

Sgt Nicholas Flowers was born on August 8, 1985. He weighed only 3 pounds and was born 3 months early. His lungs weren't developed so he was rushed to All Children's hospital. He spent 2 months in the NICU unit with chest tubes and was hooked up to every machine possible. His mother, Tiphane Downs never left his side. The day he came home, premature clothes didn't even fit, so a special friend made actual doll clothes for him. I was so excited when he actually fit into preemie clothes. He needed special formula that actually cost \$30 a can. Thank goodness he finally caught up.

Nick was able to start kindergarten on time, but at nap time his teacher was never able to wake him up so he was able to sleep the entire afternoon.

Nick went to Palm Harbor Middle School and made class President. We were so proud of his campaign. Nick loved sports, playing Army, manhunt, playing drums and of course girls. He was a phenomenal football player and baseball player.

He attended Palm Harbor University High School and graduated in 2003. During his time in high school he got very interested in the drama program. He actually got the lead in a lot of plays. Nick was hysterical in so many plays, and he had a ton of friends.

Nick started with the recruiters in his junior year in high school, getting ready to deploy after his senior year. He deployed right after high school reporting to Fort Jackson. It was not a surprise Nick graduated at the top of his class. After that he left for AIT school at Fort Huachuca in Arizona for his specialty training.

Nick served in Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan. The worst part was never knowing where he was or what he was doing.

On one of his leaves, Nick coached the Palm Harbor University High School Lacrosse team. His younger brother and all his friends were on that team. Nick was not only an awesome coach but someone the guys could go to him if they had a problem. The team had an awesome season.

Nick was killed coming home April 5th, 2018. His team broke for a meeting and Nick left for lunch and stepped off the curb and was hit and killed instantly.

I, along with my family, do everything possible to keep Nick's memory alive.