



Chris J. Eitzmann

April 1, 1977 - December 29, 2021

Christopher John Eitzmann was born April 1st, 1977, in Belleville, KS to Scott and Connie Eitzmann. He was the eldest of five siblings. He spent his childhood in Byron, NE on a family farm. He loved his upbringing and always felt comforted by his small community, which he thought of as an extended family. He was a doting older brother and he cherished his role as protector for his younger siblings. As Chris grew on the farm, so did his love for the outdoors. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, camping, and found peace in wide open spaces. As an adult, Chris loved to recall stories for his kids about the shenanigans he and his siblings got into on the farm, from building forts, jumping off the roofs of outbuildings, racing go carts, and spear fishing in the Republican River.

Chris was baptized on April 24, 1977 and confirmed in faith on June 2, 1991 at the St. Peter's church in Byron, NE.

In high school, Chris emerged a leader both intellectually and athletically. Chris was proud to graduate Valedictorian of his high school class in 1995. It was also in high school that he developed his love for sports. His natural athleticism helped him to excel in any sport he chose to play. From basketball, to football, to track, he was a leader on and off the field. However, Chris's biggest love in sports was football. Though he started out playing only six man football, he was gifted enough to catch the eye of college recruiters from across the country. During his senior year, he was faced with the tough decision of playing either for Nebraska's beloved Tom Osborne and the Huskers, or following his adventurous heart to the east coast to attend Harvard and play for the Crimson.

In 1995, Chris made the 1600 mile trek to Boston to begin his journey at Harvard University, pursuing a degree in Psychology. While attending Harvard, Chris's football career flourished. Not only did he letter all four years, he was also nominated for First Team All Ivy League and All American Farm Team, in his senior season. Also, during his senior year, he was nominated captain of the team which he viewed as an immense honor. These accomplishments on the football field did not, however, detract from his devotion to his degree as he graduated Cum Laude in 2000.

After college, Chris set his sights on the NFL and started his professional football career with the New England Patriots. He played several seasons with the Patriots, the Packers, the Browns, and the Frankfurt Galaxy in NFL Europe. Some of Chris's most beloved memories from his college and professional football years did not necessarily have to do with games or practices, but instead with the many lifelong friendships he gained along the way.

In 2003, Chris moved back to Nebraska and married his high school sweetheart, Mikaela Kempf. They lived in Lincoln, NE where Chris began his career in finance with Merrill Lynch. His desire to excel led the couple to New Hampshire where he pursued his master's degree in business at Dartmouth College. Together there, they shared many adventures from skiing at Whistler to hiking in Costa Rica. Chris graduated from the program with honors in 2007.

After Chris's time at Dartmouth, the couple moved to Jamaica Plain, MA where he continued his career with Raptor Group and Putnam. During their time in Boston, the couple was blessed with four children, Coen, Asher, Seth, and Lila. It was when he had children that he discovered his true passion, being a father. As a Dad, what he wanted most was to encourage his children's curiosity and their understanding of unconditional love. Chris also cherished playing "Coach Dad" and passed on his love for sports to his kids.

Chris will leave a legacy of faith, leadership, perseverance, determination, and devotion to family and friends.

Chris was preceded in death by his father-in-law Michael Kempf of Shickley, NE; grandparents Martin and Lola Eitzmann of Byron, NE, grandmother Alvina (Flathman) and Werner Hoops of Byron, NE, grandfather John Flathman of Chester, NE; grand father-in-law Rowen Kempf of Shickley, NE and grand parents-in-law Chet and Billie Larson of Edgar, NE.

Chris is survived by his wife, Mikaela Eitzmann and children Coen, Asher, Seth and Lila Eitzmann of Shickley, NE; his parents, Scott and Connie Eitzmann of Hardy, NE; his brother Nathan (Megan) Eitzmann of Blue Earth, MN, sister Tracy Garcia of Lincoln, NE, brother Barry (Danae) Eitzmann of Seward, NE, brother Cody (Taylor) Eitzmann of Seward, NE; mother-in-law Jill (Mike) Cavanaugh of Apple Valley, MN; sisters-in-law Danielle (Doyle) Horwart of Burnsville, MN, Jaimee Mannix of St Louis, MO, Kirstyn Mannix of Minneapolis, MN; brothers-in-law Jordan (Molly) Mannix of St Louis, MO, and

Kellen Mannix of Valdosta, GA; along with numerous nieces, nephews, family and friends.

