



## Christopher G. Rush

August 12, 2007

Rush, Christopher G. age 30 of Ann Arbor, August 12, 2007. Beloved son of Richard and Dorie. Loving brother of Julie. Dear grandson of Vivian Taylor. Formerly of Rochester Hills and a Graduate of Rochester Adams High School. He went on to earn degrees from University of Michigan and Wayne State University School of Law. Chris was the 1983-84 National Poster Child for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Visitation Tuesday 5-9 PM and Wednesday 1-9 PM at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 46401 West Ann Arbor (between Sheldon and Beck) Plymouth. Funeral service Thursday at First United Methodist Church, 120 S State Street, (south of E Huron, east of Main Street) Ann Arbor. Christopher had many notable accomplishments in his lifetime, and was very enthusiastic and active with the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Through the years Chris had many remarkable experiences, among them: he met President Reagan in the Oval Office, he was Grand Marshall at the Disney World Parade, he appeared on the Today show and on the Good Morning L.A. show, he did various promos for the Muscular Dystrophy Association, he was Crown Bearer in Tony Orlando's wedding, he was the guest of honor at the National Football League Players Association, he threw the ceremonial pitch in several Major League baseball games and he was the first certified scuba diver with Muscular Dystrophy.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Muscular Dystrophy Association, 5860 Canton Center Road, Ste. #362, Canton, MI. 48187 or to

Paws with a Cause, 4646 South Division, Wayland MI 49348.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Christopher G. Rush*

December 07, 2023 at 05:11 AM



“ *I didn't personally know Christopher, but like many at Wayne State Law School, I often saw him in the hallways on his way to class. Law school is tough, and all us students are known for frequently bemoaning the struggle of our academic predicament, but it was easy to see that Christopher was someone who had to work harder than any of us. It saddens me to see that he has passed. My deep condolences to his family and all those who were close to him. I am certain that by the kindness and love he shared, Christopher still lives on. ----- ?Unable are the loved to die, for love is immortality.? - Emily Dickinson*

**Jeff McCarroll (WSU Class of w'05)** - December 12, 2014 at 10:30 AM



“ *Dear Rush family, Your family is in my thoughts and prayers. I went to Middle School, High School and grew up with Chris at St. Paul's. He was an inspiration in all that he accomplished and had a great sense of humor. My deepest sympathy to you all.*

**Jennifer (Taylor) Howe** - December 12, 2014 at 10:30 AM



“ *Dear Richard, Dorie and Julie, We are so sorry to hear of your loss. We have many fond memories of Christopher as a young boy when our children played together. Though we lost contact after a few years we were aware of his achievements. Our prayers are with your family. Sincerely, Sylvia and Ed*

**Sylvia and Ed Gallagher** - December 12, 2014 at 10:30 AM

JU

“ It is now October 10th. For some reason I thought about Chris last night and "googled" him. I was so sad when I saw he had recently passed away. I used to wait on your family at the Kountry Kettle in Rochester. Chris always impressed me so much. He was always smiling and fun to talk to. I remember him waiting for a table by the juke box and some littler kids were staring at them. Instead of ignoring them, he engaged them in conversation, explaining to them what was wrong with him and he did it in language the kids would understand and not be afraid. I knew then he would do great things with his life. I am so glad Christopher & the Rush Family touched my life.

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**Julia** - December 12, 2014 at 10:30 AM

KO

“ Dear Dorie and Family, Brenda Whitsitt told me about your loss. I have often thought of you and Christopher over the years. (We worked in L&D at Beaumont with you under McCarvil). Reading his obituary, I see that Christopher was a very determined young man and I'm sure you are proud of his accomplishments. I will keep your family in my prayers. I have remarried so you may not recognize the new last name. Kathy Ogans

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**Kathy (Hall) Ogans** - December 12, 2014 at 10:30 AM

CS

“Dorie, I was so saddened to read about Christopher's death in the paper. To me he was always part of the Jerry Lewis Telethon. I remember him being the National Poster Child. I also remember chatting with Chris during the many times we saw one another at a Tony Orlando Concert!! I too am a Very Big Fan of Tony's. I also reember when you and your husband Had an MDA Benefit on the Star of Detroit, Called the Star Gala back in 1988. I too am Physically Challenged I have Spinal Bifida, and am im a wheelchair. I am also confined to a wheelchair do to my disiability. Being on the Star of Detroit and seeing Tony sure made my year let me tell you. I believe the last time I saw Chis was when Tony was at Andiamo's in Warren. It was a few years back, I beleive. I am sorry for your loss and sorry it took me so long to write this, but please know that I think of Chris often, Yes, even more so this past weekend during the telethon. Tony spoke so highly of Chris it was Beautiful! Now whenever I see Tony wether on TV or in person I know that Chris will be right there with me. Please Take Care and if you feel like emailing me please feel free I don't mind. My Prayers are with you and your family.

