



## Christopher Scott Nowak

December 18, 1964 - September 21, 2021

Christopher Scott Nowak (56) of Sherrills Ford, NC was called to Heaven by our Lord on Tuesday, September 21, 2021.

Chris was born on December 18, 1964 in Buffalo, NY to Ronald Nowak (Martha) of Perrysburg, NY and Patricia Read (deceased). Chris attended Silver Creek Central High (class of 1983) and attended SUNY at Fredonia where he received his bachelor's degree. He was a graduate of The State University of New York at Buffalo with a Master of Science and went on to study for his Doctorate.

An incredibly devoted husband, father, and brother, Chris is survived by his loving wife of 26 years, Cheryl Skalyo Nowak, and their two sons, Christopher Wallace Nowak (23) and Griffin Arleighton Nowak (19). He is also survived by his only sibling, Kim Fritschi (Gregory), Stepfather, James Read (Mary), Stepsister, Melissa Read, Father-in-law, Wallace Skalyo (Bonnie), Mother-in-law (Karen Skalyo), Sister-in-law, Kristin Whitford (Timothy), Brother-in-law, Wally Skalyo (Cynthia), Brother-in-law, Gary Skalyo and beloved aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews (Nowak, Zaprzal, LaPenna, Colosi, and Milazzo).

Chris was Director of DevOps Advisory & Adoption for HCL America, and throughout his career held several leadership positions in software automation and engineering (First Union, Wachovia, Wells Fargo and Bank of America). Chris loved his job with HCL and was admired by his colleagues and work partners. Chris also served his country honorably for over a decade in the Army National Guard Aviation Division where he graduated from flight school and retired as a helicopter pilot and Army Captain.

Chris and Cheryl built their forever home in Sherrills Ford, NC and moved there in October of 2020 from Huntersville, NC. Chris was an avid reader and life-long learner whose most enjoyable moments were spending time with family and friends, boating on Lake Norman, and staying informed on current events. An avid second amendment advocate, Chris inspired us with his passion, intellect and was a mentor and loyal friend to many. Chris

touched the lives of everyone in his path; he will be remembered for his kindness, fortitude, integrity, and loving manner. Chris was very strong in his Catholic faith and he and his family were parishioners of St. Mark Catholic Church for over 15 years.

A celebration of Chris' life will be held on Saturday, November 6th from 10:00 am - 1:00 pm at Hunter House and Gardens in Huntersville (412 S. Old Statesville Rd.). There will be a short service from 11:00-11:15, and tributes will follow. There will be refreshments.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be sent to Tunnel to Towers Foundation ([t2t.org](http://t2t.org)).

Cavin-Cook Funeral Home & Crematory, Mooresville, is serving the Nowak family. Condolences may be made to the family at [www.cavin-cook.com](http://www.cavin-cook.com).

# Previous Events

## Celebration

NOV 6. 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM.

Hunter House

## Service

NOV 6. 11:00 AM - 11:15 AM (ET)

Cavin-Cook Funeral Home & Crematory  
494 East Plaza Drive (PO Box 977)  
 Mooresville, NC 28115

# Tribute Wall

DA

“ I am truly saddened by this news. I was sharing stories with friends and thought I would Google my old college roommate at UB as his name came up in conversation. Fond memories of working hard and playing hard. Going to miss u old friend.

*Dan Golding*

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Dan - February 14, 2024 at 10:34 PM

KB

“ Deepest condolences to the Nowak family. He was an outstanding P/R and I have fond memories of him during my pledge cycle!  
Here's to Brother Chris!

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Kelly MacIntyre Brinley - March 02, 2022 at 04:39 PM



“ Chris and I went to flight school together, and used to carpool to drill together in the guard, as we lived a block away from one another before he moved to NC. Chris was an exemplary officer, a good pilot, someone I could lean on when I needed a second pair of eyes to look over a problem I had and one of my best friends during my army years. I lost touch with Chris after he moved out of state, but still think of him often. Thank you for your service, Chris! Save me a seat at the briefing, my friend. My work here isn't done yet, but I will see you once it is.

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Dan Golinski - March 02, 2022 at 07:14 AM

SK

“ Chris was an amazing colleague and a true professional. I had the privilege of interviewing Chris when he was joining HCL, and we worked together as he began his role at HCL Software. Chris had a wealth of knowledge in DevOps, and brought a level of enthusiasm to his work that lifted the spirits of the whole team. He made all of us better people, through his efforts. Chris will be greatly missed - my sincere condolences to the family. We will honor Chris today, and will keep him cherished in our memories forever.

