



K9 Nyx Vargas

August 7, 2016 - January 28, 2024

K9 Nyx, 7, killed in the line of duty on January 28, 2024. Born August 7, 2016.

K9 Nyx and Officer Vargas' paths crossed at an uncertain time in his journey through canine school. In late September of 2018, Officer Vargas had the misfortune of having to wash out two dogs and the outlook of finishing school in time looked dim. During the weekend when he was to return the second canine to the vendor, his supervisor received a call. That phone call was to advise that a canine had become available and the vendor believed "she" would be a good fit for our city and was already trained.

Sgt. Duane Johnson, Officer Geiken and Officer Vargas set out on yet another adventure hoping this canine would be Officer Vargas' saving grace. All three arrived at the vendor and waited outside as this fierce, energetic and focused Belgian Malinois/Shepherd mix was brought out to them. She was put to the test by Officer Geiken and after some rounds she was clearly the one. Her leash was handed to Officer Vargas and he was told "Welp get back to school and graduate." He wasted no time traveling from Berrien Center, Michigan to Springfield, Illinois, traveling the speed limit of course.

Officer Vargas and K9 Nyx arrived at school and jumped right in with everyone else as if he had begun the training with her and never left. Only with bonding to be worked on along with some of her personality quirks. The rest as they

say, is history. Not knowing that God brought them together so that one day she would rescue him once more by sacrificing her life so that he could continue the good fight and see his family again. She was the best of the best and she will forever be remembered by those she met. She left behind some big dog booties to fill.

Rest easy my sweet girl, you did your job.

Memorial Visitation Saturday, February 17, 2024 from 12 pm to 3 pm at City First Church; 5950 Spring Creek Road, Rockford; Law enforcement walk through at 3:00 pm; followed by a Celebration of K9 Nyx's life at 4:00 pm. Pastor Paul Meyers will officiate. Live stream of the service can be viewed here: <https://my.gather.app/remember/k9-nyx-vargas> In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in her memory to Friends of the Rockford Police K9 <https://www.friendsofrockfordpolicek9.com/donate>

Community members are welcome to sign the register book, leave condolence cards or make a donation in her memory at Grace Funeral & Cremation Services, 4301 N. Main St. Rockford; Monday-Friday from 9 am to 5 pm, until February 15, 2024.

The staff of Grace Funeral & Cremation Services is honored to care for Nyx in this tragic time. Share a memory or condolence at www.graceFH.com.

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

FEB 17. 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

City First Church
5950 Spring Creek Road
Rockford, IL 61114

Law Enforcement Walk Through

FEB 17. 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

City First Church
5950 Spring Creek Road
Rockford, IL 61114

Celebration of Life

FEB 17. 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM (CT)

City First Church
5950 Spring Creek Road
Rockford, IL 61114

Tribute Wall



“ Grace Funeral & Cremation Services created a Tribute Video in memory of K9 Nyx Vargas



Grace Funeral & Cremation Services - March 14, 2024 at 02:06 PM

AL

“ I was lucky enough to see K9 Nyx in action last summer at RVC for a RPD K9 event. She was amazing under the instruction of her handler, Officer Vargas. She was a blessing to our community and her family. Thank you just isn't enough for her sacrifice. Rest in peace, sweet girl.



Anastasia Layman - February 17, 2024 at 04:10 PM

KB

“ KB lit a candle in memory of K9 Nyx Vargas



KB - February 16, 2024 at 03:59 PM

PA

“A dog is the only thing on earth that loves you more than he loves himself.”

— Josh Billings.

Rest in Peace Officer Nyx.

Paul Barthel Founder/President Animal Humane Advocacy

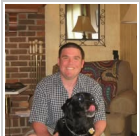
Paul Barthel Animal Humane Advocacy - February 15, 2024 at 01:37 PM

KB

“KB lit a candle in memory of K9 Nyx Vargas



KB - February 12, 2024 at 08:10 PM



“Robert Pacenti sent a virtual gift in memory of K9 Nyx Vargas



Robert Pacenti - February 10, 2024 at 01:03 PM



“ Robert Pacenti lit a candle in memory of K9 Nyx Vargas



Robert Pacenti - February 10, 2024 at 01:01 PM



“ Deepest sympathies and Prayers to Officer Vargas and RPD on the the loss of K9 Officer Nyx. Our thoughts are with you...Thank-you for your service.



