



Ethan Alexander Arbelo

August 10, 2001 - July 3, 2014

Ethan Alexander Arbelo, age 12, passed away Thursday, July 3, 2014 at his mother's home, surrounded by friends and family. Ethan, a former student at Orange River Elementary School, was diagnosed with grade III anaplastic astrocytoma in March 2012, days after an eye doctor noticed the tumor's clues. On Oct. 31, 2013 he was honored with the title of honorary Marine. His mother, Maria Maldonado, who also is a U.S. Marine, arranged the ceremony as a surprise for Ethan, referring to the mission as "Operation Devil Pup," a play on the "devil dog" nickname for Marines. "He went out like a Marine," she told a friend on the phone hours after her son's death. "Swift and silent." Last fall, Ethan said he imagined heaven as a place where he'd run around and play tag with his grandma and some other kids who had died of cancer. Since his diagnosis, he'd planned to fight the disease until it lost, but in recent months he had come to the realization that he might not beat it. "If you lose," he said, "it doesn't matter because you still tried." Ethan is survived by his mother, Maria Maldonado; father, Jose "Tito" Arbelo; sister, Mio Arbelo; half-brothers Jose Maldonado and Nathan Arbelo; and Sgt. Joel Slaymaker, a fellow Marine who he considered a brother. A goodbye celebration was held Saturday night at the Miscue Lounge in Fort Myers. Visitation for family and friends will be held from 1-2pm on Saturday, July 12, 2014 at the First Christian Church of Fort Myers, 2061 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers, FL 33901. Services will begin at 2pm. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made by contacting Anderson-Patterson Cremation at 239-368-7080. Please visit www.

andersonpatterson.com to express condolences to the family during this most difficult time by signing Ethan's guest book.

Tribute Wall



“ *Ethan Alexander Arbelo*

October 09, 2023 at 02:01 AM



“ *Ethan Alexander Arbelo*

January 28, 2023 at 12:09 PM



“ *I keep trying to move forward, Baby Boy. This hurts so badly. I sometimes don't feel like I can breathe. I miss you so much and I feel like the world ended the day you earned your wings. My heart aches so much for you. I need you. I love you so much, Ethan. Mommy needs you so much.*

Maria Maldonado - August 19, 2014 at 12:24 PM



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Maria Maldonado - August 19, 2014 at 12:24 PM



“ *Hi, Ethan. Mommy sure misses you. I love you so much.*

Maria Maldonado - July 28, 2014 at 01:25 AM

MM

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Maria Maldonado - July 28, 2014 at 01:25 AM

RC

“ I only met Ethan once, when we did an honor guard for him several months ago through the valor program of Hope Hospice. I just wanted you to know that on Thursday, July 10, at the regular meeting of SWFL Branch 118 of the Fleet Reserve Association we included Ethan in our two-bell ceremony for shipmates who have gone to the staff of the supreme commander. As president, Branch 118 extends our most sincere condolences to you and your family. Semper Fi, Ethan.

Ralph W. Camp - July 12, 2014 at 06:34 AM

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Ralph W. Camp - July 12, 2014 at 06:34 AM

SB

“ Ethan is a fighter and so strong. I look up to him for what he has been through and how much he loved his mom ♡. Words can't express my condolences, but I love you Ethan and Maria dearly. ♡

samantha bodnar - July 10, 2014 at 10:28 PM

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samantha bodnar - July 10, 2014 at 10:28 PM

PB

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patty boutwell - July 09, 2014 at 07:36 AM

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patty boutwell - July 09, 2014 at 07:36 AM

ES

“ Our Hugs, Love and Prayers are with you now and always. We love you dearly Maria.

Esther, Alan, M.A., J.D., & Samantha - July 09, 2014 at 03:03 AM

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Esther, Alan, M.A., J.D., & Samantha - July 09, 2014 at 03:03 AM