



Mr. Zechariah N. Nidiffer

August 11, 1995 - December 21, 2023

Zechariah Nicholus Nidiffer (affectionately known as Zech) was a loving and devoted husband, brother, son, and uncle who lived life to the fullest with hope and joy. Zechariah had an infectious laugh, an engaging personality, a passion for polite conversation, and a heart of compassion for others. He was larger than life with a “go big or go home” attitude. Zechariah was an avid sports enthusiast. He loved good football, a well-seasoned meal and was a die-hard UT Vol fan.

Born on August 11, 1995, in Elizabethton, Tennessee, to Karen Smith and Carl Nidiffer. At an early age, Zechariah gave his life to Christ and became a member of Phillippi Missionary Baptist Church. He was active in the Sunshine Band and Youth programs.

Zechariah attended Elizabethton City Schools. While enrolled at Elizabethton High School, Zechariah was a participant and lettered in Varsity Football. During his time as a linebacker at EHS, the football team won two conference championships and made appearances at state semi-final games.

After graduating from Elizabethton High School in 2013, he attended college at East Tennessee State University. Zechariah eventually realized he wanted a change of pace and enlisted in the United States Navy in January 2016. He attended and graduated from Recruit Training Command in Great Lakes,

Illinois, and began his career as a Logistics Specialist at Naval Station Norfolk in May of 2016.

After a year and a half of dating, Zechariah married the love of his life, Katlyn Doyle, on February 26, 2018. In July of that year, the newlyweds moved to Oahu, Hawaii, at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam for Zechariah's military career. While stationed there, Zechariah served through two deployments and the many nights spent underway. He furthered his military career and was promoted to the rank of Petty Officer Second Class in just a few short years. He was proud of his military service and deeply appreciative of the time spent and the lessons learned with his fellow sailors.

Zech and Katlyn received his cancer diagnosis in March of 2020. They moved to Columbia, South Carolina, and later, Charleston to be closer to family while he underwent cancer treatments, including radiation, surgery, physical therapy, chemotherapy, clinical trials, and other medical procedures. Over time, Katlyn became his ultimate and devoted caregiver. Her genuine love, heartfelt positivity, and deep empathy for him kept his fighting spirit aflame even when things looked bleak.

Zech was medically retired from the U.S. Navy in May of 2022. Not to be deterred, in the Fall of 2022, he completed his general education courses at Trident Community College. He had been accepted into the Industrial Distribution program at ETSU and was due to start in the spring of 2024. He and his wife had plans to buy a home and settle in the area while they both pursued their careers.

Zechariah passed on Thursday, December 21, 2023, after a four-year-long battle with cancer. He fought his cancer valiantly. He never complained and always looked ahead. His catchphrase was, "I'm living my best life." In spite of every challenge he faced, he continued to work on himself to become a better

husband, brother, and friend. He will be immensely missed.

Zechariah leaves to cherish his precious memories, a loving wife, Katlyn; a treasured pet, Neyland; a devoted sister and brother-in-law, Karlyssa and Danny; four adoring nephews, Houston, Winston, Anderson, and Jackson; his parents, Karen Smith and Carl Nidiffer; three sisters, Lisa, Teresa, and Alexis; two brothers, Danny (Teresa), and Lucas; beloved aunties, Lillian, Jan, and Shirley; many other aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews and a host of friends.

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 30. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Phillippi Baptist Church
200 Horace Leftwich Lane
Elizabethton, TN 37643

Celebration of Life

DEC 30. 2:00 PM (ET)

Phillippi Baptist Church
200 Horace Leftwich Lane
Elizabethton, TN 37643

Tribute Wall

MH

“ *Mark Hale lit a candle in memory of Mr. Zechariah N. Nidiffer*



Mark Hale - February 19, 2024 at 01:20 PM

AP

“ *So sorry for the loss of Zach. Sending prayers and hugs. May he rest in peace. Hope his great memories can help to bring some comfort at this sad time.*



Ann Pritchard - January 23, 2024 at 03:49 AM

ML

“ *Mary Latham lit a candle in memory of Mr. Zechariah N. Nidiffer*



Mary Latham - January 15, 2024 at 07:12 PM

BA

“ *Babby sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Zechariah N. Nidiffer*



Babby - January 11, 2024 at 10:17 PM

MD

“ *Melvin Drumgoole sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Zechariah N. Nidiffer*



Melvin Drumgoole - January 08, 2024 at 03:54 PM

MR

“ *Mary Rollins lit a candle in memory of Mr. Zechariah N. Nidiffer*



Mary Rollins - December 31, 2023 at 08:59 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mr. Zechariah N. Nidiffer.*



December 30, 2023 at 02:14 PM



“ *Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Zechariah N. Nidiffer.*



December 29, 2023 at 09:53 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. Zechariah N. Nidiffer.