*Sincerely,  
Steve Kopelic, Concord, NC*

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Steve Kopelic - November 06, 2021 at 06:17 AM

KC

“ *A beginning & an end but oh what a dash Chris lived. Chris' dash was full of cherished friendships & loving memories. I am thankful for the short time I participated in Chris' dash here at HCL & appreciate his family sharing him with so many of us. We are all better from the experiences we shared with Chris. He always took the time with anyone who requested it, he listened, he collaborated, he was a great team player, he was simply a great guy, he will be missed!*



*The best to all his family & the people who called him friend.*

*Sincerely,*

*Kimi Cousins  
HCL Software*

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**Kimi Cousins** - October 26, 2021 at 04:04 PM

OE

“ *I did not have the pleasure of meeting him in person but only via meeting and I am sorry, there are no words but my prayers and condolences to his family.*  
*Oreste Egidio*

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**oreste egidio** - October 18, 2021 at 09:01 AM

JB

“ *I am so sorry to hear of the Nowak family's loss. Chris was an amazing person. I worked with Chris at three companies and learned a tremendous amount from him. He was always wanting to help and was very enjoyable to work with. He will be greatly missed.*

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**Jonathan Byrne** - October 08, 2021 at 06:22 PM

MZ

“ I know Chris back from the Wachovia and Bank of America days. Chris was the prototypical visionary early adopter. He championed our product (AnthillPro) even when it was going up against the likes of IBM and HP. We were a tiny company in comparison, and Wachovia was our first enterprise class deal; but that was OK with Chris. He always knew his stuff, and had the confidence to back the "right" tool or process even if it was not the popular one. Over the years, my personal and professional relationship with Chris grew closer. He was always willing to back our product to prospects via reference calls. His experience as a user of our product, as he was responsible for a large implementation within Wachovia, led to product enhancements and anecdotes that we repeated for years after. The most famous was "the Monday morning effect" -- Chris explained to us how our product got rid of "the Monday morning effect," which was an all hands on deck effort to put out all the fires dues to a new software release over the weekend. That, was simply music to our ears.

*Words can't describe the loss. He is missed. The world is not the same place without his energy.*

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**Maciej Zawadzki** - October 05, 2021 at 09:53 AM

LM

“ My deepest condolences to the Nowak family. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

*I still cannot believe that Chris is not with us anymore. It is so hard.*

*Although I met Chris only last year, we used to be in contact almost every day, having long face-to-face virtual meetings.*

*I was always amazed by what a unique and solid person Chris was; His phenomenal ability to cope with work stress and difficult tasks, always keeping a cool-minded approach, committed to the success of the team. His humbleness, patience and politeness, his listening ability, hard work, and diligence- making sure all are well prepared for every meeting working with many time zones around the Globe.*

*For me, he was "24/7 Chris" – who was willing to take any challenge.*

*Very quickly our working relationships turned into an overseas virtual friendship and I always hoped that one day we will be able to meet in person and continue our great conversation face to face.*

*Rest in peace my dear friend Chris. You will be missed.*

*Sincerely,*

*Lior Michelzon*

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**Lior Michelzon** - October 02, 2021 at 02:16 PM

JP

“ Our paths crossed for but a brief moment in time, yet your family left such an imprint on us of what a “together” family looks like. We are so very sorry for your loss. There are no words in the English language that would describe the depth of sadness I feel for you, Cheryl and your boys. You will be in our thoughts for the coming weeks.

Jo Stiller Polinsky - October 01, 2021 at 10:15 PM

DC

“ My sincere condolences to the Nowak family. I still cannot believe it..

*I meet Chris a few months ago when I joined HCL. He always had the right words to make something complex look simple.*

*Great person with an excellent spirit and always willing to help.*

*We will miss you !!*

Diego Cejas - October 01, 2021 at 11:58 AM

SW

“ My sincere condolences to the Nowak family. I cannot begin to imagine the pain of your loss. Chris taught me a lot about professionalism, kindness, and tenacity. His spirit was infectious and could always lift the mood. I'll remember my time with Chris fondly and will carry what I learned from him for the rest of my life. Rest in peace Chris.

Stuart Walker - September 30, 2021 at 02:32 PM

SF

“ I was fortunate enough to have worked with Chris on a few projects and was glad our paths crossed. He was always positive, accommodating, and a true business partner. This is such a sad & tragic loss for all the people that knew Chris and had the chance to work alongside him. My heartfelt sympathy goes out to his family. May his memory be a blessing.

Suzy Festenstein - September 30, 2021 at 02:10 PM

SS

“ Tragically another soldier and leader gone far too soon. Chris was an amazing spirit, challenging greatness in all he did and touched. He'll be sorely missed both professionally and personally.  
My sincere and deep thoughts and prayers go out to his family, friends and colleagues - the latter two of which I was privileged to be a part.

Sean Strain - September 30, 2021 at 01:10 PM

AK

“ I was lucky enough to work with Chris these past 16 months. I can honestly say that very rarely in my 30 years in this profession have I enjoyed a coworker relationship like the one I had with Chris. He was always full of energy, an amazing positive attitude, and always a smile on his face. I will really miss him and it makes me very sad that he's gone, but I'm glad that at least I got to know him and share time with him.

Alexander Knaani - September 30, 2021 at 10:58 AM

GP

“ All the prayers and Heartfelt condolences to the family and may god give them strength and peace in this tough times!!

Really applaud Chris as a thorough gentleman, patient mentor and a very smart colleague. Spent many cherishes together.

