



# Zachary Clayton Merrill

March 26, 1980 - August 20, 2023

Zachary "Zac" Clayton Merrill, 43 years old, died unexpectedly in Battle Ground, Washington, on Saturday, August 19, 2023.

He was born on March 26, 1980, in Loma Linda, California, and moved with his family to Portland, Oregon, in 1990.

On an ROTC scholarship, Zac graduated with a bachelor's degree in political science from Oregon State University in May 2003. Upon graduation, he was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army and went on to serve as a Captain in the 82nd Airborne for just under 10 years. On his first tour to Afghanistan, he was a logistics officer. After returning he completed his training and led an Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) company during his last deployment in Afghanistan. He was honorably discharged in August 2013 after receiving numerous commendations, including the Bronze Star. He was deeply committed to his fellow soldiers.

He joined the Vancouver Police Department (VPD) as a patrolman in March 2015. In 2019, Zac was selected for the Crisis Negotiation Team and became team leader and Corporal in April 2021. During the eight years he was consistently acknowledged for his service and sought opportunities to expand his impact.

Zac is survived by his wife of 7 years, Ashley Christine Merrill, his "person", of Battleground, WA. He was a beloved son to his parents Dewey and CJ Merrill, of Kyle, TX. He was a loving brother and friend to Nathanael and his wife Jacque Merrill of Dripping Springs, TX, and Jamison and his wife Kate Merrill

of Chicago, IL. Zac took great pride in his role as Uncle to his nephews and nieces, York and Elsa Merrill of Dripping Springs, TX and Rosina and Jozi Merrill of Chicago IL. He had a strong bond with his grandfather and Korean War veteran, Stanley Merrill, of Pico Rivera, CA.

When Zac was not tirelessly working for the VPD, he loved going on adventures with his wife, spending time with his family and friends, and cheering on his Beavers. Ultimately, Zac was most fulfilled when serving his community and country.

# Tribute Wall

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“ *We are deeply sorry for your loss ~ Evergreen Memorial Gardens Cemetery, Funeral Chapel and Crematory*

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**A Memorial Tree was planted for Zachary Clayton Merrill - September 07, 2023 at 12:00 AM**