



LETTER FROM A GOLD STAR FAMILY MEMBER

Family members of military personnel who die in service to the nation wear the Gold Star in honor of their sacrifice.

July 10, 2017

Aaron Daniel Gautier was born on a Thursday January 17, 1988 in Hampton, Virginia to Daniel Gautier and Tina L. Houchins. He was such a beautiful baby. He grew up to be a fun, loveable goofy kid. And won the hearts of everyone that met him. He was into everything as a young child, curious how everything worked and wanted to take things apart to figure it out. And was always kidding around. His favorite thing to do was to poke me in the side saying "ma, ma, ma" till he got my attention. He had a wide



variety of musical tastes, from country to rap. We attended a few concerts together when he was younger. He enjoyed hanging out with his friends playing video games and basketball, going to the mall checking out the girls. He had a way with the ladies and love to flirt, even when we was a baby. He told me that when he got out of the military, he wanted to go to school for computers, as I did. Since he enjoyed playing video games, he wanted to learn how to design them. He was very close to his sisters, Trisha and Alexis, especially his oldest sister Trisha. They fought a lot in their early teen years, but became very close as they got older. She would get mad at him for flirting with her friends. Lol.

After 9/11, Aaron wanted to defend our country. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, Fort Lewis, Wash. Aaron died May 17, 2007 in Baghdad of wounds sustained when his mounted patrol came in contact with enemy forces using small-arms fire and an improvised explosive device.





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My wish is that he will never be forgotten. Aaron has touched so many lives. He went through so many changes when he joined the Army. One of the biggest changes was that he became a gentleman at a young age. The transformation from a boy to a responsible brave young man, when it came to hearing the call to defending our great nation. Sometimes I feel him still poke me in the side when I'm sleeping. I miss my crazy kid, my little man, my brave soldier. He will always be remembered and missed by his family and friends forever.

Aaron is buried at the Hampton Veterans Memorial Gardens, Hampton, VA. in the Circle of Honor.

Gold Star Mother of Cpl. Aaron Gautier,

Tina Houchins

