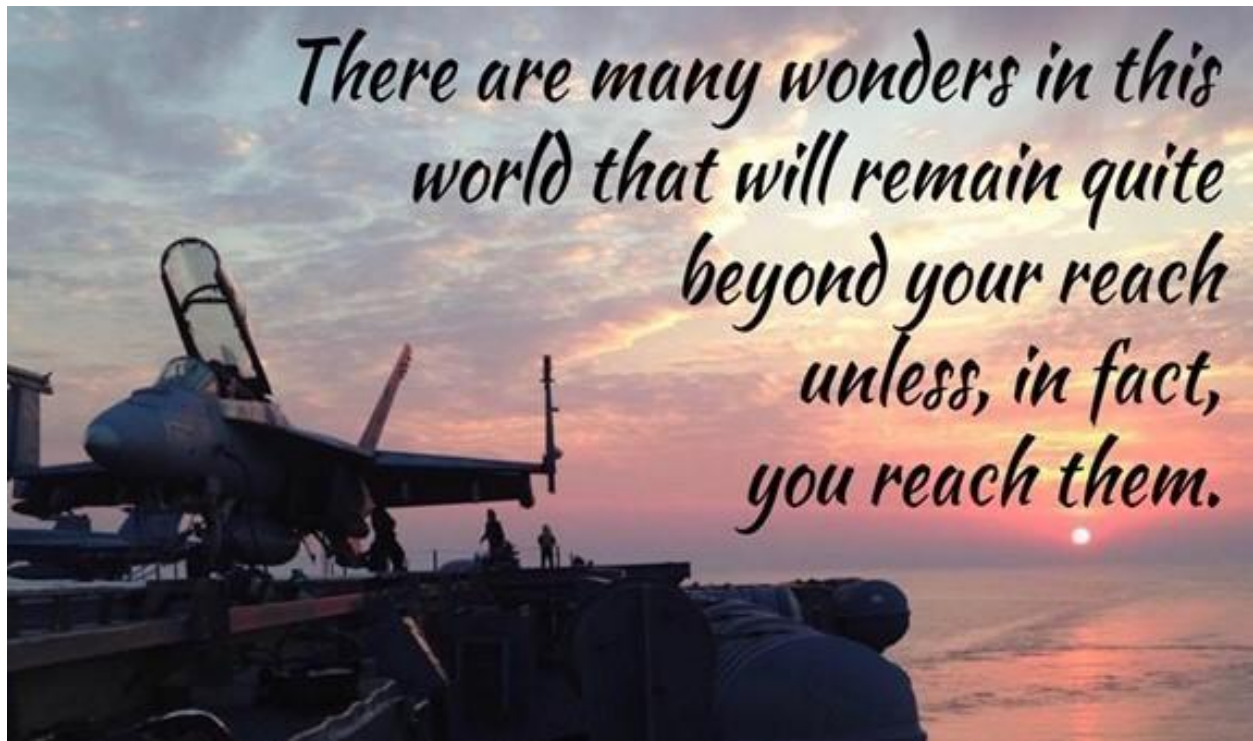




The Takeoff- October 2019



From the time Zach was born, we got to watch him at every stage of his life. At a young age, Zach was very inquisitive. We recall being in the car with Zach and he was constantly talking. Why are there rocks on the side of the road, what are the wires on the poles, is it always this sunny here, where are the clouds, and on and on and on. Erin noted "He was a professional Question asker". His thirst for knowledge was the foundation for his passionate and dedicated life. He also had a very strong will to compete. We would each take turns playing his Sega Genesis to see how far we could get in the game. He was always better than the rest of us and he let us know it. As Zach grew up, we saw his passions evolve from hockey to lacrosse to the military and on. There was never a doubt in our mind that when Zach set his mind to something, he would master it. He had a strong will. On one of our trips to Colorado for the holiday one of our best memories of Zach was him wanting to get a "Tookie". We were all eating cookies and he kept calling them "Tookies." We'd say "Zach say Cookie" and he would say "Cookie" Then we'd ask him what he wanted and he'd say he wanted a "Tookie". Try as we might, we could not get him to ask for a "Cookie". He knew what he wanted and



wouldn't bend in his ways. As he grew older, we wondered what would ever become of Zach. What would be his path? What direction would he take? As he was getting close to graduating high school, he called his Uncle Mike to get some perspective on the Military. He always admired our family and all the traveling the Air Force brought us. He thought that this path may be good for him as well so he decided to enlist in the Navy. He did it his way. We were all so proud of him for making such a dedicated choice. Our little Zach was growing up and becoming his own man. Boot camp and his first duty had its struggles but he found a way to carry on and excel. We loved it when he would call to tell us what he has been up to and what port he was in. We loved seeing his adventures from Dubai to the Suez Canal. He was quite the fashionista in his golfing attire. During his time in the Navy and being on his own, he really learned about service before self. He came to understand the value in achievement, family, and relationships. He carried all these qualities in his life. Once he decided it was time to move on from the Navy, we wondered what Zach would do next. We didn't have to wait. He knew what he wanted to do. It was to fly. He had it all planned out. We couldn't have asked for more seeing our nephew and cousin's decision-making process and making his own way. When Erin spoke to Zach about his school and flying, she said "His face would light up the room with his smile. All he could talk about was his next flight and where he would go and also where he could take me. To him it was much more than flying, it was an experience that he wanted to share with everyone."

One of our last memories of Zach while he walked among us was at Caylen and Jenessa's wedding. He was so confident, so self-assured. His life was right on track. He was happy. He had that wonderful smile on his face.

It was with great sorrow when we got the news of Zach's passing. How can something like this happen? This cannot be possible. After time for grieving and reflection, we were delighted to hear what the Capra family was planning. A scholarship fund for future aviators. Zach would have loved this idea. We cannot think of a better way to honor Zach than to help others who have the same passion as our Zach. He will always be a part of our lives.

-Michael and Donna Goelze, Erin and Michael Winston, Samantha and Jason
Montgomery
October 4, 2019

