

Andrew Henning Nelson
January 6, 2006
March 31, 1987 – December 25, 2006

AMERICAN – it is no coincidence that the first and last letter of American is the initials of Andrew Nelson

This kid loves America

He is an American through and through

He is an American hero and we are all here today to give thanks to Andrew for the freedom we enjoy

Stories about Andrew

- a. Hunting in the spring – all you hunters wondering what we hunted in the spring?
Spring trash clean up, we hunted for gems. Life size teenage mutant ninja turtle, pumpkin face for the paintball field, toilets, and couches – couch surfing, Sprint snowmobile
- b. Shrink Wrap – throwing Andrew in the snow
- c. Ebay – Planes, trains and automobiles. Favorite boats

Washer Introduction -This is a stainless steel industrial washer.

- a. Meaning and history of washer to Andrew

Andrew loved this washer, at the time I gave him one I could never have realized the significance it would later have. He carried it with him at all times even to Iraq.

b. History of washer

To make a long story short, this washer enabled profitable steel production from scrap steel. It was torqued to 850 foot pounds and was used to hold together a cluster of dissimilar metals, each metal expanding and contracting at different rates in an extreme environment that presented insurmountable engineering challenges, this washer was strong enough to hold together yet flexible enough to let the natural expansion and contraction occur. Giving rebirth to the American steel industry. Andrew was fascinated by the engineering of such a simple concept and part that enabled and revolutionized the profitable production of steel. In short, this washer signifies the strength and flexibility of Andrew Nelson as a husband, a son, a brother, a family man, your friend or your foe. The circle is a symbol of unbreakable strength and unity. It signifies the cycle of life, although Andrews cycle of life seems to have been cut short he will continue to live on in each one of us present here today.

Cody - Hand out washers

There are several examples of how Andrew lived his life like this washer, strong, flexible and unifying. The one that stands out the most to me is Andrew's senior year swim season. Voted one of the captains of the team he took his role seriously. Like this washer Andrew unified the team by his use of force, compassion and flexibility. He set high goals for himself and did whatever it took to achieve them,

pushed his team mates to set high goals and never let them loose site of them. Andrew's goal was to qualify for the state meet in both of his events which he accomplished. The team set a goal of being undefeated which meant they had to beat their arch rival Alma. By the end of the year the team had not only gone undefeated but beat Alma not once but three times. The team would not have been this successful without Andrew's leadership. He was willing to do whatever it took, popular or unpopular to accomplish personal and team goals.

God sends all of us here to accomplish a variety of missions. Andrew knew from a young age his mission was to be a soldier. It was a mission Andrew did no waiver about, his conviction was strong. He was a leader at war just like in the pool, doing whatever it took to get a mission done.

Let us reach out and pull together, be strong enough to love one another and flexible enough to accept our differences. Let us move forward as Andrew would have wanted with humility, grace and empathy towards one another.

Take a moment today to thank his wife Kristi for her husbands sacrifice, and give thanks to Tami and Al for the ultimate sacrifice of their only son. We love you Andrew as our own and are thankful for your sacrifice and the freedoms we enjoy, may God rest your soul.