

It is with near intolerable pain that we, John Johannessen's friends have gathered to pen this last tribute. The feeling of loss is huge, the hurt defies description.

He was taken away from us while in the prime of life. We find it difficult to understand. The unreasonableness of his departure is tearing us apart. It is cruel, horridly cruel, and we feel so utterly helpless.

He gave us much, our dear John. Our memories of him have nothing of the mean or the miserable. And these memories will always be with us. We shall remember the special smile that cheered us, his thoughtful consideration that warmed our souls and gave us harmony. We remember him as our rallying point, his happiness was contagious. He gave us strength and we were motivated by his initiative and love of work (or dedication).

Words fail us, but we are grateful that he was among us even though his stay was short.

We share the sorrow with his nearest and dearest, and we thank them for their openness and the comfort they gave us, this, despite their own deep sorrow. Together we shall find strength in precious memories, the memories we have of him.

"May his memory be blessed with peace!"