



LCpl. Austin James Ruiz

September 4, 1997 - January 13, 2017

LCpl. Austin James Ruiz, 19, a lifelong resident of Naples, FL died unexpectedly on Friday, January 13, 2017 as a result of an accident while conducting small arms live-fire training at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center in Twentynine Palms, CA. He was born September 4, 1997 in Corpus, TX the son of Nell and Sheara (Hamilton) Ruiz.

Austin attended Naples High School before joining the Marines at the age of 17, a dream he had since he was 8 years old. LCpl. Ruiz graduated from Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island and was currently stationed at Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler in Okinawa, Japan. He loved serving his country and the brotherhood of being a United States Marine. Austin was also an avid fisherman who also enjoyed playing paintball. Spending time with family and friends was very important to Austin and he lived to make the people around him happy.

Austin is survived by his parents, Nell and Sheara (Hamilton) Ruiz of Naples, FL; sister, April Ruiz of Naples, FL; niece, Alyana Leiva of Naples, FL; maternal grandfather, Donald Hamilton of AL; paternal grandmother, Amelia Ruiz of Corpus Christi, TX; fiancé, Lucil Parilla; aunts, Mary Ann (Joseph Hardin) Ruiz of Lehigh Acres, FL, April (Michael) Ulfing of Naples, FL; uncles, Jessie Govea of Corpus Christi, TX, Danny Govea of Corpus Christi, TX; and many loving cousins and friends. He was preceded in death by his maternal

grandmother, Pamela Hamilton.

A memorial service with full military honors will be held on Sunday, January 22, 2017 at 3:30 PM at Lover's Key State Park, 8700 Estero Blvd., Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931. A celebration of Austin's life will follow. For those who will be celebrating Austin's life at Lover's Key, please advise the ranger station as you enter the park. Alcohol is prohibited in the park and the family has asked that those in attendance respectfully comply with the rules and regulations of Lover's Key State Park.

Memorial contributions in Austin's name may be made to Operation Gratitude, P.O. Box 260257, Encino, CA 91426. The donations will help send care packages to services members that are deployed.

Arrangements are being handled by Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JAN 22. 3:30 PM (ET)

Lovers Key State Park
8700 Estero Blvd.
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931

Celebration of Life

JAN 22. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Lovers Key State Park
8700 Estero Blvd.
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931

Tribute Wall



“ *LCpl. Austin James Ruiz*

October 09, 2023 at 03:40 AM



“ *All of us at Operation Gratitude send our deepest condolences to the family of LCpl. Austin James Ruiz. He was a great American and a true patriot.
LCpl Ruiz will forever be in our hearts and prayers.*

Carolyn Blashek - February 01, 2017 at 08:36 PM



“ *I am so sorry for your loss. I remember Austin when he attended The Salvation Army Child care 14 years ago.
He was a special child, always happy and with a great big smile. I pray that God grants you the strength to get thru this difficult time.
God Bless you and your family, you will be in my prayers.*

*Maria Covarrubias
The Salvation Army Child Care*

Maria - January 23, 2017 at 02:41 PM



“ *I am a mother whose only son died while serving in the US Armed Forces, while words cannot express my sympathy to you, there is a saying that I hold in my heart...."Earth hath no sorrow that Heaven cannot heal", by John Muir. May God embrace you and your family during this time.*

Frank's mom - January 22, 2017 at 09:08 PM

LS

“ I am a Condo Owner of Fiddler's Creek where Mr. Ruiz works. I appreciate everything he does to make my life better here in Florida. I am so very sorry for your tremendous loss. I will send a donation to Operation Gratitude several times this year in memory of Austin Ruiz, and I will keep all of you in my prayers.

laura smith - January 21, 2017 at 08:59 PM

KS

“ Sheara and family, I am so saddened by your loss and words alone won't help you. Know that he is with God now and will beventually your family's personal guardian Angel. You are all in my thoughts and prayers.

Kippi Schank - January 21, 2017 at 11:53 AM

RJ

“ We are grandparents of a 19 year old Marine recruit in training at Twenty- nine palms, CA. We are so saddened to hear of your loss and can understand your grief. Our hearts go out to you, as well as our prayers. Knowing that Austin was doing what he loved and serving his country will always be a comfort to you. May God bless you and be your strength in all the days ahead.
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Jaeckel
Fort Myers, FL

Richard & Diane Jaeckel - January 20, 2017 at 10:03 PM

RI

“ Rich lit a candle in memory of LCpl. Austin James Ruiz



Rich - January 20, 2017 at 07:00 PM

BN

“ So very sorry for your loss , Austin was a sweet child and is now in God's hands taken too soon . One can never explain the loss of a child and I feel your pain . God has a plan for him maybe to Facebook the world on my computer who knows . Rip Austin James Ruiz and may your family find comfort one day .

Beth (old neighbor) Jeepers Dr . Naple - January 20, 2017 at 06:27 PM

RP

“ *Fair Winds and Following Seas Marine Lance Corporal Ruiz!*

Rest easy and peacefully knowing your job was well done and we are forever grateful for your sacrifices.

We are a nation, thankful, for men and women like you that hear a call of duty for their country and respond with a resounding yes.

"There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends" ~ John 15:13

May your family and friends feel the loving hands of God, and the compassion of all those whom understand their loss all around them.

Sincerely,

*Ramona Peters
Military Mom
Blue Star Mothers of America*

Ramona J Peters - January 19, 2017 at 01:19 PM