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**Cheryl Szczesny** - December 12, 2014 at 10:30 AM

LT

“To the family- Just want to extend my deepest sympathy for your loss. When i saw Chris' death notice in the paper i was extremely saddened. He was our "face" of the MDA Telethon. I grew up with Chris every Labor Day. What a beautiful person! Love and Blessings

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**Laura tyburski** - December 12, 2014 at 10:30 AM

EK

“ I was sad to hear of Chris's passing. I met Chris in high school and we both attended Michigan together. I have some great memories of Chris as well as an assortment of jokes that I can't repeat. He was an amazing man. I feel privileged to have called him a friend. He will be missed.

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**Erich Krumrei** - December 12, 2014 at 10:30 AM

BW

“ Dorie, Rich, and Julie, I was so very sorry to read of Christopher's death. I remember him as a very special young boy with determination. It sounds as if he continued that way into his young adult life and succeeded at many things...I know how incredibly proud you are of him and that this is devastating to you. I have thought of you often and wondered where you were and how the family was doing.. I hope that all the great memories and accomplishments of his will give you strength ... from experience, I have learned that ..time will ease the pain of loss...but the loneliness will never go away...Bless you all.. He was born into a great and loving home . Sincerely, Brenda Whitsitt (Wm Beau. Hosp...years ago.)

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**Brenda Whitsitt** - December 12, 2014 at 10:30 AM

CF

“ Dear Rich, Dori & Julie, We were very sorry to hear the news about Christopher. Our thoughts & prayers are with all of you at this time. Please keep in touch. Cousins Ted & Carolyn Kearny,NJ

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**Cousins Zjawin & Reitz Families** - December 12, 2014 at 10:30 AM

AW

“ Dear Rush family, I am so sorry to hear of your loss. I remember Chris fondly, and the times we spent together with the neighborhood kids, playing kickball and other games. His smiling face and upbeat outlook were an inspiration to the kids on Whispering Knoll. My thoughts are with you, Amy

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**Amy (Gallagher) Woodruff** - December 12, 2014 at 10:30 AM

TH

“ Dear Mr. and Mrs. Rush and Julie: I don't know if you remember me or not but I was one of Chris' first POHI teachers at Irving Preschool on Square Lake Road. I remember Chris fondly and followed his early career as a spokesperson for MD....After reading the obituary I was thrilled to see that he had grown into such a wonderful, successful young man -- no surprise that he did! He had that sparkle in his eye and determination way back then! I am so terribly sad and sorry for your loss, and want to thank you for bringing Chris into our lives as we are better people for having know him. God Bless.

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**Terri (Sharpe) Hanpeter** - December 12, 2014 at 10:30 AM

TG

“ I was so sad to hear about Christopher's passing. For many years, I followed Chris' rise to "stardom" as the MDA poster child. My dad, Dick Dietrich, worked for WJBK-TV 2 as the director of the telethon. I spent a lot of time with my dad during the telethon, and always looked forward to "Topher's" contribution to the telethon. He was "the telethon" in Detroit. I was so proud to see of his accomplishments and successes. God Bless him for all he did---  
With deepest sympathies, Tracey Dietrich Gray

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**Tracey Gray** - December 12, 2014 at 10:30 AM

SZ

“ My condolences to the Rush family. As a neighbor and friend, Christopher was a very important part of my childhood. He was a very special person and I am glad to have known him. My thoughts are with your family.

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**Sara (Gallagher) Zocher** - December 12, 2014 at 10:30 AM

WA

“ Dear Dorie, Richard, and Julie- We read in Tuesday's Ann Arbor News about Chris' death. We are saddened by your loss. Julie told us often how bright, charming, and loving Chris was. I have a fond memory meeting Chris in the back of his van on the day that Julie slid the Land Rover off our driveway. Your young man had a gentle and engaging presence. Aidan is at Interlochen Band Camp, and Rebecca and I are leaving for New York early Thursday morning. You all are in our thoughts and in our prayers. Thank you, God, for the love Chris brought into your lives. Fondly, Walt Kemnitz, Jr., Rebecca Mase, and Aidan Mase-Kemnitz p.s. We are making a donation in Chris' honor to the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

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**Walt Kemnitz Jr., Rebecca Mase, and Aidan** - December 12, 2014 at 10:30 AM

