



Derek Ray Lemieux

March 26, 1991 - April 17, 2019

**In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Derek's memory to Tammy Lynn Endowment, Inc., 739 Chappell Drive, Raleigh, NC 27606

Derek Ray Lemieux, 28 years old, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, April 17, 2019, at Transitions LifeCare in Raleigh, NC, after a 4 month courageous battle with brain cancer.

Derek was born on March 26th, 1991, in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida. The family moved to Waynesville, NC, in 1996. Derek spent his childhood as an elite soccer player and, in middle school, volunteered in the special needs classrooms, supporting students with disabilities and helping his mom during the spring Special Olympics. In Derek's adult life, he volunteered and was a supporter of Tammy Lynn Center in Raleigh, NC.

Derek enlisted in the US Army at age 18, on October 13, 2008, and completed his basic training at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma. From there, Derek graduated from Ft. Gordon, Georgia, as a Signal Support Systems Specialist and then went on to Ft. Benning, Georgia, where he graduated from the Army Infantry Airborne. Derek was stationed in Ft. Bragg for six years in the 82nd Airborne Brigade Support Battalion. In 2015, Derek was stationed for 3 years in Vicenza, Italy, with the 54th Brigade Engineer Battalion, Airborne. Derek received numerous awards and badges during his nine years of service to his country, including Expert Marksmanship, Leadership Warrior, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and German Parachutist Badge. While stationed in Italy and when on leave time, Derek became an "Extreme Traveler", visiting 25 different countries throughout Europe and Asia. He entertained his family and friends with stories and drone footage of unique adventures from the countries he visited.

Derek's real passion was music. Listening, learning and producing under the name of 'D-Rex' {#DREXifyTheWorld}. His music is designed to bring people together through his travels, reminding us that there is so much adventure and life to live, and to live it now. In his short music career, he created, produced and performed in various venues in Europe,

including Ultra Europe Tour in Croatia. Derek also has several songs he produced over the years and now has over 27,000 followers.

Prior to Derek's brain cancer diagnosis on December 12th, 2018, Derek was about to begin a new chapter in his life. He was enrolled in Atlanta Institute of Music & Media (AIMM) to pursue a degree in post audio production. When Derek was not making music, he was gaming with friends around the world, always looking forward to beating his sister in bowling, and playing golf.

Derek was a true warrior, taking on the most aggressive treatments with such strength and courage to battle the relentless brain cancer. Throughout the difficult and painful treatments, Derek maintained his incredible thoughtfulness by constantly thanking his team of medical staff, family and friends who supported him. His kindness will be an inspiration for all of us to be better people.

Derek is survived by his mother, Holly Richard, stepfather, Dave Richard, of Raleigh, NC, father, Ron Lemieux, of Florida, sister, Nicole Lemieux, of Raleigh, NC, stepbrother, Dylan Richard, and wife Rebekah Richard from Texas, grandparents Ray and Jan Lemieux of Massachusetts, grandmother Jane Lewis of Massachusetts, grandmother Lorraine Grenier of Florida. He is also survived by numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and countless friends he has met in the Army and his travels around the world!

Family and friends are invited to attend a visitation at 3 pm on Monday, April 22nd followed by the service at 4 pm at Renaissance Funeral Home, 7615 Six Forks Road, Raleigh, NC, 27615. Derek will be laid to rest in a private ceremony for immediate family members at Sandhills State Veterans Cemetery in Spring Lake, NC on Tuesday morning.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Derek's memory to Tammy Lynn Endowment, Inc., 739 Chappell Drive, Raleigh, NC 27606.

The family would like to express our sincere appreciation to our friends and family, and to the incredible medical team at Duke Hospital and the Brain Tumor Center, WakeMed Hospital and Transitions LifeCare for their phenomenal expertise, support and love for Derek and family.

Cemetery

Events

Sandhills State Veterans Cemetery **APR**

8220 Bragg Blvd.

Fort Bragg, NC, 28310

22

Viewing and Visitation

03:00PM

Renaissance Funeral Home and Cremation
7615 Six Forks Rd, Raleigh, NC, US, 27615

APR

22

Funeral Service

04:00PM

Renaissance Funeral Home and Cremation
7615 Six Forks Rd, Raleigh, NC, US, 27615

Comments



“ Holly, I just saw Dave and heard of this horrible tragedy. I am sorry I did not know sooner. I am pretty sure I met Derek years ago at an Arc of NC event, but it's obvious that he was a true patriot and warrior. I am so sorry for your loss and you will be in my thoughts and prayers.

