



Sergeant Jacob Eliot Stafford

October 25, 1990 - February 7, 2026

Sergeant First Class Jacob Eliot Stafford, born October 25, 1990, in Erie, PA, honorably served his country with courage, strength, and unwavering dedication. A proud United States Army Green Beret, Jacob devoted nearly ten years of his life to military service, reaching this milestone in February. His commitment to protecting others and serving his nation reflected the very best of what it means to wear the uniform.

He began his life of service as a Junior Firefighter with the West Ridge Volunteer Fire Department. After graduating high school, he followed his calling to Charleston, becoming a firefighter with the City of Charleston Fire Department. In 2016, he made the selfless decision to leave the fire service to serve his Nation, carrying with him the same bravery and commitment that defined his life.

He was known for his big, bright, beautiful smile and a personality that could light up any room. He found joy in fishing, and while living in Florida, he developed a passion for spearfishing. Never one to shy away from adventure, he also embraced skydiving.

An entrepreneur at heart, he co-founded Piece of Work in 2014, channeling his drive and leadership into building something meaningful. That same year, he pursued his passion for fitness through CrossFit, earning his CrossFit

Level 1 Certificate—Forging Elite Fitness—and achieving his goal of becoming a CrossFit trainer. During his free time, he loved spending time with his loyal dog, Banks.

Jacob was known for his bravery, discipline, and quiet strength. As a Green Beret, he exemplified honor, sacrifice, and leadership. He carried himself with humility while accomplishing extraordinary things, earning the deep respect of his fellow soldiers and all who knew him.

Beyond his military achievements, Jacob was a devoted son, brother, uncle, and friend. He is survived by his father, Herbert Stafford II; his mother, Ms. Nanette Stafford; her partner, Matthew D. Laughlin; his brother, Herbert Stafford III and wife Sarah; and his beloved nephew and niece, Herbert Stafford IV and Elliott Stafford. His love for his family was steadfast, and he took great pride in watching his nephew and niece grow.

Jacob's legacy is one of service, courage, loyalty, and love. He leaves behind a family who adored him, brothers-in-arms who respected him, and a nation grateful for his sacrifice. His memory will forever live on in the hearts of those who knew and loved him.

A visitation of family and friends will be held on Friday, February 20, 2026, from 5:00pm until 8:00pm at James A. Dyal Funeral Home, 303 S. Main Street, Summerville, SC 29483. A second visitation will be held on Saturday, February 21, 2026, from 11:00am until 1:00pm at Faith Church Summerville, 337 Farmington Road, Summerville, SC 29486. The funeral service will begin at 1:00pm in the Church.

To watch Sgt. First Class services live please click the following link. <https://control.resi.io/webplayer/video.html?id=15bc5836-5f84-4470-ab85-2a726d36920d>

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **20**. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

James A. Dyal Funeral Home
303 S. Main Street
Summerville, SC 29483
(843) 873-4040
<https://www.jamesadyal.com>

Visitation

FEB **21**. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Faith Church
337 Farmington Road
Summerville, SC 29486
<http://faithishere.org>

Funeral Service

FEB **21**. 1:00 PM (ET)

Faith Church
337 Farmington Road
Summerville, SC 29486
<http://faithishere.org>

Tribute Wall

JS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Jessie (Love) Schreiber - March 06 at 09:51 AM

NS

Jesse, thank you for this!

Nanette S Stafford - March 08 at 09:40 AM



“ A grove of 5 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Sergeant Jacob Eliot Stafford.

February 20 at 07:17 AM

RC

“ Russ and Tammie Carstensen purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Sergeant Jacob Eliot Stafford.