MM

“ Dear Richard, Dprie and Julia, At this very moment services are being held for your beloved Christopher. In a moment I will be heading for the Shrine-Chapel of Our Lady of Orchard Lake to offer Mass during which I will bepraying especially for Christopher and all of you. May the presence of God in your lives be especially felt by all of you at this time. The journey's end for Christopher is really the beginning for him for being faithful to the cross that he carried throughout his life. May God continue to be present in your lives and my He bless all of you here on earth until the final reunion with Christopher in God;s kingdom. Let us pray for one another always. Love you. Msgr. Stan Milewski

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**Msgr. Stanley E. Milewski** - December 12, 2014 at 10:30 AM

JB

“ To the Rush Family: I have so many memories of Chris from the short time I knew him. I particularly remember saving one "almost lost" paper at Kinko's at 3am for a law school final...and being rewarded with a 20 pound (!! ) box of chocolates the next day! Chris' humor, positive spirit and can-do attitude were phenomenal and inspiring to me as a future nurse. Now, I frequently tell stories about him in my job as a nursing professor! What an unbelievable guy..."inspiration" does not begin to cover it. My thoughts, condolences and utmost respect go out to you and your family.

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**Jennifer (Seamon) Bellot** - December 12, 2014 at 10:30 AM

TF

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with the Rush Family. Did not know you or Chris personally, but felt like we did through the annual MDA telethons. Watched Chris grow and thrive over the many years. He is such an inspiration past, present and long into the future. He will be fondly remembered always in our hearts. God Bless.

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**The Stanczyk Family** - December 12, 2014 at 10:30 AM

CE

“ Dear Uncle Rich, Aunt Dorie, and Julie... You are forever in our thoughts and prayers! Christopher will be sadly missed, but never forgotten! The memories we have shared together will live on forever in our hearts. He will continue to be an inspiration in our lives! Christopher's smile, sense of humor and love for others will always be cherished. Christopher's life story will be shared with many, as there was so much he taught all of us throughout life. The most important was to stick to your dreams and never let anything or anyone stand in your way! We love you all! Love & Hugs from Texas - Carlie & TJ

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**Carlie (Gizicki) Emerick** - December 12, 2014 at 10:30 AM

MR

“ I met Chris just two months ago, through my aide and friend, Kim. I was struck by his humor and charm. I'm sorry I didn't get to know him better; I know he is missed by many. My prayers are with him and his family; may they come to know the peace of Christ which passes understanding.

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**Mary K. Rizzo** - December 12, 2014 at 10:30 AM

MK

“ Hi you guys. My mom called me on Tuesday night and she told me. I'm so sorry for your loss and I know that he will be missed. Just remember that he will always live on in our memories. I know that I didn't know him that well but what I do remember of Chris is that he always had a big smile on. I remember turning pages for him when he was at the U of M. He had the biggest hart of anyone that I knew. I just want to let you know that if you need anything, we are here for you day or night. I'm happy that you guys are a part of my life.

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**Meredith Kubany** - December 12, 2014 at 10:30 AM

R(

“ My sincere condolences go to Mr. and Mrs. Rush. I remember meeting Christopher when he was just a little boy. I was a student of Mr. Rush's 6th grade class at Ann Visager school. I remember how sweet Christopher was and despite his illness he was such a strong soul. I always wondered how he was and am glad to see that he was a success. Even though he lived a short life I'm sure he made his parents proud. God Bless Christopher and his parents.

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**Raylene Gauthier (Kubik)** - December 12, 2014 at 10:30 AM

AE

“ Thinking of you with sympathy. May it bring you comfort to know that many caring thoughts are with you in your sadness.

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**Andy and Linda Eggan** - December 12, 2014 at 10:30 AM

JR

“ To the Rush family: I am very sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with your family.

John Roper - December 12, 2014 at 10:30 AM

JA

“ Rush Family- My thoughts are with you during this difficult time. Christopher and I attended High School together, and has so many others have said, he was the smiling face that everyone loved to see. He will be remembered fondly.

Jennifer (Redmond) Adams - December 12, 2014 at 10:30 AM

LV

“ To the rush family, I went to school with Chris for middle and high school and I have very fond memories of him. He was always smiling and I loved his personality and dedication to life. He will be greatly missed. I am so sorry for your loss.

Lisa (Mathews) Voss - December 12, 2014 at 10:30 AM

GF

“ Dorie, Rich, and Julie. We are saddened to hear of your loss. Christopher accomplished so much in his so few years. Indeed a young man to be proud of!! Our hearts, prayers and love are with you all. We pray that the Dear Lord will grant you all the strength to see you through this time and help you to find the peace in your hearts that Christopher has now found. All our Love, Gary, Nancy, Nikki, and Gwen

Gary Bumgardner family - December 12, 2014 at 10:30 AM

JD

“ I am so sorry for your loss. Christopher was indeed very special and tremendously gifted and you have the treasures of his life to celebrate. May you always be comforted by the wonderful memories. Joan Turner (Dwyer)

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**Joan Turner Dwyer** - December 12, 2014 at 10:30 AM

MT

“ I just wanted to tell you that Chris and I went to school with each other from grade one till the 12th grade. He helped me with math and was always very supportive of me. He helped me to understand things other teacher couldn't. He gave me the feeling of hope and encouragement all the time. It was an honor to have known him and there is no way he will be forgotten.

