



In Memory of

John P. Hart

Class of 1981
27 February 1963 - 11 September 2001

Victim of the World Trade Center Bombing

On 9/11 in New York City our dear friend and fellow MHS classmate died while trying to save others in the World Trade Center Towers. His name is John Patrick Hart. He was a businessman giving a training seminar at the time. He got out safely but then went back in to help others. This is when the 2nd plane hit tower #2, and he was killed.

John was born February 27, 1963, to James and Betty (Mittelstadt) Hart in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. He attended Eau Claire Memorial High School, and the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, where he received his Bachelors of Business Administration Degree in 1986. John worked for Price Waterhouse in Minneapolis and earned his CPA designation. He then worked for Worldmark Corporation at various operating divisions around the country. In 1991, he took a position with Key Corp. (formally Society Bank) in Cleveland Ohio. He worked for Key for nine years before accepting a new position with Franklin Templeton Investments as Director of Global Operation in Dublin, California. John was united in marriage to his wife, Laurie Colton, on June 11, 1993. John and Laurie made their home in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, for almost ten years before relocating to Danville, California, in 2000.

John Hart, one of six children of James and Betty (Hart) Mathwig, is a graduate of both Eau Claire Memorial and UW-Eau Claire. James Hart is deceased, and Betty Hart married Ed Mathwig nine years ago; the couple lives in Eau Claire.

John moved to California about a year ago from Ohio, Seaman said. John worked for Franklin Templeton Fund based out of San Mateo, Calif. He worked out of the company's Danville, Calif., office, Seaman said. He was in

New York giving a business seminar in the World Trade Center's second tower, which was hit by the second plane but was the first to collapse Tuesday.

John's brother, James Hart Jr., lives in North Pole, Alaska. Besides Wolfenberger and Seaman, he also has two sisters in Eau Claire, Christine Hart and Sandra Hart Shelley.

Paul Halverson never met anyone more considerate than his best friend, John Hart. "He had an extreme amount of compassion for other people," said Halverson, of Superior. "Nobody ever met John that didn't like him. It was his kindness."

While remembering Hart's generosity and kindness, the family hopes others will use his example and continue a legacy of caring for others. "He is in our hearts forever," she said. Family members each wore a tag with a picture of Hart on it, the American Flag and the words: "We will never forget, Sept. 11, 2001. "We have been doing everything we can to memorialize our brother," Seaman said.

Hart worked for Franklin Templeton Investments as director of global operations in Dublin, Calif., and was in Two World Trade Center giving a seminar the morning of the attacks. He made it out of the tower safely but then returned to help others escape and is believed to have been trapped above where the second airliner hit that tower.

Father Paul Gitter said during the service the terrorist attack is another example of the ongoing struggle of good versus evil. "Destruction comes from the evil," he said, noting good brings order. "We know the opposite of order is chaos. It certainly was nothing more than chaos that struck our country on Sept. 11. We know what motivated the attack on Sept. 11 was not love. It was hate. Therefore it could not come from God. We must never lose hope that the power of good is stronger than evil."

A family friend said, "Everyone realizes life will go on for the rest of us. We are going to try and live a better life like he was doing."

Hart, 37, attended Eau Claire Memorial High School and UW-Eau Claire. He is survived by his wife, Laurie, and their four children.