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Our son Joshua is now in heaven, cancer free with no more pain and no more sorrows. He fought a good fight, kept the faith, loving others to the end. My family called me to come home from Mexico when Josh made a turn for the worse. I stayed and slept by Joshua's side caring for him in the hospital from March 3rd until he drew his final breath at the Houston Hospice facility on March 16th. Josh made me proud to be his father. I was amazed by the eruption of uncontrollable gut wrenching emotions displayed by his friends that came to see him. They were all grown men, from all walks of life. Oh how they deeply loved HIM because Josh cared for them and loved them like no one else had ever done. The first time I ever caught a glimpse of Josh's loving impact on others was when Josh was in military service. I saw Josh taking the new recruits under his wings and patiently teaching them the basics, straightening their uniforms and gently encouraging them so that they did not get reprimand by the drill sergeant. I saw the tender affection and silent gratitude in their eyes deferring back to my son.

There was one very gripping moment in the hospital that stands out. It was Josh's last day at MD Anderson before he would be transferred into hospice. Josh's room was packed with hospital staff members two attending physicians, a chaplain, a social worker and a counselor. Josh was telling them all that he was grateful for the goodness of God for allowing him to live such a great life and now he was looking forward to the next great adventure as the arm of God would swoop down and take him up to heaven. Just then, Josh's friend, Hip Hop artist 'Chucky Trill' with long blond tipped dreadlocks came through the door, looked at Josh, and burst into uncontrollable sobbing. He bolted out the door and down the hall. The chaplain ran after him. Josh said to me, "Dad you need to help Chucky, he is hurting bad, he's going thru a terrible divorce." I went out to speak with Chucky in the lobby. He said he didn't want Josh to see him crying. He said, "When I came out of prison 3 years ago I was sleeping in my car and Josh gave me money and helped me." "My family didn't help me but Josh did. Josh said he believed in me

**WELCOME HOME  
JOSHUA 3.16.2020**





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and told me I had talent and got me on the radio, into clubs and launched my career in the music business.”

Josh said to me a few days before he went home to heaven, “Dad, do you know why I got out of the music business promoting Hip Hop?” I replied, “No son why?” He said, “because one day you challenged me to use my life to have a Godly influence on others and that Hip Hop music was not honoring Christ. Dad I’m finally trying to trust God over every area of my life.” He couldn’t have spoken sweeter words to his mother and I.

Josh never got to fulfill his dream of heading up the Royal Rangers program at his church. He wanted to assist in the formation of young Christian soldiers preparing them with the needed skillset for a life of service in the same way he nurtured his fellow soldiers as a young man. Joshua lived by the Marine motto ‘Semper Fi’. (Always Faithful). He made us very proud.

Together We Touch The World!

*Julie & Carol*

P.S. Please help us with the funds to buy beans and rice for families struggling with the impact of COVID-19 in Mexico, the Dominican Republic and Haiti. Thank you!

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# Welcome Home

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