



Nicholas's Story

Nicholas Xiarhos was an ordinary high school kid. He loved driving his Jeep, listening to hard rock, and playing sports. He was outgoing and got along well with everyone--so much so that his high school classmates affectionately nicknamed him "The Mayor of D-Y" and gave him the superlative award: "Does Most for Others."

Nicholas Xiarhos was also an *extraordinary* high school kid. Just nine short days after graduation, he headed for boot camp to pursue a dream. On September 22, 2006, he earned the title, United States Marine. Nicholas served as an 0351 Infantry Assaultman with the 1st Battalion 9th Marine Regiment in Iraq and the 2nd Battalion 8th Marine Regiment in Afghanistan supporting Operation Enduring Freedom. On July 23, 2009, while going to the rescue of his fellow Marines in combat, Nicholas died on the battlefield in the Garmsir

District of Helmand Province in Southern Afghanistan.

Although Nicholas's life was short, it was purposeful. His legacy didn't end on the battlefield that day. His family created a memorial fund in his honor, now one of The Cape Cod Foundation funds.

The Nicholas G. Xiarhos Memorial Foundation Fund supports local military families and wounded warriors and their families who need financial assistance. In addition, the fund also supports several scholarships, a blood drive, and programs that provide care packages and cell phone calling cards to troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, [among others](#).

On July 23, [Big Nick's Ride for the Fallen](#) kicks off when the kick stands go up. This annual motorcycle ride honors Cape Cod's fallen heroes and raises awareness of and funds for the Massachusetts Iraq and Afghanistan Fallen Heroes Memorial Fund.

Nicholas had always wanted to serve his country. The events of September 11, 2001 heightened his desire to join the military and make a difference in the world. In just 3 years of service Corporal Xiarhos earned the following awards: Meritorious Mast for Outstanding Performance, Good Conduct Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, National Defense Medal, Naval Unit Citation, Iraqi Campaign Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Sea Deployment Ribbon, Combat Action Ribbon, The Purple Heart, and the Presidential Unit Citation.

Two weeks before he died, Nicholas talked to his mother. "Don't worry about me Mom...I'm living the dream," he said. While he fought for freedom for the people of Iraq and Afghanistan, his legacy extends across America and is woven into the fabric of Cape Cod. [DONATE TO THE FUND](#)

