



## Capt. Ryan S. Phaneuf

June 4, 1989 - January 27, 2020

Captain Ryan S. Phaneuf, 30, assigned to the 37th Bomb Squadron at Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota, formerly of Hudson, New Hampshire, died January 27th, 2020. Ryan was the co-pilot of the Bombardier E-11A that crashed in Ghazni Province, Afghanistan while serving his country on a voluntary deployment supporting Operation Freedom's Sentinel.

Born in Nashua, NH, June 4th, 1989, he was the son of Donald and Nancy Phaneuf of Hudson, NH. He was a graduate of Presentation of Mary Academy of Hudson in 2003. Ryan then graduated from Alvirne High School in 2007. During his time at Alvirne, his interest in joining the Air Force ignited. He enrolled in the first class of AFJROTC that was offered his freshman year and continued his involvement throughout his high school career. In 2006, Ryan was in the top 1% of 110,000 Junior ROTC cadets worldwide and was selected to attend the Aerospace & Technology Honors Camp at the University of Oklahoma and Tinker Air Force Base. In 2007, he was nominated to attend the National Youth Leadership Forum on Defense, Intelligence and Diplomacy in Washington, DC – an opportunity less than 1% of all high-achieving high school students are presented with. During his senior year, the departing class of 2006 unanimously decided that Ryan was to be assigned the highest rank offered in AFJROTC: Cadet Colonel.

After his graduation from Alvirne in 2007, Ryan began his studies at Embry Riddle Aeronautical University (ERAU) in Daytona Beach, FL where he continued to pursue his military career as an AFROTC cadet throughout his college years. During these years, he completed a rigorous 4-week training program at Maxwell AFB, became a flight commander guiding underclassmen in leadership development and moved up to become a squadron commander responsible for the safety and accountability of the 350+ cadet wing members. In his senior year, Ryan was considered a super senior in the Eagle Wing Detachment and was given the position of Vice-President. Also in his later years at ERAU he was a member of the Arnold Air Society. In the fall of the 2011, Ryan was selected to attend Undergraduate Pilot Training (UPT), achieving one of his dreams. During his summer breaks, Ryan served two internships with BAE Systems, one of the largest

Department of Defense contractors, getting a behind the scene look at what goes into developing the equipment used to “protect those who protect us.” In 2012, he completed his studies and earned a Bachelor of Science in Applied Meteorology. Ryan commissioned into the United States Air Force as a Second Lieutenant on May 12.

Ryan moved to Laughlin AFB, TX in the Summer of 2012 for pilot training, beginning in the T-6A and transitioning to the T-38C. Upon graduation from pilot training in April 2014, Ryan was selected to become a T-6A instructor with the 85th Flying Training Squadron at Laughlin AFB. During this assignment, Ryan earned the callsign “Phantom” and carried multiple titles in addition to instructor pilot such as assistant chief of training, training officer, category check pilot, and flight scheduler. In June 2017, Ryan was assigned to Dyess AFB where he joined the 28th Bomb Squadron to learn to fly the B-1B bomber. Ryan finished B-1B Basic Qualification at the top of his class, earning the title of Distinguished Graduate in June 2018. From there, Ryan was assigned to the 37th Bomb Squadron at Ellsworth AFB, SD and later earned the callsign “FOGG”. He was the assistant flight commander of scheduling where he executed the squadron’s Flying Hour Program and Ready Aircrew Program for 14 B-1B’s and 71 aircrew. In November 2019, Ryan completed school for the Bombardier E-11A ahead of his voluntary deployment with the 430th Expeditionary Electronic Combat Squadron at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan. Throughout his career, Ryan flew four different aircraft accruing over 1,300 flight hours.

Ryan was a very quiet and extremely humble person with a sly sense of humor. He had a deep love for his family and friends. In August of 2013, he met his future wife, Megan, at Easterwood Airport in College Station, TX while on a cross-country trip as a T-6A student. Ryan and Megan were married three years later on November 18th, 2016 in a private ceremony in Del Rio, TX. He had a love for music, was a self-taught guitarist, and used music as a way to express himself. In his spare time Ryan liked to attend concerts with close friends and aimed to visit as many NFL stadiums as he could. He loved spending time with his wife, Megan, and their two adopted dogs, Bandit and Peanut. Ryan was a beloved son, husband, brother, nephew, grandson, uncle, co-pilot, instructor, and friend to many.

