

- **Cpl. John R. Lapham, 40**, a member of the Atkinson Police Department for the past six years, died Thursday, June 5, 2008, at Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, following a courageous battle with cancer.

Raised and educated in Hampstead, Cpl. Lapham, attended Pinkerton Academy in Derry, and received his degrees in accounting and criminal justice from Hesser College.

A February of 2001 graduate of the 124th Class of The New Hampshire Police Academy, he began his law enforcement career as a part-time officer and later full time officer for the Town of Hampstead from 1997 until 2002, and served as the department prosecutor. He was also employed by the Sandown Police Department before joining the Atkinson Department in 2002. A member of the Atkinson Police Department since 2002, Cpl. Lapham served as the town DARE Officer. He also served in the U.S. Coast Guard Reserves from 1993 until 2000.

Cpl. Lapham has resided in Chester since 1994 and was a volunteer coach for the Chester Soccer League and Little League. He was also a member of the Rockingham County Law Enforcement Association, DARE America Association, and The Chester Congregational Church and a former member of the Hampstead Congregational Church. He enjoyed snowmobiling and vacations at DisneyWorld. He is survived by his wife of thirteen years, Amy (Towle) Lapham, and two sons, Matthew W. Lapham and Justin R. Lapham, all of Chester, his parents, Stanley and Gail (Clark) Lapham of East Hampstead, brother and sister-in-law, Brian and Dorothy Lapham of Hampton, sister, Susan Lapham of Sandown, and sister and brother-in-law, Julie Lapham-McDevitt and James McDevitt of Portsmouth, one niece, two nephews, and several aunts, uncles and cousins.

His funeral was held on June 10, beginning at Brookside Chapel & Funeral Home, Plaistow. His funeral cortege traveled through the towns of Plaistow, Atkinson, Hampstead, and Sandown, with the funeral service continued in the Chester Congregational Church. Burial was in the Great Hill Cemetery, Chester. Relatives and friends who wish are encouraged to make donations in memory of John at any Banknorth location for the Cpl. John Lapham Fund, c/o TD Banknorth, N.A., 47 Plaistow Rd., P.O. Box 368, Plaistow, NH 03865.