With Love,
Amyleigh Myers

Amyleigh Myers - May 07 at 02:33 PM



“ Holly and Nicole. Our family is so saddened by Derek's passing. We all have sweet memories of him. Even though we knew him as a boy. We followed him into a brave, gifted, talented man with a deep soul. We will never forget him. Love and miss u. Your forever friends. The Whittemore's.

Juliet Whittemore - April 24 at 09:09 AM



“ Holly , Mahesh and I are so sorry for your loss. From reading Derek's obituary, he sounds like a wonderful young man. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Shweta and Mahesh

Shweta Naphade - April 22 at 10:13 PM



“ Holly & Dave I am sending prayers of comfort to you and your family. Holly I had the opportunity to meet you and Derek at WakeMed. I am so sorry for the loss of your son. In reading all of the memories, Derek will be missed by everyone he have come in contact with.

Brenda T. Smith, DMHDDSAS - April 22 at 05:04 PM



“ Holly, I am sending tons of prayers and love to you and your family. In reading Derek's obituary, he sounds like a young man who found so much joy in his travels and his love for music. May those memories and the love shared between and son and his mother strengthen you now and in the days and years ahead. May God's grace and unending love for his children bring you a sense of peace in the difficult

days.

Bert Armstrong

Bert Armstrong - April 22 at 03:25 PM



“ Holly, you and your family have been on my mind so many times since December when the world changed for you. I haven't known you long but one thing I knew immediately when we met was how much you loved your family. It was so easy to connect with you because of your mom's heart. It was clear to me - mom to mom - that the love for your kids was fierce and awesome. I am certain Derek knew this too. I wish there were words that could be said that would bring comfort. I hope that you know you and your family are loved by many. One day when the time is right you and I will get together to talk so that you can share with me wonderful memories of Derek. You are in my thoughts and prayers today and always. Sending you my love, Angela Boykin

Angela Boykin - April 22 at 01:06 PM



“ The best days of my childhood were spent with you. I will never forget and I will miss you.



Nick Radcliffe - April 21 at 11:37 PM



“ To my dear friend Holly,
Words cannot express the heartbreak and sorrow I feel for you, Nicole and your family. In all the years of friendship we've had, I never, ever imagined I would have to express these condolences in this situation. You have always been the most amazing mom and Derek loved you so very much. He will be in your heart and with you for always. Derek was so many things to so many people - he was a son, a brother, a friend, a soldier and more. He will be missed by many - but forgotten by none. His sweet memory will love on and he will always be a part of you. Stay strong, my sweet friend. Know that I am here - always.

We love you,
Michele & Ricky Rogers



“ Big Jerry, Lil Jerry and I have such great memories which will be cherished forever in our hearts for the Derek! Love always! Pam, Jerry & Jerry II

Pam Bartle - April 21 at 05:41 PM



“ Pam, Jerry & Jerry II Bartle purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Derek Ray Lemieux.



Pam, Jerry & Jerry II Bartle - April 21 at 05:35 PM



“ My favorite memory of Derek is how he bravely and proudly wore his Atlanta Falcons jersey into our New Orleans family reunion and just rolled with all the jabs he got for being a falcons fan in saints territory ! The whole family lived vicariously through him as he posted pictures of himself visiting places most of us will only dream of visiting. We should all learn to live like he did: with a sense of purpose, a sense of duty, a sense of giving of himself, a sense of humor and of course seizing the day and living life to the fullest ! Let us be reminded in memory of Derek, Carpe Diem! Rest In Peace courageous soldier and nephew, my heart aches for Holly, Dave and Nicole.



joy connor - April 20 at 10:25 AM



“ Way to go, Derek, wearing that Falcons jersey at a New Orleans family reunion!

