



## John James Albinger

April 7, 2013

John James Albinger, 40, passed away Sunday, April 7, 2013. John will be missed greatly by his family and friends, including his father, Tom Albinger of Saukville, his twin sister Jodie and brother-in-law John Weigel of Port Washington and four nieces (Abigail, Amanda, Anna and Alyssa), his Aunt Jo Ann Cherney of Menomonee Falls who loved John dearly and helped raise him after his mother passed away, as well as many other loving aunts, uncles and family members. John was preceded in death by his mother, Dianne Albinger (nee Plier), and his grandparents who also helped raise him, Lawrence and Marian Albinger, and Alfred and Dorothy Plier. Also left behind are many friends who loved and cared for John. John thought of his friends as family and loved them dearly. He loved life and lived it to the fullest, and his friends were a very big part of that. There was an incredible outpouring of support from so many people who knew John, more than could ever be mentioned here. Thank you to all who laughed with John, shared with John, partied with John, played games with John and loved John. Among them are Aaron, Amy G. Amy P., Brian, Carlos, Chris, Chuck, Dan, Darren, Jason, Jerry and Serge, Mark P., Morris, Nick, Paul, Rodd, Ron and Joe, Ryan, Steve and Jody, Terry, and Father Mark Payne. John also leaves behind his blue Great Dane, Norman, which he cherished and owned with his dear friend, Jason. John was a respected colleague at Northwestern Mutual where he had a successful career in information technology and enterprise management. John was inspired by several people in his life, and he would not have had his

career in information technology without them. While working at the Waubeka Fire Hall as a young man, John met Dennis Rathke. John learned a great deal from Dennis as part of a team to run and grow the fire hall's weekly fish fry. Another inspirational figure was Bev Synagogue. Bev hired John at the American Society for Quality, where he worked throughout his college years. Bev gave John the freedom to implement ideas and improve processes, often using his knowledge of computer technology. During his nearly 19 years at Northwestern Mutual, John formed strong bonds and deep friendships with so many of his co-workers. He was particularly grateful to Todd Zinkgraf for his ever-present guidance and lasting friendship throughout the many years that he and John worked together. John also wished to acknowledge his LGBT and St. Veronica families. Lastly, John (and his family and friends) wanted to thank Yee Lan Wong, his doctors and the staff at Froedtert who cared for him during his battle with colon cancer. Throughout his treatment, John found that he could rely on Yee Lan's quiet strength, warmth and compassion. Thank you, too, to the understanding nurses and staff at Horizon Hospice in Mequon. John, we'll always remember the love that you gave us, and the ways that you changed us.

Service & Reception Info  
A visitation and celebration of John's life will take place at Northshore Funeral Services, 3601 N. Oakland Avenue, Shorewood, WI, on Sunday, April 14, from 1 to 5 pm with a prayer service at 4:30 pm. ""There is a vitality, a life force, an energy, a quickening that is translated through you into action, and because there is only one of you in all of time, this expression is unique. And if you block it, it will never exist through any other medium and it will be lost. The world will not have it. It is not your business to determine how good it is nor how valuable nor how it compares with other expressions. It is your business to keep it yours clearly and directly, to keep the channel open. You do not even have to believe in yourself or your work. You have to keep yourself open and aware to the urges that motivate you. Keep the channel open. ... No artist is pleased. [There is] no satisfaction whatever at any time. There is only a queer divine dissatisfaction, a blessed unrest that keeps us marching and makes us more alive than the others."" ?

Martha Graham

# Tribute Wall

TZ

“ I first heard about John Albinger about 19 years ago. I was a brand new project manager running my first project. I had an opening for a computer programmer, and John's current boss suggested that I consider him for the position. She told me that John was very talented, a quick learner, and just a very nice guy. But, she also wanted me to know that he questioned authority, often would challenge why we do things a certain way, and would go off and try to make things better without permission. He sounded too good to be true! And with that beginning, John and I became teammates and great friends for the past 19 years. John was an artist at work. He didn't like to stay in between the lines and never accepted that status quo. He had a unique ability to look at something and know how to make it better. He quickly made connections with all types of people, and taught us how to be artists as well. Do you remember that 1980's TV show called MacGyver? It was a show about a secret agent who could solve complex problems with everyday materials, such as duct tape and a paper clip. Well, John was the MacGyver of technology at Northwestern Mutual. With the technology equivalent of a paper clip, John could do amazing things. He is the most resourceful person I know. As a kid, I always loved to play the game "Where's Waldo?" But as an adult, I found "Where's John?" to be much more interesting and fun! I was amazed by his energy and sense of adventure. He packed more fun into a weekend than some of us have in a lifetime John had a lot of success in his 19 years at Northwestern Mutual. He helped many people learn and grow, made a lot of our work processes better, and delivered many tools that people love. Yet, John would never take credit for these accomplishments. He was a very humble person, and preferred to shine the light on others. John will be deeply missed, but always remembered. He leaves an ever lasting legacy of helping others and encouraging us to grow. It has been a true blessing to have been John's friend.

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Todd Zinkgraf - April 14, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ My thoughts and prayers are with you during this challenging time. John was a kind and gentle soul. I so enjoyed his ready smile, twinkling eyes, and infectious laughter. We shared many lunches at Northwestern Mutual, and I loved all of them. He will be missed.  
John

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**John Sheaffer** - April 14, 2013 at 12:00 AM

LK

“ Jodie, I am so sorry for your loss. I know this is a very difficult time for you and your family. We are praying for you and you will be in our thoughts. I never met your brother, but it sounds like he was a fine young man. May he rest in peace and find comfort with no more suffering. Linda and John (Judy's sister)

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**Linda Feldmann and John Kramer** - April 10, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DC

“ My deepest condolences to John's family and friends. Know that your son, brother, uncle, nephew and friend was one of the kindest men I have ever known. John was so full of life and shared so much of himself with everyone he knew. He always practiced random acts of kindness and put others before himself. He truly exemplified exquisite personal characteristics. He was loved and cherished by so many people that is an attestation to the true, great and wonderful person he was. Despite his short life in this world, know he is in a much better place and will be with us always and in our hearts. It was an honor and privilege to call John one of my dearest and true friends and I will miss him very much. May you find comfort in knowing John was a beautiful person and brought much joy and happiness to so many individuals.

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**Dr. Aaron J Strehlow, West Hollywood, CA** - April 09, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DO

“ *He will always be in our thoughts and prayers. May God bless his friends and family through this difficult time, now and forever! God bless you all.*

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**Debbie O'Dwyer** - April 09, 2013 at 12:00 AM