

Commitment

I don't think there are many people who stop and realize the commitment that spouses make to one another. My wife could have anyone she wanted in this world and she chose me to spend the rest of her life with. There is literally no obligation these days to fulfill vows that you make at the time of a wedding. The divorce rate is well over 50% and one can literally get divorced under the guise of incompatibility and be down the road in a day. I understood this. I went through a divorce at twenty nine and the marriage was a struggle from day one. Kimberly and I met in 1998 and from day one it was the most natural and fulfilling experience. There were numerous times I would step back from our day-to-day grind and reflect on all that we had been through, and I would realize the tremendous commitment that my wife and I had made to each other. She had stood by me through some very hard times and never once faltered. We had two beautiful children together and she was just as intense as I to go through the arduous task of gaining custody of my first son from my first marriage. Through all of the bad and good times, she was always there, solid like a rock and slugging away with me every step of the way. I appreciated my wife. I appreciated her devotion to our family, our relationship and the fact that it was exactly what she wanted in life and that I was fortunate enough to be able to experience her dedication to me and our family. She was a true wife and mother. She was not a pretender and she didn't just go through the motions. I count myself truly blessed to have experienced that type of bond and love with such a remarkable woman, and I count myself truly cursed to have it snatched away. To know what you have in life and appreciate it, is not always that easy to accomplish, but I did, and I understood this before it was taken from me, and again this is both a blessing and a curse. Everyday my wife would do something or say something that would make me genuinely proud to have her as my wife and the mother of my children. Everyday she would make an expression, or do something in a way that only she could do it that would make my heart beat stronger and make my love grow even deeper for her. We had our arguments, and we had our disagreements, and how we recovered from these and overcame them solidified our understanding and love for each other each time. It was never about being spiteful and building resentment for one reason or another that all relationships seem to fall into. If she or I caught a glimpse of this starting to happen, either one of us would recognize it and put a stop to it right away. All of these elements that we shared as a couple and as a mother and a father developed into the primary basis of the vows couples take on the wedding day and that is: "These two individuals now become one in the eyes of Christ." She is and forever will be my soul mate operating as one with me side-by-side committed to doing what is best for us as a family. Kim, I adore you and respect you beyond earthly boundaries, and you will always be awe inspiring to me for the devotion and strength you showed to me as a wife and to our children as their mother.

I wanted to express and share my feelings about our relationship to try to put in perspective the scope of what I and my children have lost in the wake of the senseless and preventable act of violence on September 12, 2005. When people hear that a mother of three and a wife was killed at the age of thirty that description doesn't do justice to the depth of loss that actually occurred. It sounds tragic of course from the surface, but the true depth of tragedy does not take hold until you have an idea of how that person

actually impacted everyone in her life, especially her immediate family. She was a true friend to all of her friends, and she was a devoted daughter and sister as well, but all of her energy, heart and soul went into being the best wife and mother she could possibly be. This commitment and effort made her extraordinary as both wife and mother and so doing, made her one of this world's most precious commodities. The world lost a rare jewel that day, and with that loss, generations of future family members will suffer from not being able to witness or feel the impact of the most valuable asset this world has today: a loving and devoted wife and mother committed to seeing her family live the right way with love and devotion to each other, always striving to do what is morally correct, and to always support, honor, and respect each other. When this strong influence is present within a family, all other elements and factors fall into place ensuring happiness and well-being amongst the entire family, and when there are enough of these families, a strong and healthy society is made. So as you can see, a mother of three and wife wasn't just lost that day. Pure evil took my wife, but the errors and flaws in our criminal, penal and banking systems allowed this evil to slink in undetected and take a precious life. The ramifications and depth of this tragedy should now be crystal clear to everyone. My wife is just one of many women who excel at being a devoted wife and mother. If we continue neglecting the safety and protection of our most precious commodities in this world, we will as a society cease to exist as well. We will reap the same devastation and tragedy that now exists daily within my family. Society will feel the same dismay and hopelessness that I now feel because my most precious jewel was not protected by a system that is set up to fail. We must take action now to rectify a system that is destined to leave us all in a state of ruin by failing to do the one thing that is was supposedly designed to do: **TO PROTECT OUR WOMEN AND CHILDREN- THE FUTURE OF OUR COUNTRY!**