

From Dad:

Jan and I are very proud of our son, Justin James Watts and the man he was becoming. He was our buddy, our pride & joy. Our hearts feel so hollow at this point thinking of all the things he will never accomplish. He spoke of becoming a police officer, perhaps on a SWAT team, he had plans to buy a house, go to college, and **so** many other things. He reminded us of the parallels between **our** relationship and his with Nicole. He believed that they would be together forever.

Justin didn't feel ready to attend college right out of high school, so he joined the Marine Corps and served to maintain American safety and freedom. The maturity that we saw in him after boot camp, then after his first deployment to Iraq was amazing. He seemed ready to plan so much more of his future and start realizing some of his dreams. He spoke of buying a house for the investment instead of wasting money on rent.

In his short time on earth, Justin touched so many people. That is evident in all the cards, phone calls, e-mails, flowers and other gifts. People stop by to remind us of our "goofy" little boy and the antics that he & his friends got up to. They remind us of the happy times **and** differences that they or their children have shared with Justin. We are reminded of the weekend treks to neighboring states for sports tournaments, or just watching local practices and games, of his fear of heights, which he got rid of in boot camp; of his intelligence, his caring nature, and of his many, many friends. No matter what else they remember, they always remember his big, genuine smile and those dimples of his. He definitely made an impression on people, and this fills our hearts with pride and delight. We are even hearing condolences from people across the nation that we have never met, to share their pride in his service to our country.

We will always wonder what additional great things he would have done with his life. We are so glad that he will be resting eternally in his home town, surrounded by people who have loved him. We are going to miss him very deeply and love him forever.