December 29, 2023 at 08:19 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Zechariah N. Nidiffer.



December 29, 2023 at 05:16 PM



“ Danny, Teresa, Brittney and Chelsea planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Zechariah N. Nidiffer.

Danny, Teresa, Brittney and Chelsea - December 29, 2023 at 05:16 PM



“ Jaymon, Edna and Adeline



Jaymon Johnson - December 29, 2023 at 04:10 PM

SW

“ Steve And Susan Rhea Wagner lit a candle in memory of Mr. Zechariah N. Nidiffer



Steve And Susan Rhea Wagner - December 29, 2023 at 03:11 PM

RD

“ Royal, Charmaine, Taylor and Deuce purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Mr. Zechariah N. Nidiffer.



Royal, Charmaine, Taylor and Deuce - December 29, 2023 at 02:21 PM

RD

“ Royal, Charmaine, Taylor and Deuce planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Zechariah N. Nidiffer.

Royal, Charmaine, Taylor and Deuce - December 29, 2023 at 02:21 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. Zechariah N. Nidiffer.



December 29, 2023 at 10:29 AM



“ Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Zechariah N. Nidiffer.



December 28, 2023 at 01:46 PM



“ MeLinda and Candice Templeton planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Zechariah N. Nidiffer.

MeLinda and Candice Templeton - December 28, 2023 at 01:46 PM



“ Sending my Condolences to you and your family.
Karen I Love You...I'm here if you need me. Love Rita

Rita Benjamin - December 28, 2023 at 12:39 PM



“ Vangeline Rollins sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Zechariah N. Nidiffer



Vangeline Rollins - December 28, 2023 at 12:11 PM

JT

“ Prayers for his family 🙏🙏 He was a nice young man. Janice Thurman



Janice Thurman - December 28, 2023 at 12:11 PM

JH

“ Joseph And Diane Hardin lit a candle in memory of Mr. Zechariah N. Nidiffer



Joseph and Diane Hardin - December 28, 2023 at 10:42 AM

MB

“ Michael Buck lit a candle in memory of Mr. Zechariah N. Nidiffer



Michael Buck - December 28, 2023 at 10:01 AM

VN

“ Veral Neal lit a candle in memory of Mr. Zechariah N. Nidiffer



Veral Neal - December 28, 2023 at 08:58 AM

CB

“ Carol Bradley lit a candle in memory of Mr. Zechariah N. Nidiffer



Carol Bradley - December 28, 2023 at 08:55 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mr. Zechariah N. Nidiffer.



December 28, 2023 at 03:24 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. Zechariah N. Nidiffer.



December 27, 2023 at 10:07 PM

WS

“ William And Judy (Bradley) Stover lit a candle in memory of Mr. Zechariah N. Nidiffer



William and Judy (Bradley) Stover - December 27, 2023 at 08:36 PM

JG

“ Zech was such a wonderful guy to grow up knowing. Anytime I ran into him on my visits back home he was always so kind like time never passed. My prayers go out to his wife and family ❤️

Jessica Goad - December 27, 2023 at 08:00 PM

JG

“ Jessica G. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Zechariah N. Nidiffer.

Jessica G. - December 27, 2023 at 07:55 PM

AE

“ It was a pleasure watching him grow into the young man he was. I also met him at Philippi Missionary Baptist Church you will me truly missed. RIP



Angela Estell - December 27, 2023 at 06:16 PM

LB

“ Lynn & Rayetta Bachman lit a candle in memory of Mr. Zechariah N. Nidiffer



Lynn & Rayetta Bachman - December 27, 2023 at 04:40 PM

VP

“ *Viola Ruth Patton sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Zechariah N. Nidiffer*



Viola Ruth Patton - December 27, 2023 at 04:33 PM

GS

“ *We had the pleasure of teaching Zech in Sunshine Band. He was always interested in the Word of GOD and how to become a vessel for him. He was passionate about JESUS. Yes, he was a typical young boy who could be mischievous at times but mostly he demonstrated a thirst for the LORD. We are thankful for the many rides together on the church van. May GOD comfort you all as you grieve the loss of this young man*
Love in CHRIST ,
Ron & Gwen Smith



Gwendolyn Smith - December 27, 2023 at 02:08 PM