



Christopher James O'Keefe Sr.

December 11, 1965 - August 29, 2015

Christopher James O'Keefe, Sr. age 49, W.H.F.D. of West Haven passed away suddenly at home with his beloved son by his side, on August 29, 2015. In addition to his son Christopher Jr. "C.J." Chris leaves his ex-wife Angelique "Kiki" Surena O'Keefe, his sister Linda O'Keefe (William) Dillon of Wallingford and brother, William (Gail) O'Keefe of North Port Florida.

Chris was born December 11, 1965 in West Haven, the son of the late William "Red" and Mary Jane Collins O'Keefe. He is also survived by his nieces and nephews: Michael (Marianna) Dillon, Shannon (Rodrigo Cornejo) Dillon, Will (Nina) O'Keefe, Diane O'Keefe, Tim O'Keefe and four great nieces and nephews.

In 2002 Chris became a West Haven Fire Fighter, a position he was incredibly proud to hold. Besides being a dad nothing was more important to him than his job. He leaves behind a great group of friends, too numerous to mention and many great memories. Recently Chris and C.J. have been attending the races together each weekend. This was a great tradition from Chris' childhood that he was thrilled to share with his son.

Chris was an avid Harley rider and a proud member of the New Haven County Firefighters Emerald Society, the American Firefighters M.C., and the West Haven Professional Fire Fighters Local 1198.

Like all dads, Chris loved C.J., but he would have been filled with pride at the way his son conducted himself during the emergency.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be Celebrated Wednesday at 10:00 A.M. at ST.

Joan of Arc Church 450 West Todd Street Hamden. Friends are asked to go directly to church. Calling hours are Tuesday from 4-8 p.m. at Sisk Brothers Funeral Home 3105 Whitney Avenue Hamden. In lieu of flowers the family asks that donations be made to The C.J. O'Keefe, Jr. Education Fund c/o Bill O'Keefe 1821 Bobcat Trail North Port, FL 34288. To leave an online condolence please visit www.siskbrothers.com

Previous Events

Calling hours

SEP 1. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Sisk Brothers Funeral Home
3105 Whitney Ave.
Hamden, CT 06518
(203) 288-7114
siskfuneral@sbcglobal.net

Funeral service

SEP 2. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Joan of Arc
450 W. Todd St.
Hamden, CT 06518

Tribute Wall

BP

“ I did not know Chris but I'm a true believer in what these brave men and women do who risk their lives and sanity on a daily basis to save and help those who are in the most dangerous and difficult situations known to man (outside a war zone that is), they got out and put it on the line each and every time they respond to a call. They never get enough recognition, support and compensation they ALL deserve! God bless you sir! You'll never have to put out a rager again up there with the big man! Next time I start a fire I'll say a little prayer and a thank you just for you buddy! Firefighters are our true unsung heroes of the everyday world and as long as there's a human to start a fire 🔥 there will always be a need for those who extinguish them! I have family who are part of that brotherhood and those of us who aren't stand firmly behind those who are with pride, honor and so much gratitude! A few years ago I was scrolling across my Netflix account and found Tacoma FD (and though the show is a comedy and most of what they do and show is wrong or Total BS) and I fell in love with the show because of the same pride they portray it makes me love and appreciate my guys and gals in this line of work and passion! Thank you and God bless you Chris and your family! 🙏



Brittany Ponder - September 07, 2025 at 08:32 PM

LA

“ It is with great sorrow that such a fine person has been taken from all of us, The very deepest sympathy goes out to all especially CJ George and Linda Apuzzo

LINDA APUZZO - September 01, 2015 at 07:13 PM

JO

“ Chris will truly be missed. I met Chris when he was 11 years old at his parents New Years Eve Party. Living on Martin St. and watching Chris and all the other fellows in the neighborhood grow up, get married and buying houses on Martin St. was a joy. He was a sincere gentlemen. May he rest in peace.
JoAnn Gagliardi Savino

JoAnn - September 01, 2015 at 05:43 PM



“ You and Ed at the end of the bar at Neighbors. I was bartending and couldn't figure out why there were so many coasters on the floor.....everytime i picked them up, il would turn around to find more.....I finally figured it out! So when I see a coaster on the floor, I'll know that you are saying "Hi!" from Heaven..
You will be truely missed.
R.I.P. "big fella"



Nancy Ryan - September 01, 2015 at 10:31 AM

L(

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



LT. Peter "Doc" Wight (retired) - September 01, 2015 at 02:47 AM

L(

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



LT. Peter "Doc" Wight (retired) - September 01, 2015 at 02:46 AM



“ I grew up next to the O'keefes on Martin Street. Although I moved to California many years ago I never forgot my roots of growing up on that street with them and all the great neighbors around me. My thoughts go out to Billy, Linda and all of their family. Dave Scranton

Dave Scranton - August 31, 2015 at 10:07 PM

TA

“ Bill, Linda, Michael and Shannon: Our deepest sympathy's on the sudden passing of your brother. He will be greatly missed.

With much Love, Eric, Tammy, Serena and Jordan (Plagemann)

Tammy - August 31, 2015 at 03:09 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Christopher James O'Keefe Sr..



August 31, 2015 at 01:32 PM

LR

“ *Love - Seth, Laura & Joshua Roberts purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of Christopher James O'Keefe Sr..*



Love - Seth, Laura & Joshua Roberts - August 31, 2015 at 12:07 PM

CS

“ *I can't remember the first time I met Chris, I suppose we met sometime in late December 1965 or early January 1966, we grew up neighbors and have countless childhood memories together. As adults, we both purchased homes on Martin St. right next to each other diagonally across from the same homes we grew up in! We joked on occasion that it didnt matter who we married as long as they didnt mind us living next door to each other. I love you my brother, I will miss you dearly.*

chris scranton - August 31, 2015 at 11:30 AM

LC

“ *My mind is filled with many fun memories of Chris...may you find peace in the great memories created with Chris at this most difficult time...thoughts and prayers to all Chris's family and loved ones...*

Lisa Cervero - August 31, 2015 at 08:39 AM

BS

“ When I first met my husband Jim Kelly, is when I met Chris back in 1997. They were best friends and made plans to go to Boston for the weekend. When Chris came to the house to pick Jim up my dog Simba held him at bay in the kitchen. He said, "Ah JIM! I don't think your dog like me?!"

From then on we all spent time together hanging out on Martin Street, going to the bars, concerts on the New Haven Green, New Years Parties, fireworks.

Chris was the first contestant in the West Haven Fireworks Chili Cookoff to introduce the controversial SKID ROW CHILI where he put the pot of chili in a toilet and served it from there. He set up a clothes line with mens underwear that had chili marks on it. People still talkabout it today, best display ever! (I know he went to home depot and bought a new toilet just for that).

When 911 happened Chris and Jim immediately made plans to go to NY and help. They spent days down in NY working side by side with the firemen.

Good friends, good times. We will miss you dearly

Beth Stackpole Stewart-Kelly - August 31, 2015 at 06:35 AM

CN

“ Bill and Gail my Thoughts and Prayers are with you and your family.

Cherylann Natale



cherylann natale - August 30, 2015 at 08:52 PM

JC

“ 6 hours at the glen wont be the same.....

joe costello - August 30, 2015 at 08:34 PM

PS

Chris we met on Martin St. and bought houses next door to each other where else but Martin St. Very sad day today, may you rest in peace. To your family especially Cj may you find comfort in your memories. God bless you all. Patty Scranton

patty scranton - September 02, 2015 at 03:12 PM