

Barb Baker - HB 2507

By way of introduction, my name is Barbara Baker. I met Paula Coffman through a Facebook site of mothers who lost a child. We instantly had a connection, as we are both from Kansas and both of our boys were in the military.

I had the pleasure of meeting Paula three years ago. She now resides in North Carolina. It was such an honor to travel to North Carolina and meet Paula and be invited to her home to stay overnight. I strongly feel we understand each other, and more so after we both talked about our boys' lives and got to know them.

Derek was enlisted in the Air Force for six years. Thereafter, he attended and graduated from a professional golf school. With a veteran Air Force friend, they cofounded The Rimpact Foundation. It is no surprise since Derek enjoyed interacting with other veterans on the golf course and sharing their military stories.

Motivational speaking was a way of healing, beneficial and therapeutic for him, and more so, while speaking to veteran groups. Reaching out and trying to help others was especially important to him.

Derek's family has chosen the Sumner County Bridge in a way to always remember Derek and keep his memory alive.

Thank you.