

October 21, 2015



Zachary "Zach" Aaron Roberts, 25  
~ 6/4/88 - 7/8/13~  
*Monarch Towers, Inc in Bismarck, North Dakota*

On June 4, 1988 my beautiful blessing was brought into this world. He left his safe place to join the world. Even then he had his own way of doing things. That didn't stop then. He has always been so full of personality and life. He was so strong-willed, adventurous, and eager to learn and conquer. At the same time he was his mama's baby boy. He also learned that smiles and laughter made life better.

The first time he went to a tower site he knew that was what he would someday do. He fell in love with towers. In his words "there is no better job in the world, there is nothing like it". He always had the biggest smile when he talked about the towers. He became an adult and with

years of watching him work and listening to him talk about it, my fears became less and I trusted him and his promises.

Zach had 7 years of experience in broadcast and cellular towers. He was a member of a tiger team, had completed safety training and studied and researched on his own.

On July 8, 2013 our life was shattered. While working in New Town, ND Zach and another man lost their lives when they fell from a tower doing a beef up for AT&T on a tower owned by Mountrail- Williams Electric Cooperative. They were employed by Monarch Towers, Inc.

Even to this day I still cannot fully comprehend that my son is gone. He is a part of me and a part of me has died. Mine, my husband's, and Zach's plans to start a company has died. Our life will never be the same.

My husband wasn't physically hurt but mentally he was. He watched our son die. It is something that he tries to live with every day. There is no help for watching your child die; it doesn't matter if you are mentally hurt. Since his death we have sold most of what we have to live. The way it is going we will be homeless in a short time.

It has always been my job to protect my children and stand up for them. My son is not just a number. He is a person. Just because he was not a part of their lives, the companies, carriers, disability, OSHA and others, they can just brush it off and go on. He was however, a part of their success and the money they make. If it wasn't for him and other tower climbers, where would they be? They would not be at all. If they can risk their lives for them, then why can't their lives mean something to them? Where are you when the families have lost their world? How many families have you visited with, talked with, showed any kind of compassion

to and even offered to help? My guess would be none. I have however seen where the carriers have contributed or helped others, so why wouldn't you want to help the ones that risk their lives and the families left behind doing work for you?

On December 13, 2013 two willful violations were issued at \$7,000.00 each. On January 8, 2014 they were contested. One was dropped and the other was reduced to \$5,600.00.

It is unbelievable to me that workers lose their lives just trying to make a living. Companies just move forward and replace them. Companies can do this because they are getting a slap on the wrist. Instead of saying these workers are only worth so little, hit them hard and they will work harder to make sure and/or cut down on these fatalities.