In addition to his parents, Donald and Nancy Phaneuf, he is survived by his wife Megan Phaneuf, sister Christina Larsen, grandmothers Claire Phaneuf of St. Petersburg, FL and Sue Munroe of Dunnellon, FL, as well as several uncles, aunts, and cousins.

Ryan spent his life striving to be the best he could be and always wanted to help the people around him accomplish the same. As a genuinely humble person, Ryan is a true representation of small-town dreams coming true.

Visiting hours will be held on Friday, February 28 from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. in St. Kathryn's Church, 4 Dracut Road in Hudson, NH. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Saturday, February 29 at 10 a.m. in St. Kathryn's Church. Ryan will receive full military honors in a private burial at Arlington National Cemetery on March 9, surrounded by family and friends.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Air Warrior Courage Foundation (AWCF). The AWCF will support the family of Captain Phaneuf in any way needed. To make a donation, go to <http://www.AirWarriorCourage.org>, use the blue "DONATE" button on the home page.

Click the "GIVE DIRECT" at the top right. This will take you to the donations page.

Select "I would like to dedicate my donation to someone special". Under "SELECT A PROGRAM" please select "AWCF". In the "COMMENTS" block include that the donation is in Memory of Captain Ryan S. Phaneuf. This guarantees funds are distributed correctly.

# Events

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**FEB VISITING HOURS** 01:00PM - 08:00PM

**28**

St. Kathryn's Church

4 Dracut Rd., Hudson, NH, US

**FEB MASS AT CHURCH** 10:00AM

**29**

St. Kathryn's Church

4 Dracut Rd., Hudson, NH, US

# Comments

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“ 1 file added to the album ryan



**Michael Beliveau** - February 29, 2020 at 03:42 PM

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“ Nancy I'm truly sorry for your loss are prayers are with you and the family

**rene godfrey** - February 28, 2020 at 03:47 PM

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“ Our great Town stands together to honor Ryan's life and morn him in his passing. Our parish at St. Kathryn's stands together to assist in every way we can. Don, Nancy, Christina, Megan and the family are in our daily prayers.

**Roger E. Coutu** - February 28, 2020 at 11:27 AM

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“ Ryan was a pleasure to work with in high school as we stood up the JROTC program from scratch. He epitomized the soft-spoken leader who knew, as many others have commented on already, to put others before self and lead with unwavering integrity. I wasn't able to talk with him for many years, but he left an indelible impression of me as a person that I will never forget. Rest in Peace.

**Brandon Mansur** - February 27, 2020 at 05:37 PM

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“ Our deepest condolences to the family and friends of Capt. Phaneuf. We are deeply sorry for your loss. He gave the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.

Thank you Capt. Phaneuf for your dedicated service. Rest In Peace.

The Pestana family

**Carlos Pestana** - February 27, 2020 at 05:27 PM

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“ No words can express the thanks for someone who makes the ultimate sacrifice in protecting America's freedom. Thank you for your service. Rest in peace. You will forever be a hero.

State Representatives Russ and Lynne Ober

Russ Ober, Lt. Col. (USAF, Ret)

**Lynne Ober** - February 27, 2020 at 11:12 AM

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“ Our deepest condolences to the family and friends of Capt. Phaneuf. We are deeply sorry for your loss and eternally grateful for his service and sacrifice.

The Richard Sigman Family

**M.E. Sigman** - February 26, 2020 at 09:26 PM

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“ It was truly a pleasure getting to know Ryan and his family better when he was in high school and a JROTC Cadet as he pursued his dream to become an Air Force Officer and a pilot. Working with him through the AFROTC application process, I quickly developed a profound understanding of the qualities that he possessed that made him an ideal fit for both roles. He truly epitomized the core values of the United States Air Force: Integrity First, Service Before Self and Excellence in All We Do. His quiet confidence and innate leadership qualities thrust him in front of all other candidates that year. These qualities were his alone, but obviously developed and nurtured by an amazing family. I feel fortunate to have known him and will miss him greatly. Ryan, you have "Slipped the Surly Bonds of Earth" but will never be far from our hearts and thoughts. Rest in Peace.

