



13901 Providence Road
Weddington, NC 28104
704.846.1032
www.weddingtonchurch.org
With campuses at Weddington, Marvin, Bonds Grove, and Monroe

August 27, 2025

Dear Weddington Christian Preschool and Academy families,

Our church and community lost a hero on Tuesday evening. Retired U.S. Army Sergeant Michael Verardo, who was catastrophically wounded in Afghanistan in 2010, ultimately gave his life for his country. Michael passed away following complications from his extensive injuries and over 120 surgeries. Michael truly laid his life on the line multiple times for his country and eventually gave his life for it and for those with whom he served. His story is included to introduce this veteran hero.

Michael and Sarah with their three precious daughters are a part of our Weddington Methodist Church family. The girls all attended our Preschool.

His memorial service will be held at Weddington Methodist Church on Tuesday, September 2. There will be a significant military and law enforcement presence as well as political leaders, national leaders, friends, and family who will be on our campus. Managing our Safe Sanctuary for our students would be difficult. As always, we want to provide a safe and calm experience for your children.

In honor of this war hero, as well as for the safety and protection of all of our students, **we will cancel our Preschool and Academy classes for Tuesday, September 2.** We apologize for the inconvenience. There was no other practical option. This is the first time in my 18 years as Senior Pastor that we have made this decision. We ask for your grace.

Thank you for your understanding and for your prayers for this family, especially his three young daughters.

In ministry together,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terry L. Moore".

Rev. Dr. Terry L. Moore
Senior Pastor

MEET SGT MICHAEL VERARDO

Retired Army SGT Michael Verardo served as an Infantryman in the 82nd Airborne until his medical retirement in 2013. He deployed with Bravo Company 2-508 Parachute Infantry Regiment to conduct combat operations in August 2009 and the unit suffered a 60% Purple Heart Rate.

Wounded initially April 10, 2010, Michael requested to be returned to duty and was wounded on his first foot patrol just two weeks later.



This patrol had catastrophic and life-changing consequences. The improvised explosive device immediately blew off Michael's left leg, much of his left arm, left him with burns on over 35% of his body, a traumatic brain injury, severe facial damage, damage to his airways, and other polytraumatic conditions that required a field blood transfusion.

On April 24, 2019, Michael's ninth Alive Day, he had his 120th surgery post-Afghanistan. His condition required years of physical, occupational, speech, and visual therapies. Originally listed as death imminent post-injury, Michael defied the odds, and enjoyed adaptive athletics, most notably competitive pistol shooting, and was an active participant in his church and community in North Carolina.

To learn more about The Verardo Group, and how their family continues to serve and support our community, please [click here](#).