



## Richard "Brian" Wolnewitz

February 16, 1978 - August 16, 2022

Captain Richard "Brian" Wolnewitz, 44, passed away on Tuesday, August 16, 2022 following a courageous two and a half year battle with lung cancer. Shortly after he was born on February 16, 1978 in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, Brian and his family relocated back to Palm Beach Gardens, Florida. Brian was recruited from Sun Coast High School to play football at Guilford College in Greensboro, North Carolina. It was there that Brian realized his true passion for helping others would be best utilized in a career as a firefighter and paramedic. Brian graduated from Florida State Fire College in March 2001 and immediately began his career at the City of Palm Beach Gardens Fire Rescue. Brian served his community for over 20 years working tirelessly to achieve the ranks of Fire Medic, Lieutenant and Captain. It was as a part of this brotherhood that Brian came to know numerous friends and colleagues whose love and support have remained steadfast through his most recent health challenges.

Despite meeting his one true love in elementary school, it wasn't until October 12, 2013 that he married Julie Ann Wark Wolnewitz. Together, they have raised a beautiful family that includes his daughter Emma (19), and their twins Presley and Cooper (6) and Harper (3). In 2018, Brian and Julie found their forever home in Jupiter where Brian was frequently found working in the yard and in his garage, playing in the pool with the kids and proudly grilling up his favorite meats on his Green Egg. He followed in his father's footsteps and was

a dedicated and diehard Alabama Football Fan trying hard to never miss a game during the season.

When diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer on January 2, 2020, being the selfless man that he was, Brian made his top priorities clear. First, was to get better and beat cancer. Second, was to raise awareness about the countless risks firefighters face everyday while in the line of duty, including the inherent risks associated with inhalation and absorption of toxins. Third, was to raise funds so that other firefighters in his same situation would have the resources available to them to fight their battles. Brian's efforts have helped raise thousands of dollars for Firefighters to the Rescue, an organization that helps families of firefighters, law enforcement, EMS providers and others during times of need. Following his diagnosis, Brian has undergone numerous medical treatments under the direction of Dr. Ben Creelan at the Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa, FL. He also participated in and contributed to several life changing cancer research trials at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, TX and the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center in Seattle, WA. Brian's hopes are that one day his participation in these trials will help change the lives of others with the development of life saving treatments for his specific, and very rare, type of cancer.

Preceded in death by his father, Richard Wolnewitz, Brian is survived by his mother, Christy (French) Wolnewitz, his faithful and loving wife of 9 years, Julie (Wark) and their four beautiful children, Emma, Presley, Cooper and Harper, his siblings, Jennifer (Chris) Carnes and Cory (Paige) Wolnewitz, and nieces and nephews, Christopher, Kayla, Jack, Austin and Logan.

Arrangements are being handled by Taylor & Modeen Funeral Home, Jupiter, FL. Visitation will be held on Thursday, August 25, 2022 from 4:00-7:00pm at Faith Lutheran Church, 555 US Highway 1, North Palm Beach, FL. A funeral service will take place at 1:00pm on Friday, August 26, 2022 at Christ

Fellowship Church, located at 5343 Northlake Blvd., Palm Beach Gardens, FL. Additionally, the funeral service will be available to livestream online on Friday by visiting <https://www.funerals.online.church>.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial contributions to the following:

- A GoFundMe account has been created for the Wolnewitz Family- <https://gofund.me/8ca8b65f>
- Moffitt Cancer Center; Tampa, Florida- Donations can be made in honor of Brian Wolnewitz by mailing a check to Moffitt Cancer Center Foundation, MBC-FOUND, 12902 Magnolia Drive, Tampa, FL 33612; online at [Moffitt.org/Donate](https://Moffitt.org/Donate); or by calling 1-800-456-3434 ext. 1403. Please include: Honoree/memorial name; name of family member(s) to be notified; address of family member(s) to be notified when gifts are made; and designation if you would like to have all gifts made in their name be directed to a specific program area.
- Firefighters to the Rescue- <https://www.firefighterstotherescue.com/>

