Sept. 28, 1981-Aug. 7, 2012

Navy Chief Petty Officer John Keith Bemis, 30, of San Diego, Calif., and formerly of Delphos, died at his residence on Aug. 7.

He was born Sept. 28, 1981, in Greenville to Tony and Sue (Reddy) Bemis, who survive in Delphos.

Other survivors include sisters Allie Bemis of Cleveland, Mary-Francis “Fran” Bemis, who is stationed in Guam with the U.S. Navy, and Christine “Christy” Bemis, who is stationed in England with the U.S. Navy; brother Ted Bemis of Florence, S.C.; grandparents Sue and Jack Reddy and Don and Naomi Bemis; aunts and uncles Cheryl and Scot Story, Diane and Greg Ray, Patrick Reddy, Martha and Dan Lehman and John and Sandy Reddy; cousins Ethan and Sean Story, Chrisopher and Kathleen Ray, Elizabeth, Victoria and Caroline Lehman and Joe, Sarah, Nick and Kathleen Reddy; and a future brother-in-law Maroun “Moon” Nammour.

He was preceded in death by great-grandparents Bernard and Martha Reddy, John and Marie Mazziotti, Theodore and Mary Elizabeth Yount and Earnest and Melissa Bemis.

Chief Petty Officer Bemis was on active duty in the U.S. Navy in San Diego. He began his career aboard the USS Lake Champlain and provided support to ground troops during the first campaign in Afghanistan. He was Sailor of the Month in February 2004 for his efforts in preventing a fire that could have destroyed the ship. He served as a recruiter for the Navy in west Texas where he was the top recruiter. Recently, he served as an engineer aboard the USS Independence and was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal for Navigation in the Panama Canal.

Bemis was a 2000 St. John’s High School graduate who earned an associate degree in criminal justice and marketing from San Diego State University and was working toward his bachelor’s degree. He was part of the St. John’s football teams that won state championships in 1997 and 1998. He also ran track during all four years at St. John’s and cross country during his senior year to stay in shape so that he could join the Navy. He was a member of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church and loved to cook and entertain.

Mass of Christian Burial begins at 11 a.m. Tuesday at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, the Rev. Msgr. Chris Vasko officiating. Burial will follow in St. John’s Cemetery, with full military graveside rites by the Navy Patriot Guard and Delphos Veterans Council.

Friends may call from 5-8 p.m. Sunday and 1-3 p.m. and 5-7 p.m. Monday at Harter and Schier Funeral Home, where a rosary service begins at 7:30 p.m. Monday.

Memorials are to the John Keith Bemis Memorial Scholarship Fund.