

To the person(s) involved in taking our friend's life;

I don't know why you did what you did and I don't need to know because that won't bring him back. But I wonder...do YOU know what you did? Did taking his life get you back whatever it was you think was worth the price of his life? Did it undo any perceived wrong against you? Did it make everything ok in your world? Somehow, I doubt it. Let me tell you what you DID do.

1) You took a father away from his kids. Do you have kids? What would happen to them if you were gone? Who would be there teaching your kids how to grow up to be good adults? Who would be playing with them? Protecting them? This man loved his children fiercely and they knew he did. He showed them every day. You have stolen that away.

2) You took a husband away from his wife. Are you married? Do you have a special woman in your life? Who would be there for her with you gone? Who would get her through those long dark nights that she would have to face all alone? Who would protect her? Who would love her...if you were gone? His wife depended on him. Not just for money, but for support, friendship...love. You have stolen that away.

3) You took a son from his mother. What would your mother do if she lost you? How would she get through losing her child? Parents are not supposed outlive their children...what would you do if you lost a child? His mother did not deserve the pain you have caused her. She had hopes for great things for her son. You have stolen that away.

4) You took a brother from his siblings. Do you have brothers or sisters? How would you feel if one of them was taken from you? What would they face if you were taken from them? His siblings loved their brother. They had plans for the future. They had hopes and dreams. You have stolen those away.

What happens at your next big family function when your wife, children, parents and siblings have to face your absence? What do you think our friend's family will be going through?

5) You took away a friend. Whatever he may have been (or not been) to you, he was a good friend to us. He gave of his time to help people feel better about themselves. He made us laugh. He shared his heart. You have stolen that away.

6) You took away a mentor. He was helping people change their lives. He was giving others hope that they COULD change. He was guiding young minds...and older ones. He was being the change that everybody so often cries that they want to see in the world. He. Was. Affecting. Change.

Now this...THIS you have not stolen away. This will continue to happen to honor his memory. This will continue to grow as all the people you have stolen him away from get past the initial shock and pain. We will stand together, reaching out to those who were directly touched by what you have done. We will not allow the Light this man brought to our little piece of earth to be extinguished by your selfish act. We will not go quietly into the night. We will reach out to God for our comfort and strength and tell everyone we can what He did in our friend's life.