



# Jonathan Robert Farmer

April 27, 1981 - January 16, 2019

## JONATHAN R. FARMER (1981- 2019)

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jonathan Farmer was killed in action in Syria on January 16, 2019. A witness to war and violence in Iraq, Afghanistan and Syria on multiple deployments, he ached for the people suffering, especially the children. Jon was determined to do everything in his power to bring them some measure of peace and to relieve their suffering. It is nearly impossible to sum up the life of this great man in mere words. He held no grudges, finding good men and women among every nation, race and religion. He had also witnessed evil and the hatred it generated. He would try to rid the world of it to the extent he was able.

Jon was a Great husband, father, son, brother, friend and soldier. He died for his country but he lived for his beloved wife and children, his family and friends and he served his God. Jon attended Laconia High School in Laconia, New Hampshire for two years and then graduated in 1999 from the Benjamin School in North Palm Beach, Florida. He graduated from Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine. He would sometimes say that he carried little pieces of each state with him. He was a fine athlete, playing basketball and baseball in high school and was a Captain of the Bowdoin Basketball Team in his senior year in college.

Jon joined the Army in 2005 and enrolled in a rigorous two-year X-Ray course to become a Green Beret. He learned to speak Arabic during that time and worked constantly to master his profession. He was proud to be a Green Beret. He never ceased to marvel at the courage and dedication of so many in the military. He advanced to Assistant Detachment Commander in his unit and saw leadership as responsibility more than privilege. He especially appreciated Kipling's "If" and its lines "If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue, walk with kings-nor lose the common touch."

Jon grew up increasingly striving for good character and virtue. He deeply, fiercely and gently loved his wife Tabitha and his four children. He rarely passed up a chance to bring

them to Disneyworld just to see the smiles on their faces. He had a special bond with his three brothers, Lt. Col. Matt Farmer, State Department Officer Peter Farmer and writer Andrew Farmer. He loved and stayed close to his mother (Jo Beth) and father (Duncan). He lived life to the fullest, knowing that his job entailed great risk at times, but never letting fear dissuade him from his work and responsibility.

Jon treasured his friends and made extraordinary efforts to maintain contact with them. He mentored and helped younger soldiers as he had in turn learned from his own mentors. On more than one occasion he would invite lonely soldiers to join his family during the holidays. The human cost of his loss is in many ways inestimable. If he could talk to us now, he would probably reassure us by echoing the words of Mary Frye: "Do not stand at my grave and weep, I am not there, I do not sleep.... I am the swift uplifting rush of quiet birds in circled flight. I am the soft stars that shine at night."

Jon believed in Heaven. If we could have an advocate with God to steer our own path home, we could do no better than Jon. He would want us to join him, every one of us. And if we do, we would then begin to understand Paul's question to the Corinthians: "Death, where is thy sting? Oh Grave, where is thy victory?" Mourn Jon's death, but celebrate his life. Remember Jonathan Farmer.

Mass of the Christian Burial will be celebrated for Jon at St. Patrick's Church, 13591 Prosperity Farms Road, Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410 on February 18, 2019 at 10:30 a.m. Instead of gifts of flowers, anyone able and willing to donate to Jon's children's welfare can make payments to the Jonathan R. Farmer Family Care Trust c/o McDonald Hopkins LLC, 505 S. Flager Drive, Suite 300, West Palm Beach, FL 33401. Online condolences may be offered at [www.taylorandmodeen.com](http://www.taylorandmodeen.com)

# Cemetery

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# Events

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**Arlington National  
Cemetery**

Arlington, VA,

**FEB 18 Funeral Mass**

10:30AM

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St. Patrick Catholic Church

13591 Prosperity Farms Road, Palm Beach Gardens, FL,  
US, 33410

# Comments

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“ Dawn C Olivas lit a candle in memory of Jonathan Robert Farmer



Dawn C Olivas - February 21, 2019 at 12:12 AM

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“ I love and thank you, precious family, for Jonathan, and for your sacrifice. I pray we will all meet one day. What you wrote about Jonathan has truly inspired me. I sent a gift for the children to the address you gave. I am grieving with you, and leaning on the Lord for comfort and peace in our hearts. I am very sorry. What a great man! Like you said, one of the very best! Deepest Gratitude!

Dawn C Olivas - February 21, 2019 at 12:11 AM

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“ Our family offers our sincere condolences to Jonathan's wife, Tabitha, their four children, their parents and their family and friends. He was truly one of our country's, and military's, best and we are forever grateful for his service and sacrifice for our country.

Gordon & Nancy Archer

Gordon & Nancy Archer - February 19, 2019 at 01:01 PM

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“ We are praying for healing for your family. Reading about Jonathan's life, his love of god , family and country, his abition, kindness and bravery is an inspiration. The world needs more Jonathan's.

Your neighbors,  
Jeff and Mary Sadler

Mary A Sadler - February 18, 2019 at 11:23 AM

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“ Joyce sent a virtual gift in memory of Jonathan Robert Farmer



joyce - February 16, 2019 at 06:58 PM

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“ Nancy lit a candle in memory of Jonathan Robert Farmer



nancy - February 16, 2019 at 06:55 PM

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“ Our deepest sympathies to Jonathan’s family and friends. We love you all. Jonathan we will miss you and we’re blessed to have you be a part of our lives. Offering up this Irish blessing in my daily Rosary for you Jon....  
May the blessing of the rain be on you—  
the soft sweet rain.  
May it fall upon your spirit  
so that all the little flowers may spring up,  
and shed their sweetness on the air.  
May the blessing of the great rains be on you,  
may they beat upon your spirit  
and wash it fair and clean,  
and leave there many a shining pool  
where the blue of heaven shines,  
and sometimes a star.  
May the good earth be soft under you  
when you rest upon it,  
and may it rest easy over you when,  
at the last, you lay out under it,  
And may it rest so lightly over you  
that your soul may be out  
from under it quickly,  
and up, and off,  
And be on its way to God.

**Karen and Joel Fisher** - February 16, 2019 at 09:39 AM

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“ From an ancient Celtic proverb: “EVERY HAIR ON JONATHAN’S HEAD TURNED INTO A CANDLE TO LIGHT HIS WAY TO HEAVEN”.

Michael and Patricia Carpin  
Palm Beach Gardens, Florida

**Patricia and Michael Carpin** - February 15, 2019 at 10:13 AM