



Zane Isaac Schaeffer

August 29, 2000 - March 24, 2024

Memorial services for Zane Isaac Schaeffer, 23, of Ben Wheeler, Texas, will be held on Saturday, April 27, 2024, at 1:30 p.m. at Stewart Family Funeral Home, 7525 Old Jacksonville Highway, Tyler, Texas.

Zane ("Grace of God") was born in Littleton, Colorado, to James Kevin Schaeffer and Rachel Lee Schaeffer on August 29th, 2000. He was predeceased by his paternal grandparents (Bud and Alice Schaeffer) and is survived by his maternal grandparents (Jay and Cynthia Johnson), his parents (Kevin and Rachel Schaeffer), his nine siblings (Samaiah, Abe, Soren, Selah, Stratton, Jessen, Payten, Stetson, and Aeron), his Aunt Sheri, Uncle Rob and Aunt Teri, Uncle Dave and Aunt Wendy, Uncle David and Auntie Monica, Uncle Peter and Auntie Taylor, his cousins (Matt, Andrew, Josh, Jenni, Ryan, Jordan, Haleigh, Cole, Cade, Jacob, Rebecca, Noah, Preston, and Bethany), his niece (Legacy) and nephew (Lathan.) He is also survived by his precious angel and much-beloved would-be-bride (Amy "Joy" Barth), extended family, and countless neighbors, friends, and co-workers who knew and loved him dearly.

Straight out of the gate, Zane was a wrecking ball of energy, always "on the move," playing out his earliest years overseas in Romania as a little missionary with OC International,... exploring construction sites in inner-city Bucharest and running, triking, and climbing beautiful landscapes in the

country.

Moving back to the States in 2005, he continued making more amazing boyhood memories with his ever-growing family in Whitehouse, Texas. Summer days were spent outside splashing in Gulf waves, the big blue wasp pool, and his impressive (and dangerous) homemade waterparks. Top secret Boys Only club meetings occurred with his brothers in Peet Moss Paradise. His first furry friends included Hudson the dog, Kimo the cat (his first "true love"), and family walks to see Rowdy the horse and the donkeys at the end of the hilly street. Bike riding, tree climbing (also proving dangerous), obstacle courses, Cops and Robbers, rainy-day mud pies, splash parties, and digging through Life Hill.

There were always "spies" in the house, lurking behind doors and behind furniture, as well as out-of-control Hot Wheels, Nerf gun bullets, and annoying little white Airsoft BB's always found underneath and everywhere. Superhero-Cowboy-Policeman dress-up, boardgames, homemade arcades, Hide-and-Seek, the infamous "Bunkbed Boys Band," high-energy Zaney dance parties, and his unforgettable late-night edge-of-your-seat bedtime stories, much beloved by his siblings. A genuine "Bob the Builder," LEGOS were built, as well as the East Texas State Fair's first-ever life-sized cardboard Army Tank, and also the neighbor's broken throw-away vacuum cleaner he found curbside, took apart, rebuilt, and returned. Family vacation campouts were cherished, and "Cousin times" were HAD at California Schaeffer - Colorado Cook Reunions and Johnson Family Holidays.

Privately schooled at home with Mom and siblings, Zane studied God's Word daily and also read every book in the house, quickly becoming the family's Walking Encyclopedia and self-proclaimed Know-it-All. Math was a constant enemy and "impulse" was his greatest tempter, but Zane would later learn to conquer both! With Dad, brothers, boyhood friends, and real-life heroes by his

side, Zane applied himself in the "school of godly manhood" in Big Sandy, Texas, starting with the International ALERT Academy's Cadet Program and annual ALERT Cadet Challenges. The motto --STRONG TO OVERCOME -- served to condition his body and soul for the many lifelong battles he would have with illness, injury, learning challenges, the sin of SELF, and often the pain of suffering.

His teen years were spent working hard on a Fire Ant Hobby Farm and Petting Zoo, when his family moved into a little barnhouse on a large rural property in Ben Wheeler, Texas. Just the space a young man needed to take his love for guns and camo to the next level! Zane's passion for battle and "serious" adventures with Airsoft, combined with his vast leadership qualities, inspired him to eventually become a respected tactical instructor and strength training coach.

