

Drew Measels

June 2, 1969 ~ May 2, 2022

Drew Thanh Measels was born June 2, 1969, in Fort Benning, Georgia. Following in his father's footsteps, in 1989, he enlisted in the military out of college. He was stationed at Dugway Proving Grounds where he met his future wife, Kristi. A true love match, they were married over 30 years, each other's biggest supporters (never more exemplified than in the past few months when Kristi rarely left his side), and the parents of two very loved children, Haley and Max, who were the lights of Drew's life.

Drew and Kristi explored the world early in their marriage through Drew's various PCS orders, including a memorable stint in Vicenza, Italy while Drew was serving with the elite, eagle-eyed ``Recon Platoon,'' 3rd Airborne Battalion, 325th Infantry Regiment. Drew took great pride in being a special forces Ranger ("Hooah!"), a sniper, and in jumping out of airplanes like it was second nature. Among his many accolades as an infantryman, Drew earned the NATO medal, Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Master Parachutist Badge, and overseas jump wings.

Drew joined the Salt Lake City police force as a Gang/SWAT detective in 1999. Over the next 25 years, some of the positions he held were narcotics detective, detective sergeant background investigations, patrol sergeant, and audit sergeant. He became a Lieutenant Watch Commander in August of 2021 upon returning from another tour in the Middle East with the National Guard. Yes, Drew was also a decade plus veteran of the National Guard.

Drew loved balancing his police work with his military life, acquiring dozens upon dozens of beloved "brothers" along the way. His quick wit, loyalty, authenticity, thoughtfulness, and charm attracted others to him in a way that created lifelong friendships. His ability to tell compelling stories and make you part of them will be remembered by all.

Drew was a fighter. He was diagnosed with an "incurable" form of cancer earlier this year, only to be given a cancer-free diagnosis weeks ago. Unfortunately, an incredibly aggressive form of interstitial lung disease attacked while Drew was fighting cancer. He passed away on Monday, May 2. He did not want to be remembered with sadness; in fact, he wanted Kristi to throw anyone out who came in tears. Please think of him with a smile, and have a beer, a whiskey, or a cigar in his honor.

Drew is survived by his wife and daughter; his mother, Kim Lam Phan Measels; father- and mother-in-law George and Karen Bruce; brothers-in-law Steve (Laura) and Scott (Joy) Bruce; sister-in-law Heidi Bruce; and nieces and nephews Elizabeth (Fleming), Emily, Heidi, Molly, Isaac, and Hanna (Bruce). He is also survived by countless

chosen family members: his friends and brothers whom he loved fondly.

He was preceded in death by his father, David; brothers, David and Robert; and son, Max. One of Drew's recurring dreams was that he was playing catch with Max while their dog, Roxy, ran between them. We hope this reunion is as happy as it made him in life. Drew will be dearly missed.

Family and friends will gather on Monday, May 9 between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., with brief remarks at 12:30 p.m., at Larkin Mortuary – Riverton, 3688 West and 12600 South. Graveside Services will continue at 2 p.m. at Veterans Memorial Cemetery at 17111 South Camp Williams Road in Bluffdale, Utah.

In lieu of flowers, Drew requested that donations be made to the Huntsman Cancer Institute, or USSOCOM Warrior Care Program.