G Purushottamhttps

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Gangeya Purushottam - September 30, 2021 at 08:07 AM

ST

“ He was looking forward to visiting Japan ... I don't know what to say. My prayers and condolences to his family.

Satoshi Tanaka

Satoshi Tanaka - September 30, 2021 at 04:35 AM

RN

“ My heartfelt condolences to Chris's family. I had a great time working with Chris. We represented HCL Software at various conferences. He was a great mentor and friend. He will be greatly missed. Rest in Peace my friend.

Ramesh Nagalingam

Ramesh Nagalingam - September 29, 2021 at 11:11 PM

JI

“ My condolences to the Nowak family. I'm so sorry to hear of your loss. Chris was a great person, manager, and mentor.He will be greatly missed.

jitendra - September 29, 2021 at 10:46 PM

BS

“ We are going to miss him terribly leading our efforts into Devops. A huge loss to the team.

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**Bhavani Sidharth** - September 29, 2021 at 09:46 PM

PR

“ It's been a week but I still can't believe that Chris won't show up on our Tuesday morning one-on-ones. Deepest condolences to Cheryl, Chris Jr., and Griffin.

*Chris is one of the prime reasons I joined the HCL DevOps team. A domain expert but humble to the ground, Chris carried a charisma that calms one down and says 'it's going to be alright'.*

*Chris, my friend, I have learned a lot from you during our tiny time together and will cherish your memories forever. Rest in Peace.*

*Pradip Mashru*

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**Pradip** - September 29, 2021 at 09:11 PM

AW

“ My deepest sympathy to Cheryl, Chris Jr., and Griffin. I had the good fortune of meeting Chris at an IT conference many years ago and we quickly became good friends. This friendship evolved over time where Chris eventually became my colleague, mentor, and manager as I was his first hire at HCL Software. I am still at a loss for words so let me simply say Thank You for sharing your husband/father with me. I will cherish my memories of him forever.... and Rest in Peace my DevOps brother from another mother.

*AI Wagner*

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**AI Wagner** - September 29, 2021 at 04:55 PM

BM

“ I was lucky enough to know Chris for many years as both a customer, co-worker and friend and for that I will always be grateful. He had that rare charisma that lifted the entire team and made each one of us better. His generosity with his time, knowledge and energy was only rivaled by his passion to help customers and make the world a better place. I'm sharing a photo from our last business trip together before the pandemic started - I think it really captures Chris' spirit of happiness, exploration and friendship. He was an ideal professional, mentor, leader, and friend and while he will be greatly missed, his legacy will carry on.



Brian Muskoff - September 29, 2021 at 04:51 PM



I remember this! He took a picture of it and sent it to me that night. Thank you for sharing this wonderful picture of my husband.

Cheryl Nowak - September 30, 2021 at 10:02 AM

KC

“ My prayers and condolences to his family! Chris was a great guy and always laughing and enjoying his friends and life!

Kirstin (Crowe) Certalic - September 28, 2021 at 07:48 PM

LZ

“ I am so sorry to hear of Chris's passing. I knew Chris as a customer, co-worker and friend. I can say without hesitation that I am a better person today because I knew Chis.

“To live in hearts we leave behind is not to die.”— Thomas Campbell

Leo Zimmer  
Ohio

Leo Zimmer - September 28, 2021 at 02:52 PM

JM

“ I have so many wonderful memories of growing up with Chris and Kim. Rest in Peace my friend.

Jean McGowan  
Class of 1983

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**Jean McGowan** - September 28, 2021 at 12:28 PM



“ Chris was the best of us. My best memories with Chris are driving that old Impala to Cockaingee all winter long and tearing down that hill. He pushed us all to keep up. We could not.

*I know you're up there with your tips pointed downhill.*

*Cheers to you my Friend,*

xo  
Bill Harford

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**Bill Harford** - September 28, 2021 at 09:29 AM

JC

“ I remember growing up going to school with Chris's son at Lake Norman charter. Chris was a father figure role model for me growing up, the confidence he carried, the wisdom he shared and the way he treated me like family. My first time shooting a gun was with Chris at the shooting range. I remember being nervous and anxious but Chris put me at ease and gave me the knowledge and confidence to learn marksmanship. I felt like whenever he spoke there was something he always said that you can learn from. God bless you Mr. Chris Nowak.

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**Jonathan Craven** - September 27, 2021 at 10:44 PM



Thank you for sharing that Jonathan. That was a beautiful tribute.

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**Cheryl Nowak** - September 30, 2021 at 10:06 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Christopher Scott Nowak.



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September 27, 2021 at 09:37 PM

MK

“ Thoughts and prayers for Cheryl and her sons along with the rest of the extended family. May his memory be eternal.

*Michelle Kash and family*

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**Michelle Kash** - September 27, 2021 at 05:45 PM

BS

“ My condolences to the Nowak family. I'm so sorry to hear of your loss. Chris was a great engineer, manager, and mentor throughout my time at HCL. He always brought energy and passion to work, and I wouldn't be where I am today if not for him. He will be greatly missed.

*Brian Stump*

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**Brian Stump** - September 27, 2021 at 04:53 PM