Over his lifetime, God continually took Zane's personal struggles with sin, his disappointments and setbacks, and the many stressors of life, and by His grace, used them ALL purposefully -- to help him relate with great empathy to the suffering and needs of others around him. His passion for leading, teaching, and coaching others opened his heart to reach many underserved youth in East Texas with Child Evangelism Fellowship's 5-Day Clubs and city-wide outreaches, mentoring young people as a Squad Leader for the International ALERT Academy's "Cadet Challenge," and helping mend broken hearts as a licensed caregiver (and eventual Big Brother) to many foster children coming in and out of his family's home. He spent countless, sleepless hours encouraging struggling peers to stay "in the fight" for purity and integrity and to resolve to grab hold of victory over their private battles with darkness and despair, pointing them to the forgiveness, grace and hope he himself had found, and would over and over remember, in his personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

After high school, Zane attended the International ALERT Academy, Unit 63, where he was brought to the complete end of himself and was challenged and inspired to Get Better, Be Better, and Stay Better. He learned invaluable life lessons that later drove him back to God in his weakest hours, and the skills to best equip him to complete his race to the Finish Line. He indeed came away "Strong to Serve." Zane graduated his Third Phase as a Specialist Responder with EMT Basic. He went on to work in EMS for UT Health East Texas, while continuing his higher education at Tyler Junior College, where he strenuously burned the midnight oil (and finally hurdled math) to earn his Paramedic. He was an excellent student and worker, passionate about giving the BEST patient care, recruited and inspired others in EMS, and eventually became a Skills Instructor for Paramedic students at Tyler Junior College. EMS had become family to him and was his Happy Place, followed closely by his new-found love for motorcycles and the Tyler Bike Club.

On Monday, March 4th, 2024, Zane was offered the dream job he had worked so hard to achieve and had envisioned for his future with Joy: to serve his country as a Paramedic for the Longview Fire Department. The following day, Tuesday, March 5th, Zane was driving home from teaching his EMS class on his motorbike and was struck in a hit-and-run accident, sustaining multiple injuries, thus launching him into the frontlines of his final challenge -- a three-week DIE HARD fight for life in critical care, surrounded and upheld by the fervent prayers and support of an army of loved ones and unknown battle buddies all over the world. God heard and answered those prayers in His most POWERFUL and MERCIFUL way, ways that are much higher and better than our human understanding. On Sunday, March 24th, 2024, Zane was in fact given the ULTIMATE GIFT of HEALING and freedom forever from his brokenness and painful suffering, found in the hope of eternal life he had in Christ, and kept in Heaven for him. Through Zane's death, God's sovereign hand then used several of his organs -- still young and healthy and perfectly

preserved -- "for such a time as this"... to answer the prayers of OTHERS fighting for their life and in need of urgent care.

Zane was a true First Responder, a fearless warrior, a staunch defender of freedom, a protector and loyal friend to the weak, and a HERO to all who knew and loved him... unconditionally. By God's grace, his dream to help others continues to live on, long after his short time on this Earth. His heart is still beating. His impact is eternal.

Please join us in our celebration of Zane's life, thanking God for the remarkable gift that he was, remembering and honoring him, and giving all the glory to his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Doors will open at 1:00 p.m. for a time of gathering and viewing of memorabilia, followed by a service at 1:30 p.m.

If desired, flowers can be sent to Stewart Family Funeral Home or memorial donations made to the International ALERT Academy (Student Scholarship Fund) at <https://alertacademy.com/donate/>

Previous Events

Memorial Service

APR 27. 1:30 PM (CT)

Stewart Family Funeral Home
7525 Old Jacksonville Hwy
Tyler, TX 75703
(903) 581-2008

Tribute Wall



“ *Stewart Family Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Zane Isaac Schaeffer*



Stewart Family Funeral Home - April 27, 2024 at 01:34 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Zane Isaac Schaeffer.*



April 26, 2024 at 01:13 PM



“ *I don't know Zane, but do know his friends and hear lot of him and how he cared for so many others! God bless his soul! He served the purpose God had for him here and his light still lives on!*

N/A - April 26, 2024 at 01:13 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Zane Isaac Schaeffer.*



April 25, 2024 at 02:56 PM



“ *Love's Journey was purchased for the family of Zane Isaac Schaeffer.*



April 24, 2024 at 08:44 AM



“ *Vivid Recollections was purchased for the family of Zane Isaac Schaeffer.*

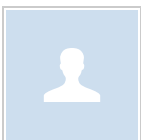


April 01, 2024 at 11:51 AM



“ *I did not have the opportunity to know Zane, but for some reason I was lead to read the obituary and it touched my heart. What a fine young man he must have been.and how he will be missed. I know God had a plan for this heart ache and Zane must certainly be in his presence at this time. I would have been so blessed likewise to have known him. What a testamony he leaves behind. Prayer go out for all those who are greiving at this loss.*

Linda Best - March 30, 2024 at 09:24 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Zane Isaac Schaeffer.*

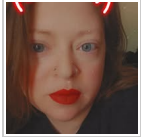


March 30, 2024 at 12:32 AM



“ I didn't know Zane but my heart is broken for you. My son is Michael Luke and he spoke well of Zane. I am so sorry for your loss.

Laura Luke - March 28, 2024 at 08:40 PM



“ I shared the entirety of 2023 with Zane. He was my battle buddy during paramedic school. I don't think I'd have made it through with my sanity intact. He really was a blessing to me and to everyone who knew him.



Jessica Bruton - March 27, 2024 at 11:39 PM