

Good Afternoon. I am Sam Skaggs and Jane asked me to say a few words about Jay from the Juneau sailing community.

Jay was one of the founding members of the Juneau Youth Sailing which will be 14 years old this summer. This is a program that has taught well over 1,000 Juneau children how to be comfortable and save on the water while learning to sail.

When we first started, Jay helped us write the first curriculum and eventually joined the Board and became a US sailing certified instructor himself. Not only did he teach young sailors, he also taught many of the adult classes. Several adults told me they appreciated his emphasis on safety, so they were not scared, but they also got caught up in his passion for the sport.

Carl Brodersen wrote me when I asked him about Jay and the importance of Juneau Youth Sailing he said: "Most of these kids are too young to drive, so that little sailing dinghy is the largest thing they've ever had control of, and it's an immensely empowering experience." Jay understood how instilling this confidence in youth, was really the most important product of the program.

Jay spent 10 years, and much of his vacation time and weekends, sharing his love of sailing with students. Steve Turner said Jay was willing to take on anything And if a boat needed a quick repair, he would hop over on his lunch hour and deal with it.

Committed, enthusiastic, even keeled, thoughtful . . . these are qualities Jay brought to our program. These are qualities he brought to his life.

Jay also found time to do a bit of racing. I contacted McKie Campbell back in DC for today's ceremony and here is what he sent:

"Jay and I sailed together (and won) three Around Admiralty Island races and a bunch of harbor races. When you're cooped up with someone on a small boat for a week, you get a clear view of their character.

Jay was a good sailor, but much more importantly, he was a good man to sail with: he was a good man period.

When things were hectic, Jay was calm and consistent. When things were slow, he was confident and focused. Throughout, he was a source of quiet humor, generosity, and good will. If Jay were here he would have some of that grace and good humor to ease all of our pain."

Jay and Jane finally bought their dream boat, the Sarah Jane: a comfortable but fast J boat that they sailed in many of the local races and went cruising in SE. I was fortunate enough to sail in a Grand Island Race with Jay just 2 years ago and although a bit weak, he drove the boat hard, with a huge grin on his face. He really loved sailing.

I recognize many former sailing students of mine and of Jay's here today. Each of you has a little bit of Jay in you from joining the arc of your life with the arc of this man we honor now. That is a legacy. If you go out into your own world and find a passion, and work hard to share it with others, you will create a legacy too.

I wanted to end with a quote I found while searching for some personal solace after Jay died. There are lots of sailing quotes in literature, as sailing is such a great metaphor for our lives. There are some great lyrics too. This quote is from *Dombey and Son* by Charles

Dickens. In this reading, We are all Florence, and Jay is out on the water.

And the voices in the waves are always whispering to Florence, in their ceaseless murmuring, of love – of love, eternal and illimitable, not bounded by the confines of this world, or by the end of time, but ranging still, beyond the sea, beyond the sky, to the invisible country far away!