

Remembering Chris Jones

While Middletown police Officer Chris Jones' family buried him Thursday, they are still hoping that good can continue to come from his death.

Jones was killed last week when a car struck his police cruiser on the Route 1 Superhighway pinning him beneath it. No charges have been filed and police have not released the other driver's name as the accident remains under investigation. He remains hospitalized at St. Mary Medical Center in Middletown.

Ninety minutes after the accident Suzanne Jones made the decision to donate her husband's organs for transplant. And more than 24 hours later one of Chris Jones' kidneys was being transplanted into Ron Crawford, a member of the Jones' "military family."

Crawford is recovering and doing well after the surgery in Memphis, Tenn., family members said.

The Crawford and the Jones families had grown close during the men's time aboard the USS Kitty Hawk.

Jones had joined the Navy after graduating from Bensalem High School and he had been stationed in Philadelphia where he met Crawford. That's also about the time that mutual friend introduced Jones and Suzanne and the two started dating.

Suzanne Jones said she fell for Chris because of "the way he said hello and he had this really remarkable smile."

Ten months later, with his car broken down in the rain at a gas station on Hulmeville Road he turned to Suzanne and asked her to marry him. She followed him out to San Diego and they had three children, Christopher, 16, Julianne, 13, and Brendan, 12, before returning to Bucks County following an honorable discharge from the Navy.

Jones spent two years as a corrections officer and then joined the Middletown police in 1998.

— Matt Coughlin



Middletown police Officer Dave Denton offers a gesture of peace to a fellow officer during Thursday's funeral Mass. KIM WEIMER / **STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER**