

LANCE CORPORAL
NICHOLAS
MAURICE
Dural

PALLBEARERS

Terence Young
Court Simmons-Dural

Surface Dural
Phillip "Draper" Dural III

Ronnie Grizzaffi
Delta Peltier

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

Andrea Dural
Glen Dural
Phillip Dural, Jr.

EARTHLY RESTING PLACE

Fountain Memorial Funeral Home & Cemetery
1010 Pandora Street
Lafayette, Louisiana 70506

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We the family of Lance Corporal Nicholas Maurice Dural, want to convey our most heartfelt appreciation and gratitude for the unending outpouring of expressions of love and support extended to us at this most difficult time. We shall forever be grateful for what each of you have shared and all of your acts of kindness; and because of that, our hearts are comforted. May God continually bless each of you.

~The Family~

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES ENTRUSTED TO



FIELDS FUNERAL HOME

L I F E C E L E B R A T I O N S

THE ANGELS
ARE WAITING AT
HEAVEN'S GATE
FOR

Celebrating
A
Life
OF SERVICE



LANCE CORPORAL
NICHOLAS
MAURICE
Dural

May 21, 2003 – December 19, 2023

Saturday, January 13, 2024
11:00 AM

GETHEMANE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST
701 East Pinhook Road
Lafayette, Louisiana 70501

Bishop Alton E. Gatlin, Officiant

PRECIOUS MEMORIES



THE DAY GOD TOOK YOU HOME

*You never said, "I'm leaving."
You never said, "Good-bye."
You were gone before I knew it,
And only God knew why.
A million times I needed you;
A million times I cried.
If love alone could have saved you,
You never would have died.
In life I loved you dearly;
In death I love you still.
In my heart you hold a place
That no one could ever fill.
It broke my heart to lose you
But you didn't go alone,
For part of me went with you
The day God took you home.*

PRECIOUS MEMORIES



Celebrating
A
Life
OF SERVICE



LANCE CORPORAL
NICHOLAS
MAURICE
Dural

SUNRISE
May 21, 2003

SUNSET
December 19, 2023

OBITUARY

LANCE CORPORAL NICHOLAS MAURICE DURAL, a proud member of the United States Marine Corps, passed away on December 19, 2023, in Brazzaville, Congo. He was born on May 21, 2003, and his untimely demise has left a deep void in the hearts of his family, friends, and fellow service members.

Nicholas was a compassionate and selfless individual who dedicated his life to serving and protecting others. He graduated in 2021 from David Thibodaux STEM Magnet Academy in Lafayette, Louisiana. At the age of 18, he made the decision to enlist in the United States Marine Corps, driven by a strong sense of duty and a desire to make a difference in the world. Throughout his military career, Nicholas distinguished himself through his unwavering commitment to excellence. After joining the Marines, Nicholas underwent rigorous training and rose through the ranks to become a Lance Corporal. His dedication and hard work earned him the respect of his superiors and peers alike. Furthermore, Nicholas attended the prestigious Marine Security Guard School in Quantico, Virginia. His training equipped him with invaluable skills that enabled him to fulfill his role as an embassy guard. Nicholas's service took him to various parts of the world, including his final assignment at the U.S. Embassy Brazzaville in the Republic of Congo. In recognition of his bravery and exceptional service, he was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal in April 2023. This honor is a testament to his courage and exemplary conduct throughout his tenure.

Beyond his military achievements, Nicholas possessed remarkable qualities that endeared him to those who had the privilege of knowing him. Kind-hearted and welcoming, he had an uncanny ability to put others at ease. His warm spirit radiated positivity wherever he went, leaving a lasting impact on all those fortunate enough to cross paths with him. In an interview conducted in April, Nicholas spoke about his proudest accomplishments. He shared his desire to be an embassy guard so that he could be "a calm that people see." He articulated his aspiration to be a strong person whom anybody could trust, reminiscent of the way he had been there for his sisters growing up. Nicholas's selfless nature and yearning to positively impact the world left an indelible mark on those who knew him.

Nicholas leaves behind a legacy of love and selflessness, as well as cherished memories in the hearts of his family and friends. He was preceded in death by his great-grandparents, Henry and Cecile (Lieteau) Oubre of Garyville, LA, and Collins and Dorothy (Vilo) LaSalle of Patterson, LA; his grandmother, Mary Grace (Ruffin) Dural of Morgan City, LA, and his brother, Emmanuel Joseph Smith of Gulfport, MS.

Nicholas's memory will forever live on in the hearts of those closest to him. He is survived by: his loving parents, Dalton and Kimberly Dural of Lafayette, LA; grandparents, Harold Dural of Morgan City, LA, Patrick LaSalle of Patterson, LA, Joanne LaSalle of Youngsville, LA, Hammond and Scarlett (Oubre) Charles of Spring, TX; siblings, Darby Rae Dural and Joie Renae Dural of Lafayette, LA, along with Courtney Ray Simmons-Dural of Baton Rouge, LA and Terence Cornelius Young of Houston, TX; uncles and aunts, Philip and Trina (Trimm) Dural of Verdunville, LA, Quincy and Shella (Dural) Coleman of Tyler, TX, Glen Dural, Thetis Dural, Nelda Dural of Morgan City, LA, Andrea Dural of Lafayette, LA, Alaina LaSalle of Baton Rouge, LA, and Jared and Lieutenant Colonel Daphne (LaSalle) Jackson of Albuquerque, NM, and Madison Charles of Spring, TX, was also dear to his heart; niece, Cheyenne Young; nephew, Myles Young of Houston, TX; a plethora of cousins, great-uncles, and great-aunts whose lives were touched by his presence.

Nicholas was known for his vibrant spirit, million-dollar smile, and genuine kindness. He left an indelible mark on everyone who had the privilege of knowing him. Nicholas touched the hearts of those around him with his warm and welcoming personality. His ability to uplift others and create a positive atmosphere reflected the beautiful soul that resided within him. Nicholas had a unique way of making everyone feel valued and appreciated. We will always remember the bright light that Nicholas brought into our lives.

MAKINGS OF A HERO

by Lt Cpl Nicholas M Dural

Many people have trouble describing heroism. Heroism is something you do, it is also something you don't do, and something that becomes part of you. Being a hero is a challenge and an opportunity. The person who's facing the adversity will decide.

Heroes aren't constantly saving lives. Most of the time they're overcoming everyday challenges like getting a kid from school or paying a bill. Maybe even just putting bread on the table. A hero can be a janitor or a track star. They save lives or save money. Heroes work every day.

Heroes aren't self-centered jerks who could care less about their dad's bills and mom's heart. They're not criminals that sell crack to twelve-year-olds. They're not crack heads that continue to be a junkie instead of trying to stop. They're people who try to overcome challenges.

Heroes are men who instead of abandoning their child they raise them. Heroes are volunteer lifeguards who watch the pool. A hero is the kid who goes to college instead of selling drugs. It's the dude who helps the old lady cross the street and leaves a big tip. Heroes are the people who fight crimes to make sure their kids live in a good environment.

In conclusion heroes are everyday people. The dog walker or single mom. The custodian and fireman. Heroes are everywhere. They go unnoticed but will always be there. It will always be a challenge to be a hero. Someone will always overcome the challenge and will always be someone's hero.

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PRECIOUS MEMORIES



"ANYTHING LOST CAN BE FOUND AGAIN, EXCEPT FOR TIME WASTED.

-Kevin Gates.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Musical Prelude

Opening Remarks.....Bishop Alton E. Gatlin, Pastor
Gethsemane Church of God in Christ

Scripture Readings:

Old TestamentRobin Brookter

New Testament Tierra Coleman

Prayer of Comfort Nelda Dural

Musical Selection.....Gethsemane Church of God
in Christ Music Ministry

Obituary Trinity Velazquez

Special TributesJaxon Provost
Kadin David
David Thibodeaux
STEM Academy Class of 2021

Poem Anita Haley

Musical Selection.....Gethsemane Church of God
in Christ Music Ministry

Acknowledgement of Clergy

Expressions Pastors Caleb and Alicia Moran

Hymn of PreparationGethsemane Church of God
in Christ Music Ministry

EulogyBishop Alton E. Gatlin, Pastor
Gethsemane Church of God in Christ

Prayer of ComfortBishop Alton E. Gatlin, Pastor
Gethsemane Church of God in Christ

Recessional

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A CHILD OF MINE

Edgar A. Guest

*I will lend you, for a little time,
A child of mine, He said.
For you to love the while he lives,
And mourn for when he's dead.
It may be six or seven years,
Or twenty-two or three.
But will you, till I call him back,
Take care of him for Me?
He'll bring his charms to gladden you,
And should his stay be brief.
You'll have his lovely memories,
As solace for your grief.
I cannot promise he will stay,
Since all from earth return.
But there are lessons taught down there,
I want this child to learn.
I've looked the wide world over,
In search for teachers true.*

*And from the throngs that crowd life's lanes,
I have selected you.
Now will you give him all your love,
Nor think the labour vain.
Nor hate me when I come
To take him home again?
I fancied that I heard them say,
'Dear Lord, Thy will be done!'
For all the joys Thy child shall bring,
The risk of grief we'll run.
We'll shelter him with tenderness,
We'll love him while we may,
And for the happiness we've known,
Forever grateful stay.
But should the angels call for him,
Much sooner than we've planned.
We'll brave the bitter grief that comes,
And try to understand.*

WHERE GREAT TREES FALL

Maya Angelou

*When great trees fall,
rocks on distant hills shudder,
lions hunker down in tall grasses,
and even elephants lumber after safety.
When great trees fall in forests,
small things recoil into silence,
their senses eroded beyond fear.
When great souls die,
the air around us becomes
light, rare, sterile.
We breathe, briefly.
Our eyes, briefly,
see with a hurtful clarity.
Our memory, suddenly
sharpened, examines,
gnaws on kind words unsaid,
promised walks never taken.
Great souls die and our reality,
bound to them, takes leave of us.*

*Our souls, dependent upon their
nurture, now shrink, wizened.
Our minds, formed and informed
by their radiance, fall away.
We are not so much maddened as
reduced to the unutterable ignorance
of dark, cold caves.
And when great souls die,
after a period peace blooms,
slowly and always irregularly.
Spaces fill with a kind of
soothing electric vibration.
Our senses, restored,
never to be the same,
whisper to us.
They existed. They existed.
We can be.
Be and be better.
For they existed.*

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