Philip Woodward - April 22 at 11:17 AM



“ Our hearts are truly saddened. We have known Derek for many years and he was a brother to Karl, Kevin & Kyle. Derek always had the brightest welcoming smile that made you smile! We are blessed to have had him in our lives and we will forever cherish the memories of the times we had with him. Love, Gary & Donna

Gary & Donna Caldwell - April 19 at 11:10 AM



“ I had the honor and pleasure to work with Derek. The thing I remember most is that he always had a smile on his face and he was always polite!

john stull - April 19 at 09:03 AM



“ He was my soldier at Bragg, such a brave paratrooper man my heart is so heavy right now.



SSG Joseph Hernandez - April 19 at 09:00 AM



“ So sorry for your loss <3



Hannah Biassini - April 18 at 11:31 PM



“ I'm sorry I didn't get to meet Derek--It sounds like he was a wonderful young man. I am so sorry for your loss and John and I are thinking about your family at this difficult time.



Jan King - April 18 at 09:12 PM



“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Danielle (Lemieux) Ledezma - April 18 at 07:12 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Derek Ray Lemieux.



April 18 at 05:16 PM



“ Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Derek Ray Lemieux.



April 18 at 05:01 PM



“ Igor Lunardi lit a candle in memory of Derek Ray Lemieux



Igor Lunardi - April 18 at 04:16 PM



“ sleep well airborne

Eric - April 18 at 07:08 PM



“ 7 files added to the album Memories Album



Renaissance Funeral Home - April 18 at 03:31 PM



“ Marjorie, Rob and Budget & Analysis Team purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Derek Ray Lemieux.



Marjorie, Rob and Budget & Analysis Team - April 18 at 02:32 PM



“ The Providers Association purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Derek Ray Lemieux.





“ Hilltop Home purchased the Large Basket Garden for the family of Derek Ray Lemieux.



Hilltop Home - April 18 at 12:27 PM



“ So sorry for your loss Holly, you and your family will be in my thoughts and prayers!

Sarah Parham - April 18 at 12:27 PM



“ Holly I am so sorry for your loss of your son. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.



Kathy Davis - April 18 at 11:57 AM



“ Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Derek Ray Lemieux.



April 18 at 11:38 AM



“ Lakisha Perry-Green lit a candle in memory of Derek Ray Lemieux



Lakisha Perry-Green - April 18 at 10:41 AM



“ Derek will be deeply missed. He was an excellent soldier and a great man. I pray he rest in peace and his family is well. It is hard to believe, but i find solace knowing he lived his life well.



Janay Nutter - April 18 at 10:06 AM



“ Holly,
I am so sorry to hear of such a tremendous loss. My prayers are with you and the entire family during this time.

Cheryl Patterson



Cheryl Patterson - April 18 at 09:18 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Derek Ray Lemieux.



April 18 at 07:40 AM



“ Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of Derek Ray Lemieux.



April 18 at 05:44 AM



“ Joyce Murphy lit a candle in memory of Derek Ray Lemieux



Joyce Murphy - April 17 at 09:45 PM



“ Derek is one of the sweetest, most courageous, and caring souls I have had the privilege to know. He was funny, smart, extremely talented, and incredibly brave. I wish i could have known him longer. He will be deeply missed by thousands of friends and admirers around the world, but especially by his family whom he loved deeply. Peace, love, and blessings to all of Derek's family and friends. ~Mary

Mary Freeman - April 17 at 09:33 PM



“ Holly and Dave I am so sorry for your loss Family is our prayers
Ronnie Beale

Ronnie Beale - April 19 at 09:48 PM



“ Karel and Sam DiFranco purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Derek Ray Lemieux.



Karel and Sam DiFranco - April 17 at 09:12 PM



“ I have so many good memories with Derek, but the one I love the most is when he traveled with me and my family for July 4th. It was one of those memories that just solidified our friendship into more of a brotherhood than anything. It Was spent jumping of cliffs into rivers chasing each other around with bottle rockets and just acting like fools or young men depending on who you ask I guess. Didn't know how much that weekend would mean then. I certainly do now. Rest easy brother I love you.



Michael Selle - April 17 at 08:44 PM



“ From one old soldier to one young soldier you made an impact in this life. Rest easy Derek.

Keith McDonald - April 20 at 12:36 PM