

**Memorial Resolution – Shelton C. Berel**  
**July 18, 1983 – August 5, 2016**

“Only Rock Stars.” That was the standard we agreed we would be holding our candidates to at the outset of our search and screen process in the Fall of 2014. Little did we know the rock star that we would find, the lasting impact he would make on our lives, and how much we would miss him when he was taken from his family and our work family in a traffic accident.

Shelton Berel was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, and graduated from Louisiana State University after a stint in the National Guard. He often wore purple and gold while casually noting the superior ranking and win-loss record of his beloved LSU Tigers to that of the Badgers, but for the most part we tried not to hold that against him.

After coming to Madison to work for Epic Systems and then Nordic Consulting, Shelton sought a job with a more family-friendly schedule so that he could have more time to be where he really loved to be - at home with his wife Katy and daughter Ella. We were very fortunate when he agreed to join our work family in February of 2015.

Shelton was both humble about and generous with his incredible technical acumen. He contributed significantly to the success of every project in which he was involved. The elegant simplicity and sheer volume of code that he created, and that his code will be used for years to come are tangible parts of his legacy. He worked quietly, efficiently, and tirelessly, regularly taking challenging technical problems home with him to mull. “I thought of this solution while I was driving home last night” was a phrase we heard him often say.

Shelton loved helping people using the skills with which he was so apt in his typically unassuming manner. He was always willing to answer a question or contribute a measured opinion. His was an understated confidence, complimented by a willingness to admit he didn’t have all of the answers. He was also fond of pointing out “Y’all here are too Wisconsin Nice. You need to be more assertive. Saying no is ok. Here, try it - can I have a hundred dollars?” “No.” “See, that wasn’t so hard, was it?”

We find ourselves spending more waking hours with our family here at work than we do with our families at home, and we were very fortunate that Shelton joined our work family, even for the brief time we had with him. Shelton was our friend, our colleague, and also the least suspected source of and conspirator in our office pranks. We are better for having known him, and much worse for having lost him too soon.

We miss him greatly. We will continue to miss him. We’ve lost one of the best and brightest intellectual rock stars in our family.

Respectfully submitted,  
The VCRGE Information Technology Team