



Matthew Taylor Haught

June 28, 1983 - January 6, 2025

Matthew Taylor Haught, 41, passed away at his family home in Huntsville, Arkansas on Monday, January 6, 2025.

Matthew received a congressional appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point and graduated in 2006. He was commissioned as a Military Intelligence officer in the US Army where he specialized in anti-terrorism and weapons systems and held a Top Secret security clearance. He served as the Battalion Intelligence Officer for an Apache helicopter unit at Camp Eagle in South Korea and then found a great sense of accomplishment in his last assignment as a Company Commander of 330 soldiers at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, CA, leaving the Army as a Captain in 2011. He then began a successful career in government contracting while living in Alexandria, VA. Matthew was immensely proud to serve his fellow veterans through his work with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), where he played a pivotal role in enhancing the Veteran experience. His efforts contributed to innovative programs that revolutionized how the VA gathered and analyzed feedback from millions of Veterans, ensuring their voices were heard and their needs prioritized. His work supported real-time interventions for at-risk Veterans and improved access to essential services, leaving a lasting impact on countless lives.

He spent the last years of his life working remotely and living at home in

Huntsville, enjoying his lifelong passion for firearms and honing his competitive pistol shooting skills. He was a man of many talents and abilities: a certified Glock armorer, NRA Basic Pistol Instructor, B Class rated shooter in the USPSA Production Division, Amateur Radio Technician, NAUI open water scuba diver, US Army Airborne parachuter, private pilot, and National Association for Search and Rescue Wilderness Responder.

In the months before his death Matthew fought to overcome a lifelong struggle with depression and PTSD. He gave his all in residential and outpatient treatment at the VA. His family and his dear friend Jennie Wilkinson provided a diligent support system. He spent the weeks before his death surrounded by love and spending time with his family and Service Dog Apollo. We take solace that he is now at peace.

Matthew was preceded in death by his grandfather, Quentin Goyne, and by his beloved Search and Rescue dog Argo.

He is survived by his mother, Mary Beth Haught, and Rob Bolinger; his sister, Jordyn Haught, and husband Kirk Morrow; and his grandmother, Geraldine Goyne.

A private graveside service with military honors will take place at Aurora Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to the Fayetteville VA Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program; please note the funds are for RRTP in honor of Matthew Haught and mail to Veterans Health Care System of the Ozarks, CDCE c/o Elyse Brewer, 1100 N College Ave (135), Fayetteville AR 72703. Donations may also be made to the Aurora Cemetery Fund at PO Box 1491, Huntsville AR 72740.

Cemetery Details

Aurora Cemetery

Madison County Road #5675
Huntsville, AR 72740

Tribute Wall

AT

“ Aunt Jerri, Mary Beth, and Jordyn - we are so very sorry to hear the heartbreaking news about Matthew. We are holding you all in our thoughts and prayers. Love - Ardel, Lisa, and Jalen

Ardel Thomas - February 10, 2025 at 01:08 AM

NS

“ I only knew Matt for the last three years of his life but will remember him for the rest of my life for his kindness & heart, intelligence, humor, love for nature, & adventure, and his unparalleled ability to identify with & listen literally anyone. Will never forget his love for dogs either. My heart is broken for his loved ones, Trying to take comfort in knowing he's at peace.



NS - January 24, 2025 at 12:29 AM

CG

“ Marybeth and Jordyn, I am so very sorry to hear of your sweet Matthew's passing. May God comfort you as only He can during this time of immense grief. Tight hugs and prayers from your former hygienist, Candice Gentry. 💜🙏

Candice Gentry - January 21, 2025 at 08:30 PM

JC

“ The family has my sincere condolences. May you find comfort in the love and grace of the Heavenly Father.

