

Here are some noteworthy tributes from Shawn Noel's [Legacy guestbook](#). I'm saving them here in case they ever get taken down.

"Shawn will be missed by many. It is very unfortunate the world will have to go without the many works of art that would undoubtedly have been created had his life not been cut short so tragically."

Matt Thorson, who would later go on to achieve indie fame as the creator of TowerFall and Celeste.

January 21, 2006 | AB

"Thank you for always listening, always inspiring, and always pushing the envelope. Your life left a great mark on mine."

Robert Lupinek, better known as "darthlupi", was a legend among the early Game Maker scene for games like [Legend of Shadow](#).

January 23, 2006 | Savannah, GA

"Shawn, it was great knowing you through both school and the GMC. You were a great person with true talent and have effected us all in many positive ways. You have become one of the best programmers and game designers in the entire GMC. You have inspired me and changed my life tremendously, I will most definitely miss you.

May you find a better place and rest in peace."

Chris Royer, also known as "Dex", went to school with Shawn Noel and was introduced to Game Maker by him. He writes about his memories of Shawn and the early GM days [here](#).

January 21, 2006 | Lincoln, NE

"Most from his hometown might not have realized it, but Shawn was one of the most talented and inspirational game designers of his generation. He has created games that more than thousands of people across the world have enjoyed, more than he could have probably ever imagined. Unfortunately, I didn't have the ability to become a good friend of Shawn's, and I wish I could have. Shawn's humorous personality and amazing talented will be remembered among those who knew him. Rest In Peace, Shawn."

Kyle Marshall

January 20, 2006 | Napa, CA

"Shawn was my BEST friend online. I feel that I knew him better than anyone and I think I'm probably taking this the hardest out of any of his friends. I can't believe I'm never going to get to talk to him again...I'm going to miss him so much. I love you, Shawn"

Valerie Pelletier

January 21, 2006 | Harrisville, RI

"Mmm.. I love you 🟡  
You were a great person."

Flame L

January 21, 2006 | Omaha, NE

"Shawn was a real good friend and really talented. I have to thank him for getting me back into making my own games and helping me improve my skills. He was a great friend, very funny and will be missed greatly.  
My heart goes out to the family."

J.R. Skrobarcek

January 21, 2006 | Refugio, TX

"Shawn was a wonderful person. Whenever I was feeling down or whenever I was bored and wanted to talk to someone on UN, he was there. He always joked around with me. He made my worst days better. He will be missed greatly and I love him like he was a true friend. He's in a better place now and we'll see him on the other side when it's our time."

Kari "Night Star" P.

January 21, 2006 | Crestview, FL

"Shawn was a great and loyal friend over the internet. It seems like i talked to him just yesterday. He was a big hit in the game maker community aswell as graalonline. My great respect and sorrowness goes out to his family. I'm sorry for your loss."

Brock Vena

January 21, 2006 | Stockbridge, GA

"Shawn Noel is now a Game Developer legend. Despite that many who knew him personally may not have known, but he has been an inspiration and a legend the moment he stepped foot in the Game Maker Community.

He was loved not only for that, but for every other aspect in his personality.

We love you Shawn. Rest in Peace."

Will Goss

January 21, 2006 | Mt. Pleasant, SC

"Shawn was a joy and inspiration to many students. As a member of my class he enjoyed having a ready team to test with new ideas and games. His art was filled with dimension and scope and immense growth potential. One can't help but feel that a bright star has fallen from the sky and left a dark place in its place. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends as each person struggles by this tragic loss of life. May God comfort each of you."

Peg

January 21, 2006 | Lincoln, NE

"We will miss you. You were a great inspiration and loved by thousands of game makers around the world. Your memory will never fade."

Henrik "RedSlicer" Stavnem

January 21, 2006

"I may not have known him personally, but he inspired me through his games and funny comments online to be an all around funny guy, and pursue my goals.

Rest In Peace, Shawn."

Chris Kolar

January 21, 2006 | Chicago, IL

"I never met Shawn in person, but I've talked with him regularly since I met him in early 2003. He was a major inspiration to me and a friend."