A Funeral Service for Chris was held on Saturday, January 8, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. at Peace Lutheran Church in Deshler, Nebraska. Pastor Joseph Love presided over the Funeral Service. Julia Pohlmann & Marla Maschmann accompanied the congregation in the singing of "I Was There To Hear Your Boring Cry" and "In Christ Alone." Julia also accompanied Heath Hoge in the singing of "Amazing Grace." The recorded selection "I Am" was played as the final song.

Pallbearers for the service included Coen Eitzmann, Scott Larkee, Joe Mattson, Anthony Ackil, Artie Jones, Mike Shreve, Brian Lehmann, and Lance Kuhlmann. Honorary pallbearers included Asher Eitzmann, Seth Eitzmann, Lila Eitzmann, Nate Eitzmann, Barry Eitzmann, Cody Eitzmann, Brian Garrels, Heath Eitzmann, Judy Larkee, and Doyle Horwart.

Chris was cremated following the Funeral Service and his ashes will be placed in the Shickley Cemetery at a later date.

Farmer & Son Funeral Home was in care of the arrangements and online condolences can be left at www.farmerandsonfuneralhome.com

Memorials are suggested to the Chris Eitzmann Memorial Fund for CTE Research at Concussion Legacy Foundation. <https://www.classy.org/campaign/imo-chris-eitzmann/c384978>

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 7. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Farmer & Son Funeral Home
242 N 10th Street
Geneva, NE 68361
(402) 759-3617
<https://farmerandsonfuneralhome.com>

Funeral Service

JAN 8. 11:00 AM (CT)

Peace Lutheran Church
535 3rd Street
Deshler, NE 68340

Tribute Wall

FT

“ RIP Chris.



Frank Titus - May 14, 2023 at 12:53 PM

LA

“ Hi Chris's Beautiful Family, I'm one of many of Chris's Tuck classmates (the only French classmate, via London). I remember Chris as one of the kindest and gentlest classmates. His presence and charisma was most impressive and you already know that. I am grateful to have known him at Tuck. I feel and share your loss on the other side of the Ocean and send all my sincere condolences to you all in this painful time. Laetitia

Laetitia - January 13, 2022 at 01:16 PM

MW

“ Praying for the entire Eitzmann family, especially Mikaela and his kids. I have such sweet memories from the trip we took that summer, playing with fireworks, our first time playing with lightning bugs, jumping on the trampoline, it's hard to believe he's gone. Scott & Connie, sending you big hugs.

Maureen Wright - January 12, 2022 at 10:25 PM

AP

“ So sad to hear about Chris' passing. He was a quality guy and always kind during our time together at Dartmouth. My thoughts are with you all.

A Perez - January 10, 2022 at 07:05 PM



“ 160 files added to the album Flower Pictures



Farmer & Son Funeral Home - January 08, 2022 at 02:44 PM



“ Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Chris J. Eitzmann.



January 08, 2022 at 10:10 AM



“ With heavy hearts we heard the news of Chris’s passing— please know that we are lifting Scott and Connie and family up in prayer, with true and sincere sympathy. Such a sad loss for you all and the extended Eitzmann families. Sad for all of us who were blessed to know that special boy and then later man, who touched so many lives. Sending love and condolences, Craig and Nancy K, Clayton & Casey, and Emma

nancy kirchhoff - January 07, 2022 at 03:50 PM



Met Chris at a rehab in Naples, FL in 2020. Didn't know who he was until later. Spent some alone time together that we shared. He seemed to care very much about me and my problems. Just so sorry that he's gone, he had a heart of gold, and cared about others, sadly, more than he cared for himself. Though I only knew him for a few weeks, I thank God I knew him

Bob Wagner - January 16 at 08:59 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Chris J. Eitzmann.*



January 07, 2022 at 03:42 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Chris J. Eitzmann.*



January 07, 2022 at 12:58 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Chris J. Eitzmann.*



January 07, 2022 at 11:42 AM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Chris J. Eitzmann.*



January 07, 2022 at 10:10 AM

BF

“ *Bobby Psaradellis and family purchased the Peace Eternal Wreath for the family of Chris J. Eitzmann.*



Bobby Psaradellis and family - January 07, 2022 at 06:23 AM

TF

“ *The Kassik Family purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Chris J. Eitzmann.*



The Kassik Family - January 06, 2022 at 07:24 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Chris J. Eitzmann.*



January 06, 2022 at 05:34 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Chris J. Eitzmann.*



January 06, 2022 at 05:14 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Chris J. Eitzmann.*



January 06, 2022 at 04:45 PM

LH

“ *Lucas Hoge & Laura Hoge purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Chris J. Eitzmann.*



Lucas Hoge & Laura Hoge - January 06, 2022 at 04:19 PM



“ Sweet Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Chris J. Eitzmann.