Jackie Collins - January 17, 2025 at 06:16 PM



“ *Mary Be and Mrs. Goyne I am so sorry for your loss. May the Lord hold each of the family in His arms of love. Lean upon Him and he will never leave you nor forsake you.*

Alvin L Herrington - January 17, 2025 at 01:04 AM



“ *Alvin L Herrington lit a candle in memory of Matthew Haught*



Alvin L Herrington - January 17, 2025 at 12:57 AM



“ *Matthew's father, Hoy Marvin Haught, was so proud of his son. He shared many memories of him with me. My heartfelt sympathy goes to Marvin.*

Marsha Hines - January 16, 2025 at 09:16 PM



“ *Mary Beth.... Sending a heartfelt condolences to you my sweet high school friend... many prayers to your family/Euna McKnight*

Euna McKnight - January 16, 2025 at 11:34 AM



“ *We are so very sorry for your loss. The sweet bond and love your family has for each other has always been so evident. Sincerely sending my thoughts and condolences to each of you.*
-Kandice, Aaron and Lillian Samuels

Kandice Samuels - January 15, 2025 at 02:20 PM



“ *Mary Beth & family,
I am sending my love and condolences to you
all. My heart is broken for you and your loss.*



Deb Harmon - January 15, 2025 at 11:37 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of
Matthew Taylor Haught.*



January 12, 2025 at 03:13 PM



“ *A [Memorial
Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Matthew Taylor Haught.*

January 12, 2025 at 03:13 PM



“ *This photo still stands proudly in a frame in my Grandma's home.
This was our lunch crew who got to leave school every Wednesday
and go eat at Grandma's. We created so many memories over the
years. Matthew was loved by many, and he will be missed.*



J.R. Lievsay - January 12, 2025 at 07:25 AM

TL

“ *My deepest sympathies to all the loved and knew Matthew. I will never forget interviewing him for the paper when he was appointed. Marybeth, I am so very sorry. May he rest in peace.*
Tamara Long

Tamara L Long - January 11, 2025 at 07:18 PM



“ Written by Emma Oestreicher:

Things I Know about Matt Haught

Matt was all the things in his obituary. Here's a few more, both what he's has told me, and what I have observed over 7 years.

- *To family, he was Matthew; to many of us, he was Matt.*
- *To me, he was also Captain Haught, Haught Stuff, Mattsquatch, and any other random nickname I could come up with to make his ears turn pink and lose the stoic front*
- *He loved the smell of cypress and ginger, because it reminded him of Monterrey*
- *He knew the correct and classy way to test the smell a candle (open and sniff the lid, not the candle itself, like a heathen)*
- *His loved rockfish and fish tacos, and enjoyed cooking*
- *He was allergic to 409 cleaner*
- *He hated wasting food, and could founder himself on sweet treats until his stomach hurt.*
- *He had a preternatural ability to quote movies and books and tv shows, from sci fi to rom coms and MST3K.*
- *He named his truck the Pegasus, after Battlestar Galactica.*
- *He was an exceptional writer, tho he'd never claim to be one.*
- *His favorite poem was "Horatius at the Bridge", by Thomas Babington Macaulay. Best recited in a southern accent.*
- *He loved Battlestar Gallactica and Stephen King's the Dark Tower, and along with his sister, was a diehard fan of MST3K.*
- *He worshipped his sister, Jordyn, and loved being her big brother, bragging about how smart and brave she is, and how she is "the best parts of him and so much more."*
- *He was thrilled to be the surprise "Maid of Honor" at Jordyn's wedding to Kirk. He fanboyed SO HARD over his future brother in law that he had him autograph his Jane's F15 fighter pilot simulator manual. Upon the impending nuptials he did joke to me "I would have liked a circlet of peonies."*
- *He had a wicked sense of humor and could do silly things to cheer people up. He once wore a cheerleader outfit after losing a dare,*

and totally owned it (“gimme an M, gimme an A, gimme a T....!”)

◦ His platonic ideal of a PB&J was “on white bread with creamy peanut butter and a strawberry rhubarb jam the Mennonites make in Arkansas.”

◦ He thought holding hands, in both romantic and platonic contexts, was wildly underrated (and he’s 1000% correct).

◦ He had a very deep ballet plie/squat, which he would show off at barre (so I’m told).

◦ He 1000% believed in aliens (“the truth is out there!”).

◦ He was a professional pencil twiddler, specifically a 0.7 Bic (“not 0.5, please”) WITH a finger rest, twiddling them until they broke, yet always kept the erasers and the lead.

◦ If he could live in any tv show, it would definitely be SpongeBob SquarePants.

◦ He gave some of the best, most genuine hugs, and would tell his friends he loved them.

◦ He’d always be the person to say “text me so I know you got home ok.”