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January 21, 2006 | Baton Rouge, LA

"I'm very sorry that this happened. He was a great inspiration to most of us. I knew him best for his great games."

Nathanael McDaniel

January 21, 2006 | Petal, MS

"We'll miss you Shawn. You have no idea how you have changed me forever as a person. I am better person for having known you the short time that I did. My heart goes out to your family. We can only ask why now and dry our tears."

Anonymous

January 21, 2006 | Lincoln, NE

"Although I never met Shawn in person, I always enjoyed his truly awesome games and thought he was one of the most talented game maker's of his time. Rest in peace, you'll never be forgotten by the thousands you inspired."

Kyle "thecraft" Gerik

January 21, 2006 | Fayetteville, TX

"Living in different countries, I never got the opportunity to meet him in real life. However, I did have the privilege of emailing him several times and having a chat on MSN. From what I knew he was a great person and could have done a lot with his life. Rest in peace Shawn and may his family and friends be granted strength through this terrible time."

Levi "Mediocre" Afridi

January 21, 2006 | New Zealand

"I can't believe what has happened, but it is hard to accept the fact that you are gone, Shawn. You were a big inspiration on me, and if it weren't for you I'd probably never be where I am today with Game Design. Even though I didn't meet you in person, I'd like to say you were an awesome guy who always made me laugh, and it is such a terrible shock that you are no longer here to say hi once in a while on AIM. I will miss you buddy, and may you rest in peace."

Josh Hill

January 21, 2006 | Raleigh, NC

"A legend to all game developers, this amazing boy will be missed greatly."

Aaron Mercer

January 22, 2006

"Shawn's passing has affected thousands of people, he achieved a level of greatness in his youth that few have managed. It is a terribly sad thing to see him go, and he will be very sorely missed.

My deepest commiserations to his family and friends. Remember, he was an amazing boy."

Drew McIntosh

January 22, 2006 | Atherton, Australia

"Shawn, you meant so much to me, you're a creative inspiration and have been for years.

I am very depressed regarding your early departure."

Tom Vanlaer-McCanna

January 22, 2006 | Colchester, UK

"Shawn Noel was a brilliant and well respected Game Maker user. It is incredibly unfortunate that this has had to happen. I only pray that everyone close to him quickly overcomes this tragedy and that he himself rests in peace forever.

May his games and work in life continue to influence others."

Alex "HolyCause"

January 22, 2006 | Saskatoon, SK

"I've known Shawn since we were about in kindergarten or first grade together at Morley. He was always someone that could make others laugh and brighten their day up with a drawing he had drawn or a game. I wasn't very close to Shawn but I will always remember him. Rest in peace Shawn and may your family have thoughts and prayers with them."

Ashley Hornung

January 22, 2006 | Lincoln, NE

"I didnt know Shawn personally but he seemed like a great guy. He has inspired me so much. I will miss him...."

Matt

January 23, 2006 | Auckland, New Zealand

"Shawn, you will be missed by everyone in the gaming community. Your thoughts, ideas, and further more, your awe inspiring soul will always bless us in our times of hard-ships. We will always love you Shawn."

Bobby Porter

January 23, 2006 | Uniontown, PA

"I admired him for his creativity and innovative ideas as well as his generosity. We use to talk and play games over the net. He gave me motivation when I needed it. Even though I didn't know Shawn personally it is depressing that he is gone. He had given me so much help, and I now I'm not able to return the favor to him.

Rest in peace Shawn, I hope you're in a better place now."

Will Meldrum

January 23, 2006 | BC

"Though I wasn't really close to you, I still will miss you greatly. I remember talking to you numerous times. You were a great person, kind, giving and funny. You always made me smile. You were very talented aswell. I'll never forget. May you rest in peace."

Rylee (AKA Oni) Hickling

January 23, 2006 | Campbell River, BC

"Damn... I don't know what to say... but you will always be remembered, never forgotten... R.I.P. Shawn Noel... You have no idea how much we miss you"

Mark Omini Shannon

January 23, 2006 | Ballymena/N.Ireland

"You won the race while you were here, so rest in peace now Shawn, for your journey is over. You will be deeply missed and I am praying that your loved ones will find some comfort during this great tragedy."

