



In Memory of

Jesse J. LaPointe

Class of 2000

24 August 1981 - 30 January 2000

To the living, I am gone.
To the sorrowful, I will never return.
To the angry, I was cheated.
But to the happy, I am at peace.
And to the faithful, I have never left.
I cannot speak, but I can listen.
So as you stand upon a shore,
Gazing at a beautiful sea,
Remember me.

As you look upon a flower and
Admire its simplicity, Remember Me.
Remember Me in your hearts,
Your thoughts and your memories
Of the times we loved,
The times we cried, the times we fought,
The times we laughed.
For if you always think of me,
I will never have gone.

02/05/2000 - Memorial student killed in snowmobile crash

Memorial High School administrators this morning organized counseling services for students after 18-year-old senior Jesse J. LaPointe died in a snowmobile accident early Sunday morning.

LaPointe, of 822 Bluebird Lane, Elk Mound, was killed at about 12:15 a.m. when the snowmobile he was driving ran into a tree on an Eau Claire County trail about 1½ miles north of Brackett, said Bill Schwengel, conservation warden supervisor with the state Department of Natural Resources in Eau Claire. The crash occurred on the portion of the trail between U.S. 53 and Interstate 94. LaPointe, who was pronounced dead at the scene, was riding alone, Schwengel said. A group of snowmobilers who passed by the crash site reported the accident.

LaPointe enjoyed snowmobiling and "anything else involving engines," said Dan Strehlau, an assistant principal at Memorial who taught LaPointe in an automotive class three years ago.

"He had a real passion for snowmobiling," Strehlau said. "It was something he really enjoyed doing."

LaPointe was "your normal, average student" at Memorial who most enjoyed technical education classes, Strehlau said. He was fairly well-known among Memorial students and generally well-liked by teachers, Strehlau said.

"He was just a real likable kind of kid," Strehlau said. "He was the kind of kid who was easygoing and easy for people to get along with."

LaPointe similarly was remembered at Copps Food Center in Eau Claire, where he'd worked since 1998, most recently as a clerk in the meat department. "He was a real nice kid," said Cliff Kraege, assistant store manager at Copps. "Real popular here."

Dozens of Memorial students stopped by the school's counseling office this morning, several of them crying. Dealing with student deaths is the most difficult job a school administrator faces, Assistant Principal David Valk said.

"Anytime something like this comes along, it's just a terrible tragedy," Valk said. "It's the kind of thing you wish you never had to deal with."

Memorial Principal Tim Leibham announced LaPointe's death to students this morning and told them counseling services would be available. If the demand for counseling is too much for Memorial staff to handle, other school district personnel will be called in.

"There's probably going to be quite a turnout for (counseling services)," Valk said. "Jesse had a lot of friends here."

LaPointe's sister, April LaPointe, graduated from Memorial last year.