



## Sgt. Bruce Alan Whittaker

August 12, 1967 - April 14, 2020

Sgt. Bruce Alan Whittaker, age 52, died April 14, 2020 following a lengthy illness. Bruce was born August 12, 1967 in Youngstown, Ohio to Robert and Joyce Whittaker. The family moved to Worthington Hills while Bruce was in elementary school, spending his formative years in Worthington, Ohio. Bruce graduated in 1985 from Worthington High School. Upon graduation, Bruce joined the Marine Corps to serve his country. Not only did he serve in Japan and Panama, but he was recalled for Operation Desert Storm and received an honorable discharge as a Sergeant in October of 1992. Bruce then attended The Ohio State University where he graduated in 1995 with a Degree in Criminology and Criminal Justice. He entered the Columbus Police Academy and graduated as President of his Class in 1999. He served as a police officer until 2010, when he was promoted to Police Sergeant. He continued to serve the City of Columbus until his death. Bruce was preceded in death by his parents, Bob and Joyce, and his sister, Robin. Bruce is survived by his soulmate, Kerry, daughter, Gabrielle, brothers Paul (Heidi), Mark (Penny), Joel (Carisa) and brother-in-law Gary Hanbaum. Nieces Molly (Cole), Zoe, Taylor, Adrienne and Shay. He loved and was loved by all of his relatives, who will miss him deeply. His loss will be felt by his many friends and his brothers and sisters in the Columbus Police Department. His caring soul, his humor and his great laugh will be missed by all. At this time, there will not be a funeral. A Celebration of Life will be planned in the future.



# Tribute Wall



“ *Sgt. Bruce Alan Whittaker*

January 28, 2023 at 10:24 AM



“ *I just wanted to say what a wonderful memorial service they had for Bruce. I have never been to a service that was such an honor. Between the FOP, Columbus PD & the officers on horse back & the Marines The bugle player & then all of the bagpipe players. It was an amazing tribute. Gabriella, if you see this, what you said about your dad showed how exactly how much he meant to you. It was perfect - you did great! He would have been very proud.*

**Kim LaRochelle** - July 16, 2021 at 11:15 PM



“ *Bob, Bruce and Mark were clients of ours when I worked at the Bob Biehn Allstate Agency (1993 - 2003). Bob Biehn and I were very fond of the entire Whittaker family. Bruce was the officer who responded to my call when my parked car (with me in it) was struck broadside. I have always liked and respected Bruce and admired him for his service to country and city. He was one of God's good ones. I am so sad to hear Bruce has gone from this life to the next, but trust that God has reunited Bruce with his Heavenly family. Heart felt condolences to Mark & Penny and the entire Whittaker family on this first anniversary of Bruce's death and new life. Pam Murphy*

**Pam Murphy** - April 14, 2021 at 12:05 AM

DL

“ I was Bruce's best friend.. I will miss him forever.. I wish later in life we were closer..

Douglas Latshaw - August 12, 2020 at 11:44 PM

TG

“ First, my condolences to the rest of his family. I know that he is happy now! He always expressed how he missed his Mom and Dad, but especially his Sister. I will miss you Bruce tremendously!! You were a great friend to me and honestlya brother I never had! I will miss our deep conversations about "life", our laughs, (your goofy ass laugh that I will hear in my head EVERY time I think of you lol), cries, you calling me "T", and me trying to talk to you about God for 19 years! SMH XO You are at peace now and with your family, I am happy for that! I love you Bud

Tiffany Greenlee - May 31, 2020 at 01:31 PM

HU

“ God Bless and A Heartfelt Thank YOU for your service in The Corps."The gates of Heaven are well guarded NOW, by another United States Marine. And Semper Fi.



Herb Guyer-Sharfenaker USMCR - May 08, 2020 at 06:13 PM

RM

“ *ROGER USMC  
IT CANNOT BE INHERITED NOR CAN IT EVER BE PURCHASED.  
YOU AND NO ONE ALIVE CAN BUY IT FOR ANY PRICE.  
IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO RENT AND CANNOT BE LENT.  
YOU ALONE AND OUR OWN HAVE EARNED IT WITH YOUR  
SWEAT, BLOOD AND LIVES.  
YOU WON IT FOREVER.  
THE TITLE  
UNITED STATES MARINE  
GO WITH GOD MY BROTHER  
SEMPER FI*

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**ROGER MALONE** - May 03, 2020 at 11:16 PM

TD

“ *I knew Bruce since 4th grade what an amazing person. I'm so sorry to hear this news—prayers to his family.*

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**Tiffany Donnelly** - May 03, 2020 at 08:02 PM

PF

“ *So very sad to hear of Bruce's passing. My heartfelt thought & prayers are with the family💙 Pam & Gary Ferrell*

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**Pamela Ferrell** - May 03, 2020 at 10:18 AM

AM

“ That was a beautiful obituary and a wonderful photo of Bruce. It hit me right in the heart. He was a wonderful cousin. Always happy to see his family and always a lot of fun. We all know the laugh! I loved Bruce and even though I was 20 years older than him, I felt a closeness. I can remember many years ago when my dad called me and asked me to entertain Bruce as he was coming to visit with his mom and dad. I told my dad OK I would entertain him that night but only for a couple hours. After all, Bruce was 20 years younger than me and quite wild and to top it off he was on a break from the service. I just knew it was gonna be a wild evening. I got my cousin, Jenny Keeling to join the party. To make a long story short – – it was wild. But it wasn't Bruce who was wild, it was Jenny and April who were wild . Poor Bruce. He has his work cut out for him. Jenny and we were all over the place including the ground. Bruce was good soldier it took good care of the old women. I think we were out all night. Bruce's words” that was the wildest night I've ever had. I will never forget that memory and I have many more. I will always love Bruce and I will miss Bruce ❤️ April



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april muir - May 02, 2020 at 03:25 PM



“ *May the love of God surround you and your family during this difficult time,  
May you come to know that the love of God is with you always,*

*May your memories of Sgt. Bruce Alan Whittaker, give you peace, comfort and strength...*

*Rest now in the arms of our Lord your mission on earth is complete. I thank you for your service to our Country and my Freedom. You will not be forgotten.*

*My thoughts  
and prayers to the family of ....*

*US Marine Veteran, Sgt. Bruce Alan Whittaker, is “A True American Hero” God Bless†*

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

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**Cheryl Skinner, Tri-state Military Museum - May 02, 2020 at 07:11 AM**