January 06, 2022 at 04:00 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Chris J. Eitzmann.



January 06, 2022 at 03:30 PM

SN

“ So sad to hear about Chris passing! Condolences to his entire family. He will be missed.

Sebenza N.



Sebenza Nkomo - January 06, 2022 at 03:21 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Chris J. Eitzmann.



January 06, 2022 at 01:29 PM



“ Fiery Lily and Rose was purchased for the family of Chris J. Eitzmann.



January 06, 2022 at 11:24 AM

DU

“ I have so many great memories of Chris, it's hard to know where to begin. Growing up, I always cherished our trips to the Eitzmann farm, where we did all the wonderful and mischievous things young boys like to do, such as hunting, shooting BB guns, wandering the hog lots, playing King of the Mountain on the hay bales, shooting fireworks, spear fishing on the river, and having mud fights in the pond. As we grew older, our adventures transitioned to camping at Lovewell and Cheney lakes as well as the Country Stampede. And I will never forget the infamous road trip to Table Rock Lake to pick up a car Chris bought. “The Bubble” struggled mightily driving through the Ozark Mountains fully-loaded with 5 people! Later in life, I enjoyed a ski trip with Chris in Vermont and a Sunday night football tailgate party at Foxboro Stadium.

So many great memories with my wonderful cousin! You were taken too soon. We will love and miss you always and will never forget you.

Dustin - January 06, 2022 at 09:45 AM



“ Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Chris J. Eitzmann.



January 06, 2022 at 12:20 AM



“ Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Chris J. Eitzmann.



January 05, 2022 at 09:09 PM



“ Garden Cross was purchased for the family of Chris J. Eitzmann.



January 05, 2022 at 08:46 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Chris J. Eitzmann.*



January 05, 2022 at 05:39 PM

ET

“ *Wednesday 1/5*

Very, Very sorry to hear of Chris' passing. The Patriots Alumni are a very special group.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all of family. Ed Toner, Pats Alumnus.

Ed Toner - January 05, 2022 at 05:33 PM

LF

“ *Lonnie and Paula Hoops and family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Chris J. Eitzmann.*



Lonnie and Paula Hoops and family - January 05, 2022 at 04:58 PM

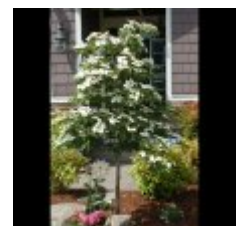
Jl

“ *Chris and I were in the same NE Patriot rookie class. He played Tight End and I played Outside Linebacker, so we had many battles during practice. We developed a mutual respect for one another and I remember him calling me "Killer Eskridge". He was a genuine person and its an honor to have known him. Condolences to the family and loved ones.*

John Eskridge II - January 05, 2022 at 04:10 PM



“ *Chinese Dogwood Tree was purchased for the family of Chris J. Eitzmann.*



January 05, 2022 at 02:35 PM



“ *Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Chris J. Eitzmann.*



January 05, 2022 at 02:35 PM

SG

“ *Shickley 5th Grade purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Chris J. Eitzmann.*



Shickley 5th Grade - January 05, 2022 at 02:23 PM

TG

“ *Chris was a freshman during my senior year on Harvard's football team. He was kind, hard working, funny, and an overall terrific teammate. I only knew him for a short while, but he made a lasting impression. What sad news -- my sincere condolences to his family and friends.*

Tim Griffin - January 05, 2022 at 01:03 PM



“ *Peace Eternal Wreath was purchased for the family of Chris J. Eitzmann.*



January 05, 2022 at 11:59 AM

LM

“ *Luke, Tracey and Elizabeth Moore purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Chris J. Eitzmann.*



Luke, Tracey and Elizabeth Moore - January 05, 2022 at 09:55 AM

FM

“ It’s been a blessing to have known Chris for the past 15 years and an honor to call him friend. Among the highlights was visiting his farm; by the end of the week he’d taught me about Dicamba drift and much more, and taught my son how to drive a stick shift and tractor, repair an irrigation pivot, etc. Needless to say, a far cry from the financial world where we met (a lowlight was losing a bet to Chris and having to carry his Patriots helmet to meetings through Boston.) We once shared the stage at a chemical company’s off-site and I was introduced AFTER Chris; obviously paled in comparison. Who wouldn’t?! Just an all-around awesome guy.

My deepest sympathies to his family and friends. Rest In Peace Chris.

