggs - April 30, 2021 at 02:36 PM



“ I want to wrap my arms around you Sandy, Heather and Ashlee but I am holding you close from afar.

I have such happy memories of the Anderson family growing up with Heather & Ashlee. In our home it was always "Chris & Sandy" as if it was one word "Chris&Sandy". The names just always went together.

A couple of years ago I returned home and brought my 3 year old for her first trick or treat. I chose Chris & Sandy's to be the first door she knocked on. Met with hugs, laughter and smiles. But Chris just couldn't give her candy from the candy basket, oh NO! He and Sandy took her inside the house and returned with an abundance of snacks from their cabinets and juice boxes overflowing her bucket. Chris said with his big smile "this is just what grandparents do!"

Just as it was for me growing up, it was the perfect door to knock on.

Heaven truly received a kind man. He will be missed yet remembered with a smile.

Catherine Derby

Catherine Derby - April 30, 2021 at 02:20 PM



“ Mike Cyplik lit a candle in memory of Christopher Joel Anderson



Mike Cyplik - April 30, 2021 at 01:16 PM



“ Sandy, Heather and Ashlee, I am so very sorry for your loss. So tragic and sudden. Sending love, hugs and prayers. Marlene Beadle

Marlene Beadle - April 29, 2021 at 03:30 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Christopher Joel Anderson.



April 29, 2021 at 02:39 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Christopher Joel Anderson.



April 29, 2021 at 01:45 PM



“ Sandy, Heather and Ashlee

Your family is in our prayers.

Love you

God Bless,

Tony Parenza

Tony Parenza - April 29, 2021 at 01:28 PM



“ Thinking of you with prayers and love. Mary Woodcock

mary Woodcock - April 30, 2021 at 01:47 PM



“ Thinking of you with prayers and love

mary Woodcock - April 30, 2021 at 01:48 PM



“ Karen Ahn lit a candle in memory of Christopher Joel Anderson



Karen Ahn - April 29, 2021 at 12:10 PM



“ Sandy, Heather and Ashlee, my deepest condolences during this terrible time. I think of your family often with fond memories. What a beautiful tribute to Chris, he loved his family so very much. Keeping your family in my thoughts and prayers.

Tasha Hannam

Tasha Hannam - April 29, 2021 at 11:21 AM



“ Sandy, oh my gosh, I'm so sorry. We didn't know he was ill and are shocked by his passing. Your are right, he was such a good man. We go back, really to birth, and have so many fond memories of growing up with the four "C"s. Bless your hearts, our deepest condolences.

Mary Kay Kimball - April 29, 2021 at 04:55 AM



“ Sandy, Heather, and Ashlee -
Our deepest condolences to you and all the family at this difficult time. May the many wonderful memories you have provide you comfort.
Hugs,
Brian & Marcy (Durian) Wegerer and boys

Marcy Wegerer - April 28, 2021 at 11:27 PM



“ Sandy, Heather, and Ashlee....John and I would like you to know our heartfelt thoughts go out to you at this time. John was reminiscing about how kind Chris always was to him, and how he was an all around good guy. I remember his smile and sense of humor. We will be praying for strength and comfort for you as you remember a wonderful husband, father, and grandfather.

Marcia Conley - April 28, 2021 at 08:56 PM



“ Sandy, Heather, Ashlee and family...may I tell you what a privilege it was to call Chris my dear friend A friend first neighbor second who would do anything to help you if needed. I look across the street and expect to see him mowing, blowing or washing something! It will never be the same without him in the neighborhood. I have prayed for so long for him to be well again but that was not GODS plan. I do know we now have another fabulous angel watching over us all and nudging us when needed. May you find peace in all your wonderful memories you made together....

Kim Scieszinski - April 28, 2021 at 07:55 PM



“ Some of our fondest memories of our time in Albia was our time spent with Chris and Sandy . Our prayers for your family at this time . Chris leaves a legacy that both of you are proud of ! Love sent to your family at this time ! Rennie and Rae Ludens

Rae Ludens - April 28, 2021 at 06:47 PM



“ My deepest sympathy to the family. Chris and Sandy were our neighbors when my children were small. Beautiful memories. My dad and mom also loved Chris. He was a true Christian! Praying for Sandy and the girls on this horrible loss

Ann OBrien - April 28, 2021 at 06:21 PM



“ My sincere condolences to the family. Chris and family were great neighbors and I enjoyed seeing Chis every time I had a chance what a very, very fine person. He will be missed by many. God Blessing upon Chis and the family..

Dale O'Brien - April 28, 2021 at 05:08 PM



“ Nancy and Jesse Bengé purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Christopher Joel Anderson.



Nancy and Jesse Bengé - April 28, 2021 at 05:08 PM



“ Sandy - Our sincerest condolences to you, Ashley, Heather and your family. Chris was such a wonderful man, and was always quick with a smile and a kind word. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Best - Bill and Heidi Owens

Bill Owens - April 28, 2021 at 04:58 PM



“ Sandy, I am so sorry , we were just talking about Chris at the restaurant last week I was saying how much I missed seeing him an tormenting him, I saw this an just sat down an cried. I am at a loss for words, my prayers are with you Heather,Ashley and the family at this sad time. I am going to miss him alot .

