



LAKE HAMILTON HIGH SCHOOL

WALL OF HEROS



1986 LHHS Graduate, Grant Kerslake, Dies in Navy Training Accident



Samuel "Grant" Kerslake, a 1986 graduate of LHHS Graduate, died on May 19, 2009, while serving in the U.S. Navy. Naval Air Crewman 1st Class Samuel "Grant" Kerslake was aboard a HH-60 Seahawk helicopter that took off from the USS Nimitz and crashed into the ocean at 11:36 p.m., 13 miles southwest of San Diego and 87 miles from the Nimitz, while conducting a training operation.

Grant Kerslake, 41, had accumulated 5,000 flight hours as a helicopter crew chief. He died after serving 20 years and three days in the Navy and was posthumously promoted. He leaves behind a wife, Christie Kerslake, two sons, Samuel Ryan Kerslake, 2, Justin Fields, 6; his mother Jo Anne Kerslake and Dale Hobgood, his father Samuel Kerslake and wife Sue; his brother William "Will" Kerslake and wife Jennifer and their son Liam; his maternal grandmother, Irene Winans; along with numerous aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews and many wonderful friends.

Chief Petty Officer Sean Milligan described his buddy as a "massive guy" – bald and tattooed but gentle and generous. Kerslake, the father of two little boys with his wife, Christie, was nicknamed "Papa Bear." Grant served in many locations during his career, including overseas during the War on Terrorism.

"Grant turned out to be the nicest guy I've ever known," Milligan said. "He was everything we all wanted to be in a crew chief."

At Lake Hamilton, Grant was involved in many activities including football, track, and Spanish Club. He was full of energy, comical, and the life of the party. The Lake Hamilton School District is honored to have been a part of the life of this American Hero.