Bob Guessferd, Lt Col, USAFR (Ret)

Bob Guessferd - February 25, 2020 at 12:18 PM

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“ To Donald, Nancy and family, My condolences and prayers are with you at this difficult time. Donna Melanson and family

Donna Melanson - February 24, 2020 at 05:11 PM

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“ Thank you, Captain Ryan, for your service. Rest in peace. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you. Wishing you peace and sending you hugs and prayers. The Wagner Family

Carol Wagner - February 20, 2020 at 05:11 PM

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“ I first met Ryan when he was in 7th grade at PMA. I remember him to be a polite and shy young man. My thoughts and prayers go out to Donald, Miss Nancy, Megan, and Christina. My heart breaks for each of you. Hugs!

Carol Guarino - February 20, 2020 at 05:07 PM

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“ Our sincere condolences to the Phaneuf family .. Thoughts and prayers are with you all .. RIP Ryan soar with the angels ..



**Diane L Guilbert** - February 19, 2020 at 07:00 PM

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“ Donald, Nancy, Megan and Christina, our thoughts and prayers continue daily. Clearly, Ryan was a true hero. We continue to remind our grandchildren what is the real meaning of a hero. He accomplished so much for such a young man, and we will never forget his perseverance, his quiet strength and love of family. He cared about his extended family as well and reached out to our family from time to time. Ryan will be missed by so many, and certainly never forgotten. May he rest in peace, and may all of your memories with him give you comfort. God Bless you all.....

Carole and Alan

**Carole Phaneuf** - February 19, 2020 at 10:01 AM

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“ WHILE WE DID NOT KNOW THIS BRAVE YOUNG MAN, WE MOURN WITH HIS FAMILY, FRIENDS, THE USA IN THIS VERY TRAGIC LOSS. WE ARE SO GRATEFUL FOR HIS SERVICE AND FOR HIS VALOR. HE WILL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN AND HE WILL ALWAYS BE A TREMENDOUS MODEL OF EXCELLENCE FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE ESPECIALLY. WE EXTEND OUR SINCEREST SYMPATHY TO ALL AND PRAY HIS MEMORY WILL BE A BLESSING.  
JOSEPH & ESTHER ROSS AND FAMILY  
NASHUA, NH

**E,ROSS** - February 19, 2020 at 01:45 AM

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“ Thank you Capt. Ryan for your service. My condolences to Nancy and David and family. He gave his life for our freedom and protection. God Bless. Milisa Sigman

**Milisa Sigman** - February 18, 2020 at 09:37 PM



“ Thank you for your loyal and faithful service. While we mourn your presence in our daily lives, we take comfort in knowing you are safely home for eternity in His care and protection.

V/R,

William Harrison, MSgt, USAF (ret)

**Bill Harrison** - February 18, 2020 at 07:34 PM

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“ Ryan, I'm going to miss you man. Always good memories from cross country and track. I'll never forget your dry humor and wit. Knowing you was a pleasure

**Paul Michels** - February 18, 2020 at 06:47 PM

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“ Rest In Peace Capt Ryan and to your family my prayers and deepest sympathy.  
Cathy Fisher

**Cathy Fisher** - February 18, 2020 at 05:06 PM



“ Thank you to the family of Captain Ryan, for allowing your son to service. Rest in peace Captain. My family is praying for this most difficult time. The Steve Dube Family -Hudson NH Fire Department

**Steve Dube** - February 26, 2020 at 08:28 AM



“ It was my honor to be your Principal, you always made me proud as a student and continued to do that pursuing your life's passion. My sincerest thoughts of sympathy go to your family.

You made us all proud.

**Bryan Keith Lane** - February 28, 2020 at 10:29 AM