◦ He indulged me in pun wars, as a worthy adversary.

◦ His mom performed countless acts of service, while not always acknowledged, never went unnoticed.

◦ He liked video games, especially the classics, Diablo and Curse of Monkey Island, with his sister “co-piloting”.

◦ He loved nature and camping, and he’d talk to the animals on his range, from deer to owls and hawks and geese, to the “battle toads” living in his planter. A true “Snow White”, he would even call a fox from the woods as a kid.

◦ If he walked you to your car, he would first stop to check if your engine would start.

◦ The most peaceful place he ever peed, was floating down in a parachute. (“When that chute opens, and you couldn’t go for hours, it pulls your bits, sooo...”).

◦ He was a dog in a human suit. No, really. I scratched his head once and he kicked his leg. He’d sometimes do a puppy whine if he had an early morning client meeting.

◦ A special family nickname he had, was Catfish.

◦ He had a very special bond with dogs, especially Chew, Hurley,

Apollo, and of course Argo.

- *He liked to serenade Argo with various pop songs, with canine-themed lyrical adjustments (e.g., Mariah Carey's "Pooch you'll always be my baby"). Occasionally accompanied by tummy drums, much to Argo's chagrin.*
- *He was very confused by women's jumpsuits and rompers, loudly exclaiming, "How do you pee?!"*
- *His favorite colors were OD green and gunmetal gray. He once sent a video proudly swishing around in a camo-patterned Rumpel cape at home ("it's a cape! Yaaaay! Fabulous!").*
- *He'd get very huffy and defensive if you called him out for wearing crocs. Especially if he tripped in the driveway. On ice. ("They were INSULATED!").*
- *He proudly participated in "naked taps check" at West Point: Every night at 11pm a senior had to check that everyone was in their rooms. So they would mess with the senior with a swarm of naked dudes. Matt would shake his money maker to "It's raining Men" in a flak jacket, a helmet...and nothing else.*
- *He had a very goofy laugh, a big kind heart, and a sensitive soul, and always tried to do what was right over what was easy.*
- *Before his FAA flight exam, he got pumped to ABBA's "Take a Chance on Me." He passed on the first try; the examiner ended the test early because he did so well.*
- *He loved an underdog. He hated injustice, hypocrisy, rudeness, and malicious gossip, and defended those who couldn't defend themselves: family, friends, soldiers, coworkers, and strangers on the street.*
- *He's ripped his JCrew pants in the office. Multiple times. Right down the butt crack. Right in front of his boss.*
- *Much later after he hired me, he admitted he was only half paying attention on my interview to my long winded rant on my super nerdy college thesis; to make it up to me later, he googled it and made an earnest attempt to read it. (Brave man.)*
- *He enjoyed art, and encouraged me to draw again after putting it down for so long. He wasn't afraid to derisively critique modern art, however, eloquently declaring, "I barfed on a screen door once and it looked like that."*

◦ *He always accepted me for who I was, and I am grateful for every second I had with him; of all the lives he could have walked into, I'm lucky he walked into mine, with a gruff handshake and a shy smile.*

While it's not Horatius at the Bridge, I have one poem by Merrit Malloy, that I hoped he would have liked.

*"When I die
Give what's left of me away
To children
And old men that wait to die.*

*And if you need to cry,
Cry for your brother
Walking the street beside you.
And when you need me,
Put your arms
Around anyone
And give them
What you need to give to me.*

*I want to leave you something,
Something better
Than words
Or sounds.*

*Look for me
In the people I've known
Or loved,
And if you cannot give me away,
At least let me live on in your eyes
And not your mind.*

*You can love me most
By letting
Hands touch hands,
By letting bodies touch bodies,*

*And by letting go
Of children
That need to be free.*

*Love doesn't die,
People do.
So, when all that's left of me
Is love,
Give me away."*

He was loved and is loved by so many, and we are so blessed to have known him, worked with him, befriended him, and loved him. No words can describe how much I will miss him. I love you forever. Rest easy, gunslinger. I'll see you at the clearing at the end of the path.