Queen Beedoe 1 Legend

January 23, 2006 | Cleveland, OH

"A great mind and a great heart you had, a great person we had and a great soul God now has. My respect and sympathy goes to your family."

Shelly Lewis

January 23, 2006 | Lincoln, NE

"A great man who inspired many people in different ways. He inspired so many from the GMC and gave them inspiration. You will be missed.

RIP Shawn Noel"

Jacob Simpson

January 23, 2006 | Sydney, Australia

"I was in health class with Shawn in the tenth grade. He was always quiet and the first to class. I remember sitting next to him. I wish I would have gotten to know him a little better. May you Rest In Peace Shawn! I Miss You So Much!!!"

Deborah

January 23, 2006 | Lincoln, NE

"I just cannot believe. I'll remember you my whole life, you were the best game creator I knew, and know. I hope you live in a better place now, and rest in peace."

Kristian Bortnik

January 24, 2006 | SCG

"Although I did not know Shawn personally, his death has had a tremendous impact throughout the gaming community. I am a member of the Acid-Play game forums where word has quickly spread about the untimely death of a well-respected and well-loved member of the freeware community. Many of us have enjoyed his games over the last few years and his loss has been a blow to us all. On behalf of the members of the A/P community throughout the world, we would like to pass along our heartfelt condolences to his family and friends. May they find peace. Shawn will be sorely missed..."

Steven DeLeo

January 25, 2006 | Richmond, VA

"Shawn – your game was the first GM game I played. That got me interested in programming. You changed my life buddy.

Deep regrets. Rest in peace."

Thomas Horner

January 25, 2006 | Stuttgart, Germany

"I knew shawn quite well, since around 2001, as the best Game Maker Artist ever. I truly miss him and let him be remembered by everyone who knew him.

May you rest in peace Shawn Noel"

Milad Thaha

January 31, 2006 | Riyadh, Saudi Arabia



"I have read the numerous emails that have been sent about Shawn. I always knew I had the greatest and most amazing son, however, I had no idea how many other people knew this too. It brings me comfort to know that not only I knew how talented he was, but that so many people here and around the world knew this too. I struggle daily with this tragic loss of my son. It came as such a shock and I still cannot believe this has happened. I have no answers for anyone but I do know that no mother could have loved her son anymore or been any prouder of her son. Thank you all for your love, support and kind words."

Kristi Noel

January 31, 2006 | Lincoln, NE

"Here is something that I wrote and had read at Shawns service. Hopefully this will give you all some insight on the Shawn that I love and miss.

Shawny – My son – The greatest son any mother could ever wish for.

The one that on the day he was born I knew that I was blessed with the most beautiful and precious child. The one that as a small child would wrap his arms around my leg and hold on to me. The one that took a marker and made a picture on his wall. It was big and beautiful but mom had somehow wished he had done this on paper. The one that was the little boy who put on his brand new high top tennis shoes, went in his little tykes playhouse with moms Christmas tree balls and smashed them all with his new shoes. And smiled when I found him and said he was just trying out his new shoes. The one that I played catch with the football, shot basketball hoops with and went on bike rides through the park with. The one that loved and played with his dog Flash. Fed his dog all of the junk food that he ate and made his dog a house out of Kenex building blocks. The one that always had a controller, computer mouse or pencil drawing some character, making a game or design. The one that always sang songs with me. We sang loud and probably out of tune, but neither of us cared. The one that always changed my screen saver to say something funny-knowing I did not know how to change it back. The one that I always kissed good night and said I love you. The young man I am so proud of.. Love....Treasure and will miss..

Shawny I will love you always..Mom"

Kristi Noel

January 31, 2006 | Lincoln, NE

**Here is the thank you message that Shawn's family left on his site.**

We would like to say thank you to everyone for all of the words of encouragement and memorials. It brings us comfort to know Shawn was such an inspiration and cared about by so many people.

We did start the Shawn Noel Memorial Scholarship and it was awarded this year to a student at East High School in Lincoln, Nebraska. We plan to continue this scholarship each year.

Shawn is missed and loved so much by his family. He will stay in our hearts forever.

Thank you,

Ryan, Kristi & Heather