Brian will forever be remembered as a loyal and dedicated husband and father and an exceptional leader within the Fire Service training countless others in their careers as firefighters and paramedics. Those who knew Brian will also remember his uncanny ability to tell a story (and there were many) and make you feel as if you were inside the story alongside Brian while it was actually taking place. Brian's soft-spoken and gentle tone commanded an audience and everyone who had the pleasure of meeting Brian will agree that he was smart as a whip, loyal, kind, selfless, courageous and truly one of kind. He will be missed dearly by his family, many friends and colleagues. Roll Tide, Roll Captain Wolnewitz; we'll see you on the top floor.

“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.” – John 15:13

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG **25**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Faith Lutheran Church  
555 US-1  
North Palm Beach, FL 33408

## Funeral Service

AUG **26**. 1:00 PM (ET)

Christ Fellowship  
5343 Northlake Blvd.  
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410

# Tribute Wall



“ *Richard "Brian" Wolnewitz*

October 22, 2023 at 10:17 AM



“ *I am said to hear of Brian's passing . I was a fire explorer with him at station 61 , 62 & 63 . I will never forget is calm time of voice no matter what was going on. His loyalty and his love for family and his fire rescue family. His compassion and his determination were never ending. I will never forget the determination that he taught me years ago. My prayers are with his family and his fire rescue family. And I know that has love for others will Levon through both his children and his fire rescue family. Rest in peace you will never be forgotten*

**Caleb** - August 25, 2022 at 06:48 PM



“ *I Unfortunately only got to know Brian in passing. Whether in training or on mutual aide calls. What I did gather in those short moments were that he was a dedicated firefighter and a loving, passionate, and good hearted man. Im sad to lose a brother in service. From speaking to his friends and coworkers it is apparent that they were all blessed to have him in their lives. He spent his life serving the public and know he will be serving God in Heaven. You will be missed Brother.*

*Capt. Stone  
NPBFR  
B Shift*

**Capt. Stone** - August 25, 2022 at 07:48 AM

MW

“ I have known the family since I moved to Florida in 1979. I actually met them at the Cabana Colony pool. It was always a pleasure to see them around town ., Brian use to sail in the sailing camp with my children ,he was always a pleasant and nice young man. His struggle with cancer broke my heart and the hearts of all that knew him. He has a beautiful family and will be missed by many. May you RIP

Margie West - August 21, 2022 at 07:56 AM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Richard "Brian" Wolnewitz.



August 19, 2022 at 11:03 AM

KH

“ I am Brian 's aunt. He was always a kind and caring child with a mischievous twinkle in his eye. He was always loving, concerned about how you were feeling. His love for julie and his children wa evident in the way he looked at them and cared for them. He maintained his sense of humor to the end. Joking with everyone he saw. We will miss him dearly. Kathy hillier

Kathleen Hillier - August 18, 2022 at 08:41 PM

GR

*I am a dear friend of Brian and the mother of his first wife katrin Rott/Gorman  
I am Emma's grandma  
My husband and I were very fond of him until the end  
We always kept in contact wth him loved talking to him with all his humor he had  
We know his wife Julie and his kids there are soo precious  
Brian always had a helping hand and mad sure we where all ok  
My father had to go in his fire  
track and sit right next to himu with Emma  
We have wonderful picture  
Julie and the children became-a wonderful family for him  
Julie had so much strength for him and where always right next to him  
she is a special person and wife and mother  
I could say so many good things about him  
My heart is bleeding now and I will miss him a lot  
I hope god will take good care of him  
With his Engel I prayed for all the time  
Love you Brian you will stay in our heart  
Trough all the clouds in the sky 🙌 wave at us  
Your gabriele Rott*

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**Gabriele Rott** - August 19, 2022 at 06:33 PM