Sharon Kurimski - April 28, 2021 at 05:23 PM



“ Sandy, Heather, Ashlee
I'm so sorry to hear of the loss of Chris. I didn't know he had been sick. What a shock! He was such a wonderful person who touched the lives of many. He will be missed. Sending hugs & prayers to you all at this difficult time.

Bobbi Bassett

Bobbi Bassett - April 30, 2021 at 11:48 AM



“ Sandy, Heather, and Ashlee
On behalf of the Albia Wasko family, we extend our most heartfelt prayers. Albia people have always taken care of one another and based on the memories shared, Chris was indeed the epitome of an Albia boy.

God bless.

Joe Hammen

Son of Mary Wasko

Grandson of Joe and Elizabeth Wask

Joe Hammen - May 01, 2021 at 06:41 PM



“ Thoughts and prayers to my cousin Sandy, the girls and all the family members! His smile will shine on forever!

Kathleen - April 28, 2021 at 04:05 PM



“ So many memories of Uncle Chris and his somewhat biting, but ALWAYS hilarious, wit. Growing up, holidays at Mo & Po’s just weren’t a party until Uncle Chris showed up! My absolute favorite memories were when he’d be (as Aunt Sandy politely put it) irritating Mo, or some other hilarity, then Aunt Sandy would giggle and say, “Chris, ya dumbsh*t.” I don’t think anyone could make her laugh quite like him.

Aunt Sandy, Heather, Ash & family - I know you have amazing memories of Uncle Chris as a wonderful husband, father and Papa. I pray those memories and God’s love bring you peace in the days ahead.

Dad, Uncle Curtie & Uncle Cevin, I know you “4Cs” won’t be the same without Uncle Chris, but I pray God’s love and peace surround each of you as well. We’ll see everyone before noon on Friday. Love from Suzy, Scott, Taege, Keile, Sophie, Blane, Chloe & Andie

Kenyon Delk - April 28, 2021 at 03:50 PM



“ Our Hearts go out to Chris and his family. From Grant grade school through High School...he was a great guy that was an honor to know. He autographed his work with excellence. I was blessed to work with him on the "50+1" Class 1970 reunion. As one of the great ones, he will be honored and remembered by all. Angels surround.

Phil Dicks

Rev. Phil Dicks - April 28, 2021 at 03:27 PM



“ I’m so sorry for everyone’s loss! I loved Great Uncle Chris! He always made me laugh and told me about cars!

Blane Delk - April 28, 2021 at 02:52 PM



“ Memories of Chris on the golf course with Curt come to mind. He always asked what I was grilling on the deck. I'd tell him and said I have plenty to go around. There was a downpour of rain one proam weekend which was the usual case. I motioned for he and his team to come over and get out of the rain and lightning. Gave them towels to dry off and when the storm passed. On their way they'd go. My last visit with Chris and Sandy were on their beautiful deck. Just talking about the little things like kids and grandkids and how blessed we are. My love to you all Anderson family. He was one in a million. Prayers and blessings. Lana Kaldenberg/Eells and girls.

Lana Kaldenberg/Eells - April 28, 2021 at 02:50 PM



“ So many memories of Uncle Chris and his sometimes biting, but ALWAYS hilarious, wit. Aunt Sandy, Heather, Ash & the rest of the family, I hope all your beautiful memories of Uncle Chris bless you and keep you. Dad, Uncle Curtie & Uncle Cevin, I know you 4Cs will never be the same without him, but I pray God's peace and light surround you all. Love & hugs from Suzy, Scott, Taege, Keile, Sophie, Blane, Chloe & Andie (Scott, the twins and I be there Friday, late morning)

Kenyon - April 28, 2021 at 03:26 PM



“ Heartfelt condolences to Sandy and family. There is never enough time. Much love to all!

Juley Murphy-Tiernan - April 28, 2021 at 03:40 PM



“ My sincerest condolences to Sandy, Heather and Ashley. May God wrap his loving arms around your entire family at this time. RIP Chris.

Anna Conley - April 28, 2021 at 02:50 PM



“ We are so sorry for your loss!! Chris was a great guy. Sending prayers to all of you...Sandy, Heather, Ashlee, Cevin, Curt, Craig and all those beautiful babes!!

Mark & Cindy Irvin



Cindy Irvin - April 28, 2021 at 02:41 PM



“ What a wonderful man. So many memories from the class of 1970. May he rest in peace.

Mary Magie Reade - April 28, 2021 at 02:37 PM



“ So saddened to hear of Chris' passing. A handsome man with a beautiful and contagious smile. Prayers and hugs of comfort to Sandra and Family. Fly high Chris...

Kim Haluska - April 28, 2021 at 02:12 PM



“ What a great guy! Seeing Chris around Albia for years was always great! He always had an awesome smile and pleasant to be around.

Valerie Selby Small - April 28, 2021 at 02:06 PM