Frank Mitsch - January 05, 2022 at 08:29 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Chris J. Eitzmann.



January 04, 2022 at 09:50 PM

TG

“ I am so sorry Chris is gone. We had so many fun memories growing up like throwing fireworks at the hogs, playing in the grain silo, going on vacations together to Worlds of Fun and Branson, and also watching Brian ride the go kart naked.... I never in my wildest imagination would have predicted how our lives would have played out but I know that Chris is with Jesus, a thought some may ridicule in our sophisticated times but in which we Christians can now rejoice because it is our only HOPE. Thank you to the Eitzmann family for a wonderful childhood. I can’t say much more without breaking down. So I end with Amen. E’n so, Come Lord Jesus, quickly come.

Tim Garrels - January 04, 2022 at 09:05 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Chris J. Eitzmann.



January 04, 2022 at 08:05 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Chris J. Eitzmann.



January 04, 2022 at 05:17 PM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Chris J. Eitzmann.



January 04, 2022 at 04:08 PM

RD

“ Shocked and saddened hearing this news. Chris was a freshmen my last season of college football, so I didn't know him very well, but recall at least a few discussions we had about growing up on a farm and in the country. Could tell that in addition to being a unique talent, he was a top notch person. Condolences to his family and friends.

Rob Dlugos - January 04, 2022 at 03:59 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Chris J. Eitzmann.



January 04, 2022 at 03:29 PM

BA

“ On or around June(ish) 2002 the Fugawi Tribe (self proclaimed travel group of 4 Frankfurt Galaxy teammates) was on one of its legendary adventures in central Europe. Destination: Paris.

Most would do what tourists in Europe do, take a train. Not us. We were doing it the old fashioned way, driving.

Eitz was our driver. The Autobahn was just fine, and fast. We were cruising at 200 km/hr (approximately 120mph and still regulated to the slow lane) and making good time through the German and French countryside listening to his self made CD of classic hits. (I remember this as if it happened last week and to this day, everytime I hear "Up on Cripple Creek" by The Band I think of Eitz.

So all was great and smooth... till we hit the streets of Paris.

Now, you would think the Eiffel Tower would be this great beacon to coordinate where you are in the city, but it is not as easy to see with the narrow streets and every structure being the same height. Also, it was daylight and not lit up.

So not having great landmarks to help guide us, we found ourselves taking a wrong turn, cursing our disbelief as we eventually entered a tunnel under the city, not knowing left from right, north or south in comparison to the streets above us. Nor did we have any idea of which exit to choose to get us back on top and into daylight. But somehow, in true Fugawi fashion, Eitz decides to take an exit ramp and we miraculously popped out right where we needed to be. Thus starting one the countless, great (mis)adventures of the Fugawi Tribe.

He handled it like he was driving through the streets of Boston in his pick up truck. No big deal.

Football brought us together, but I can't remember much about the practices or the games. Truly, one of the most cherished times of my life and it wasn't because of football. It was this group: Mike, Ben and Chris.

My deepest condolences to Chris's family.

Rest in peace my friend,
Bart

Bart - January 04, 2022 at 02:57 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Chris J. Eitzmann.



January 04, 2022 at 02:11 PM

TM

“ Chris was one of the greatest players, teammates and leaders in my long tenure as the football coach at Harvard. I can remember very vividly my home visit to his family's farm to meet and recruit him in 1995. On behalf of the Harvard Football Family our deepest sympathies to his family and friends. Rest in Peace Chris.

Tim Murphy - January 04, 2022 at 12:36 PM

JW

“ My deepest sympathy to Chris's family.

Joel Wittke - January 03, 2022 at 02:27 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Chris J. Eitzmann.



January 01, 2022 at 06:31 PM

KB

“ So many good memories of Chris! I so enjoyed watching Chris grow up. Little did I know that little Chris would grow into the good athlete that competed against my son in football, basketball and track. So many memories, I always enjoyed watching Chris. He always had such a nice, quiet smile. Chris will be missed by so many. Rest in peace, Chris. My prayers and sympathy to his family and friends.

Karen Bedlan - January 01, 2022 at 04:55 PM

KB

“ Karen Bedlan lit a candle in memory of Chris J. Eitzmann



Karen Bedlan - January 01, 2022 at 04:42 PM



“ To me, Chris will always be the small town boy that had the courage to dream big, had the intelligence and brilliance to get into Harvard, and the talent and fortitude to make it in the NFL. May you rest in peace, my friend.

Nicole Hoge Weary - December 31, 2021 at 06:59 PM