Russ and Tammie Carstensen - February 20 at 05:17 AM

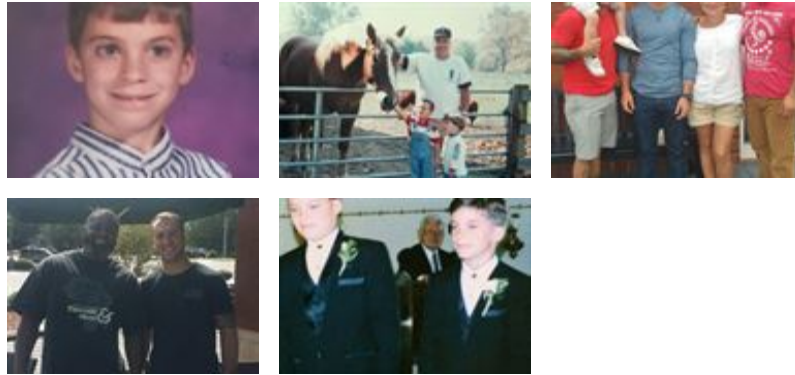
RC

“ Russ and Tammie Carstensen planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Sergeant Jacob Eliot Stafford.

Russ and Tammie Carstensen - February 20 at 05:17 AM



“ 548 files added to the album LifeTributes



James A Dyal Funeral Home - February 19 at 06:41 PM

CS

“ CFD E114, B104 + Aide A Shift purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Sergeant Jacob Eliot Stafford.



CFD E114, B104 + Aide A Shift - February 19 at 04:31 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Sergeant Jacob Eliot Stafford.*



February 19 at 04:28 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Sergeant Jacob Eliot Stafford.

February 19 at 04:28 PM



“ *Rest in Peace, Jake. You will forever be missed. Thank you for your service to our Country. You always set a high standard and uplifted others with your energy. You made a difference in the lives of others. Rest easy brother. 🙏*

David Griffin - February 17 at 10:18 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Sergeant Jacob Eliot Stafford.*



February 17 at 12:07 PM

LF

“ Love, your West OR family purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of Sergeant Jacob Eliot Stafford.



Love, your West OR family - February 17 at 10:37 AM

LF

“ Love, your West OR family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Sergeant Jacob Eliot Stafford.

Love, your West OR family - February 17 at 10:37 AM

RB

“ Rachel B. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Sergeant Jacob Eliot Stafford.

Rachel B. - February 17 at 07:58 AM

AN

“ He truly was an amazing leader and looked out for those below him, a selfless man and true hero.

anonymous - February 17 at 03:22 AM

PH

“ A lot of great memories with Jake from fires , pivotal & around Summerville doing some kinda of shenanigans with all the other Erie natives. I always told Jake he looked like a part time Abercrombie model bc he loved a medium shirt fresh out of a high heat dryer! He was a great servicemen, firemen & even better friend. Thoughts & prayers to Herb & fam. Anyone reading this raise a toast to Jake to celebrate his life. Cheers & love ! -P. Hinson

Patrick Hinson - February 16 at 08:53 PM

DB

“ Nina, I am so sorry for your loss. God bless and watch over you. May he RIP.

Denise Boyles - February 16 at 02:39 PM

KS

“ Karin S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Sergeant Jacob Eliot Stafford.

Karin S. - February 16 at 10:03 AM

KF

“ Kyndall & Your Health West Family purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Sergeant Jacob Eliot Stafford.



Kyndall & Your Health West Family - February 15 at 08:03 AM

KF

“ *Kyndall & Your Health West Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Sergeant Jacob Eliot Stafford.*

Kyndall & Your Health West Family - February 15 at 08:03 AM

PG

“ *Pfc Brian Garcia purchased the Peaceful White Lies Basket for the family of Sergeant Jacob Eliot Stafford.*



Pfc Brian Garcia - February 14 at 01:28 AM

PG

“ *Pfc Brian Garcia planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Sergeant Jacob Eliot Stafford.*

Pfc Brian Garcia - February 14 at 01:28 AM

AN

“ *Jacob was an honest and genuine human. He felt and experienced the depth of the human experience. To know him was an honor* □

anonymous - February 13 at 10:12 PM

LC

“ *Thank you for your service Jacob. I'll never forget you and Herbie riding your bikes down our cul de sac and you running into the garage at the end and ending up with a bloody nose. God Bless you. Rest in paradise*

Linda and Jim Caputo - February 12 at 11:02 PM