Dawn Pruitt - January 10, 2025 at 07:55 PM

BU

“*Richard and I have your family in our thoughts and prayers. Matthew was an amazing young man and will be missed. "The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit," Psalm 34:18*

Beverly and Richard Unwer - January 10, 2025 at 07:52 PM



“ I met Matt almost 7 years ago when we were suddenly thrown together at work: he was the established program manager and I was his new deputy program manager. He welcomed me and somehow 4 years flew by.

There's so much I could say about working with him. His leadership, commitment to Veterans, analytical expertise and communication skills were incredible. I am smarter for working with him. I'm not ashamed to admit that I had to google some of the words in his extensive vocabulary.

Matt always had our backs and protected us. He allowed some the lucky few into his small circle of trust. I am eternally grateful to have learned so much from him.

Over the years, he met my family and talked dogs and guns and safes and shooting ranges with my husband. He talked to my kids about school or whatever random topic they brought up. He supported my career goals as a boss and friend and we made a great team. When I approached him about taking time off from work to pursue yoga training, he was supportive and curious. I soon after learned of his love for working out (iykyk, I'm not spilling secrets!) which added to just how cool he was.

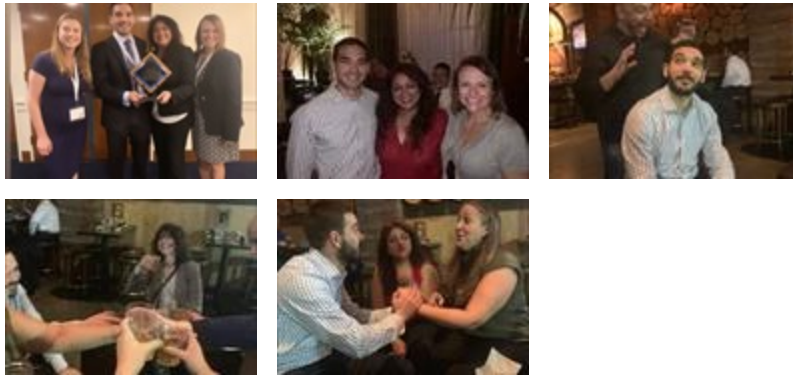
Matt will not only always be my favorite boss but also one of my most hilarious and interesting friends. He could talk intelligently to most anyone about almost anything. Over the years, I grew to “know” Argo and pieces of Jordyn and Mom Haught and his dad. Mom Haught and Jordyn: The love between you both and Matt was so evident. Jordyn, he was so proud of you! He talked about you and your achievements with awe but was never surprised by your success.

Mom Haught, I can only hope my kids love me and respect me as much as Matt loved and respected you. He sometimes shared fun stories about your teaching years or his childhood- and the wild pet fox story and video will stay with me forever.

Matt was like a little brother, friend, mentor, advisor, boss, leader, and 80 year old man, all rolled into one.

We are all so blessed to have had him in our lives.

Your leadership was incredible. Thank you for protecting our team from needless worry and drama. Thank you for always doing the right thing for the Veterans we served.



Dawn Pruitt - January 10, 2025 at 07:20 PM

MH

“ I prayed for my brother veteran and had just recently reach out by text very close to his passing . I have failed to find his reply as I was certain he had . He had graduated the program in Fayetteville and Apollo and Matt had gone home . Lady and I both so enjoyed their company ,knowelge and rays of sun shine that was present. Our hearts go out to Marry Beth and the rest of the family plus all that knew him . Mark Hess and Lady (cannie support) . Sparta No

Mark Hess - January 10, 2025 at 05:57 PM

LC

“ Please accept my condolences. May the peace of God surround your hearts and minds.

Lisa Rowlett Carlson - January 10, 2025 at 11:57 AM

F2

“ From The Class of 2002 purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Matthew Taylor Haught.



From The Class of 2002 - January 09, 2025 at 09:22 PM

F2

“ From The Class of 2002 planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Matthew Taylor Haught.

From The Class of 2002 - January 09, 2025 at 09:22 PM

DJ

“ David scott sanders jr lit a candle in memory of Matthew Haught



David scott sanders jr - January 09, 2025 at 09:19 PM

DJ

“ You made a impact in my life matt. You will be missed brother. Just know you will never be forgotten you are and will forever be reamberd . Hannah and Scott Sanders

David scott sanders jr - January 09, 2025 at 09:19 PM

DS

“ Oh Mary Beth. I don't know what to say that would help. My heart goes out to you, your mom and Jordan. Prayers to all of you.
Debi (West) Seifritz

Debi Seifritz - January 09, 2025 at 08:39 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Matthew Taylor Haught.



