

# THANK YOU

THANK YOU FOR COMING TOGETHER  
TO CELEBRATE THE LIFE OF  
SGT. RAFAEL A. RIOS JR. YOUR PRESENCE  
TODAY HAS PROVIDED SOLACE  
AND COMFORT TO OUR HEARTS.

## OFFICIANT

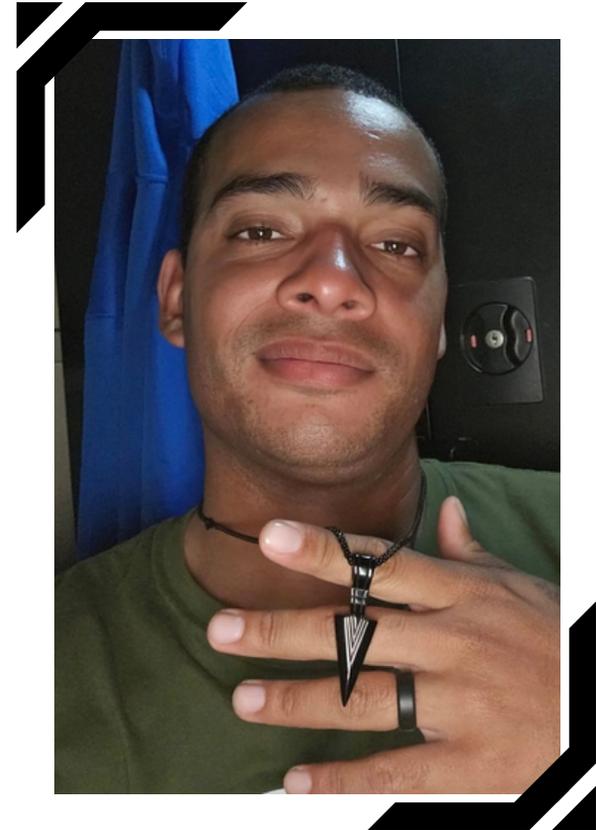
CHAPLAIN VICTOR MATOS

## VISITATION

5:30 PM TO 7:30 PM  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2026

## SERVICE

12 PM  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2026



# SGT. RAFAEL ANTHONY RIOS JR.

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AUGUST 20, 1993 - JANUARY 17, 2026



# ORDER OF SERVICE

**Processional** - *Erin Amaya*

**Invocation** - *Ch. V. Matos*

**Greeting** - *Ch. V. Matos*

**Eulogies**

Luz Figueroa Sabrina Rios SSG Garcia

**Presentation of Video**

**Homily/Meditation** - *Ch. V. Matos*

**Pastoral Prayer** - *Ch. V. Matos*

**Benediction** - *Ch. V. Matos*

**Military Honors** - *Honor Guard*

**Recessional** - *Erin Amaya*

# OBITUARY

Rafael Anthony Rios Jr. was born on August 20, 1993, in Newark, New Jersey. He spent much of his childhood and young adulthood in Attleboro, Massachusetts, where he built the foundation of the person he would become.

After earning his GED and working in the food industry, Rafael felt called to serve a greater purpose and enlisted in the United States Army as an Infantryman in 2019. His first duty station was Fort Carson, Colorado, where two years later he met the love of his life, Barbara. Together they built a life filled with love, later marrying and creating a warm and supportive home for his stepson, Vincent.

In 2023, Rafael relocated to Fort Riley, Kansas, as part of a Permanent Change of Station. In early 2024, he deployed to Kuwait, where he served his country with courage and dedication. Upon his return and reunion with his family, Rafael's commitment, integrity, and leadership qualities were recognized by his superiors. He was promoted to Corporal and then to Sergeant earning the respect of those who served alongside him.

After years of devoted military service, Rafael began considering new paths in life while continuing his search for purpose and meaning. Rafael passed away on the night of January 16–17, 2026, leaving behind his beloved wife, son, sister Sabrina and brother Emmanuel and other family members, friends, and fellow service members in profound disbelief and sorrow.

Rafael will be remembered for his strong character, infectious laugh, comforting hugs, and the personal code of honor by which he lived every day. His presence and impact will forever remain in the hearts of those who knew and loved him.



WHEN YOU REMEMBER ME,  
PLEASE DO NOT WEEP.  
MY BODY MAY NOT BE THERE,  
IT HAS CHOSEN TO SLEEP.  
I'M NOT THAT FAR AWAY.  
MY SOUL LIVES ON, LOOKING DOWN  
WATCHING OVER YOU AND EVERYONE.  
AND WHEN YOU FEEL SAD AND LIFE SEEMS SO  
BLUE, JUST REMEMBER THAT MY SPIRIT HAS  
ITS ARMS AROUND YOU.  
AND ON THOSE SPECIAL DAYS, TIMES THAT  
YOU WISH I COULD SEE, THAT COOL BREEZE  
FLOWING PAST YOU..  
WELL, THAT WILL BE ME.  
SO DON'T BE SAD. HAVE NO FEAR.  
I WILL ALWAYS BE NEAR.  
I STILL WATCH YOU EVERY MINUTE, EVERY  
DAY.

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I'D LIKE THE MEMORY OF ME  
TO BE A HAPPY ONE,  
I'D LIKE TO LEAVE AN AFTERGLOW  
OF SMILES WHEN LIFE IS DONE.  
I'D LIKE TO LEAVE AN ECHO  
WHISPERING SOFTLY DOWN THE  
WAYS,  
OF HAPPY TIMES AND LAUGHING  
TIMES AND BRIGHT AND SUNNY  
DAYS.  
I'D LIKE THE TEARS OF THOSE WHO  
GRIEVE, TO DRY BEFORE THE SUN  
OF HAPPY MEMORIES THAT I LEAVE  
WHEN LIFE IS DONE.

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