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**Megan Tompor** - December 12, 2014 at 10:30 AM

SD

“ Dear Rush Family, I just want to extend my sincerest condolences to you. Chris was one of the first people I met when I moved to Rochester in 1984, and he immediately befriended me as "the new girl". We spent the next 10 years in school together and he always had such a wonderful smile and positive words to share. When I caught up with him at our 10 year reunion 3 years ago, I was so inspired when I heard about all that he had done since we left high school. He will continue to be an inspiration...

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**Sarah (Janczuk) Daniels** - December 12, 2014 at 10:30 AM

GP

“ Sincerest condolences to the family. Chris, it was a pleasure to have worked with you. The accomplishments you achieved in your life are evidence of your strength, determination & will. Galen S. Paxton, M.A., C.R.C. Certified Rehabilitation Counselor State of Michigan Dept. of Labor & Economic Growth Michigan Rehabilitation Services 3810 Packard Rd., Suite #170 Ann Arbor, MI 48108 (734) 677-1125, #246 (734) 677-1143, fax

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**Galen S. Paxton** - December 12, 2014 at 10:30 AM

KD

“ Hi Dorie, I didn't have your address to send a card. I remember Chris fondly when he would visit Ronald McDonald House with you when I was Manager in the late 1990's. He was in undergrad at the time and was charming and funny!! He referred to his golden retriever as a "babe magnet" - a term I have used often since!! How wonderful to see that he graduated from Law School as well!!! What an inspiratonal life he led with complete love and support from his family. My thoughts are with you during this very sad time. What an exceptional young man he was!! Fondly, Kris Denzin

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**Kris Denzin** - December 12, 2014 at 10:30 AM

NM

“ My sincere condolences to the Rush family. I remember Christopher when he was the National Poster Child for MDA. He was so young then. I also remember him as a young, handsome adult who would come in to see Drs. Nigro and Dabrowski. He was and still is an inspiration to all of us. No matter what his obstacles were, he manged to overcome them. What a courageous young man! My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. FIGHT MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY!! - With Deepest Sympathy & God Bless - Nyla....(You may not remember me but I worked with Drs. Nigro & Dabrowski as their MA years ago.)

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**Nyla Kaminski (formerly from M.I.N.D.)** - December 12, 2014 at 10:30 AM

S(

“ Oh Christopher....I have so many great memories of you. Rush Family - I am so sorry for your loss. It has been a long time but I have so many wonderful memories of times together. You have always been a very special family and I think about all of you often. My thoughts and love are with you during this very sad and difficult time. Love, Shawn

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**Shawn Hass (Mellinger)** - December 12, 2014 at 10:30 AM

LC

“ Dear Rush Family, Chris and I went all through Rochester schools together. I saw him last at our 10 year reunion and was able to catch up on all he had accomplished since high school. He lived an amazing life and was an inspiration to others. My thoughts are with you at this sad time.

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**Laura (Mowers) Cannata** - December 12, 2014 at 10:30 AM

L(

“ Dear Aunt Dorie, Uncle Rich and Julie I was so sorry to hear about Christopher. I always loved you all very much and I have alot of very happy memories of time spent with your family. My love and prayers go out to your family. With loving thoughts, Lena

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**Lena Monroe (Norvell)** - December 12, 2014 at 10:30 AM

CF

“ Dori, Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family at this very difficult time.

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**Cousin Pat Mobley and family** - December 12, 2014 at 10:30 AM

JW

“ Dear Rich and Dorie, I was devastated to read of the loss of your son! We have lost touch with each other but I have fond and indelible memories of the times we spent together. I retired in 2006, live in Troy and remarried 8 years ago. I wish you both love and peace during this very difficult time. Sincerely, Jim

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**Jim Weston** - December 12, 2014 at 10:30 AM

TF

“ Dear Rich, Dorie, & Julie, We are so deeply sorry. We want you all to know that we love you all very much, and are here if you need us. Rich & Dorie, you raised a wonderful son, who everyday knew he was loved and cherished. We will all miss him dearly. Love to you all, Tom, Connie, Natalie, Emily & Carly

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**The Szurek Family** - December 12, 2014 at 10:30 AM