January 09, 2025 at 02:41 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Matthew Taylor Haught.

January 09, 2025 at 02:41 PM

BR

“ The Wyatt family is in deep sorrow over the loss of such a great man. His father and the Haught family are In Our prayers.

Brenda - January 09, 2025 at 11:54 AM

DJ

“ I just met matt at iop and rrt. He was an amazing man. And I am.proud to call him family. I feel like I failed. I spoke to him every day, but the last week got caught up In life and work. Im so sorry he is truly a light lost o. This earth. I hope your at piece brother and I hope we meed again in the next life. You were loved and are loved brother. To his mom step dad and sister. Im so sorry for your loss know my wife ans I truly loved matt. And im sorry I dropped the ball calling him. Live free brother we will meet again. One day.

David scott sanders jr - January 08, 2025 at 10:03 PM

MP

“ Matt was a great friend and roommate. This photo is one of my favorite memories of him loaning me his bowtie after I forgot mine for my own wedding. Sorry for your loss Haught family, Matt truly was a selfless man who will be greatly missed.



Michael Podojil - January 08, 2025 at 08:51 PM



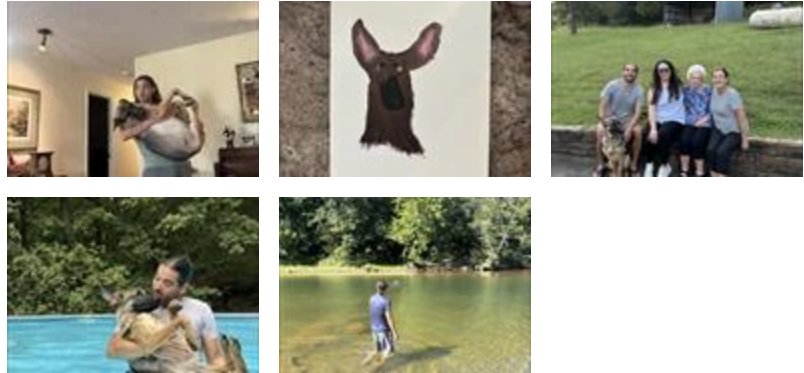
“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Matthew Taylor Haught.



January 08, 2025 at 08:29 PM



“ 8 files added to the tribute wall



Jennie Wilkinson - January 08, 2025 at 08:27 PM



“ My heart is broken. I am so honored that I knew Matthew. My heart and prayers are with the family.

Betty Blackwood - January 08, 2025 at 03:13 PM



I met Matt during his time at the VA experience work, he quickly became a great friend and colleague. I am extremely saddened with this news. He was brilliant, smart and funny. He will always have a place in my heart. My deepest condolences to the family and his friends.

Henna R Grover - January 08, 2025 at 05:12 PM



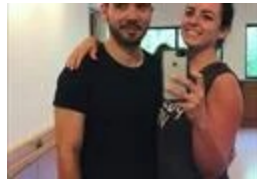
“ We will never stop loving Matt.



Andrew - January 08, 2025 at 02:43 PM



“ 8 files added to the tribute wall



Jennie Wilkinson - January 08, 2025 at 02:07 PM



“ *Matthew was an outstanding young man, and I am privileged to have known him. I so enjoyed being his teacher. He was such a servant to our country, and his accomplishments will serve others for years to come. My heart breaks for you, his dear family, and for all of us who knew him.*

Dena James - January 08, 2025 at 01:31 PM



Prayers for you all. He served his country well.

Kelly Hudgins Powell - January 09, 2025 at 01:25 PM



Prayers for all the family ! He served his country well . I knew him from a small child to a young man. My heart goes out to his family, and to all who knew and loved him.

Joan Grigg - January 14, 2025 at 04:11 PM

JW

I had the good fortune to meet Matt while taking care of Argo! After reading through everyone's words, it all makes sense how much I liked them both from the very first minute. He loved, was loved and that won't ever change. My heart goes out to everyone that feels his absence! Let his stories and memories accompany us all!

Jarod E. Williams - February 11, 2025 at 09:03 PM