

SGT Collin Bryce Wood

September 19, 1986 ~ January 10, 2025

Collin Bryce Wood was born on September 19, 1986 at Alta View Hospital in Sandy, Utah to Gordon Keith and Nancy Ann (Birchell) Wood. The family lived in Sandy, Utah, until Collin was two years old when they moved to Kearns, Utah. He attended Thomas S. Bacchus Elementary School, Thomas Jefferson Junior High, and Kearns High School. Collin acquired an interest in aviation at an early age. In 1998, at the age of twelve, he joined the Civil Air Patrol, a civilian auxiliary of the United States Air Force. While in high school, he was also a member of the Army Junior ROTC. Collin enlisted in the United States Navy in the Delayed Entry Program and, having earned enough credits, graduated from Kearns High School a semester early. He left for basic training in Great Lakes, Illinois, in January 2005. After graduation from basic training, he went to Pensacola, FL, for further training as a Navy Ordinance man, and then he went on to NAS Lemoore for training on the F/A-18 Hornet. He was then assigned to VFA-195 Dambusters based at NAF Atsugi, Japan. VFA-195 is part of forward deployed Carrier Air Wing 5; at the time Collin joined the squadron, CVW-5 was part of the USS Kitty Hawk CV-63 strike group. He applied for admission to the United States Naval Academy and was accepted in 2007. Collin went to the Naval Academy Prep School in Newport, Rhode Island, before going to Annapolis, Maryland, to the United States Naval Academy. After two years at the Naval Academy, Collin decided to serve a mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

In 2010, Collin entered the Missionary Training Center in Provo, Utah. He served in the France/ Paris mission which included Namur, Belgium. He returned from his mission in 2012 and reentered the Naval Academy, where he graduated with a bachelor’s degree in history. He married Megan Marler in the Washington DC Temple the day after graduation from the USNA and later divorced. After graduation, Ensign Collin Wood served on board the USS Forest Sherman DDG-98, where he was promoted to Lieutenant JG, earned the Surface Warfare Supply Officer pin, and was awarded a Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medal of 1st Tour Division Officer. Collin was assigned to the United States Navy Fleet Logistics Center in Bahrain where he was promoted to Lieutenant and recognized for excellence of leadership. He resigned from his commission in the Navy in 2019 and returned to the United States, settling in Florida, where he began to pursue flight training to become a commercial pilot. He was a multi-engine rated commercial pilot nearing completion of his instructor pilot rating.

In 2020, Collin joined the National Guard 3rd Battalion, 20th Special Forces Group (Airborne) as an Intelligence Analyst. He felt this was his calling to offer more opportunities to deploy and have an impact across the globe. He achieved this while deployed to Niger as part of the Advanced Operation Base Sahel. He was responsible for giving daily intelligence briefings. His mastery of French and self-taught fluency in Arabic proved vital to communicating with partner forces, drastically improving interoperability between French and Nigerian forces. Throughout his deployment, he volunteered to provide desperately needed assistance to orphans. He most recently graduated the

Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Specialist Course as an honor graduate.

Collin was a devout member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. He looked for opportunities to serve others and took advantage of those opportunities.

Collin is survived by his parents and two sisters, Nicholette Dawn Lambert and Eryn Virginia Hunt.

Funeral services will be held at Noon on Friday, January 31, 2025 at the Utah Veterans Cemetery and Memorial Park Chapel located 17111 South Redwood Road in Bluffdale, Utah. A viewing will take place 6 to 8 PM the evening of Thursday, January 30, 2025 at Larkin Mortuary - Riverton located 3688 West 12600 South in Riverton, Utah as well as Friday prior to services at the Cemetery Chapel beginning at 11 AM. Interment will follow with Military Funeral Honors in the Utah Veterans Cemetery and Memorial Park.

Funeral services will be streamed via Zoom for those wishing to attend virtually. To watch the previously held services, please click the "Watch Services" link above.