Angie Trickel - February 10, 2024 at 12:21 PM



“ I was honored I could pay respects at Grace funeral home and sign the book. My heart is so saddened for the Vargas family and officer Vargas who rode with her every day . A beautiful dog..RIP K9 Officer Nyx. You were loved by everyone

Judy Effler - February 10, 2024 at 12:16 PM



“ Tracey Larrison - a dog lover purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of K9 Nyx Vargas.



Tracey Larrison - a dog lover - February 10, 2024 at 11:35 AM

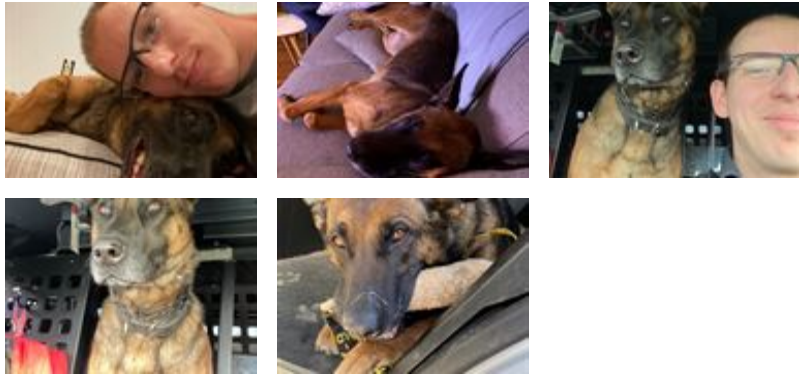


“ Tracey Larrison - a dog lover planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of K9 Nyx Vargas.

Tracey Larrison - a dog lover - February 10, 2024 at 11:35 AM



“ 23 files added to the album Life Tributes



Grace Funeral & Cremation Services - February 06, 2024 at 09:26 PM



Sweet dog, so sad

Dalton - February 14, 2024 at 07:52 AM

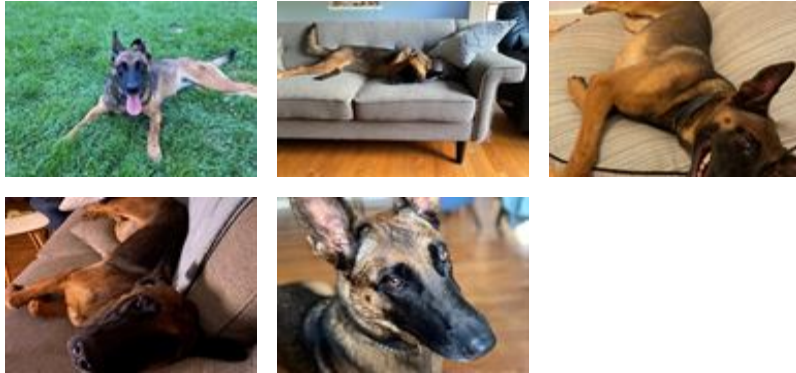


God Bless All of You,

janis - February 17, 2024 at 03:56 PM



“ 39 files added to the album Life Tributes



Grace Funeral & Cremation Services - February 06, 2024 at 06:42 PM



“ Dear rockford police department my name is Jon Ferguson I'm sorry about your wonderful k9 nyxs my prayers are you and the officer who had her she was a great officer I'm here for you may God bless you Jon Ferguson 🙏



Jon Ferguson - February 06, 2024 at 05:56 PM



Dear officer Vargas, I am truly sorry for your loss of your partner hoffer k9 Nyxs. She had your back. I know that she loved ❤️ you and pasted away protecting you and doing her job. My name is Angel T. and my prayers be with you officer Vargas as well as all the Rockford police department

Angel T - February 08, 2024 at 09:43 PM



“ State Rep. John M. Cabello planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of K-9 Nyx Vargas.

State Rep. John M. Cabello - February 05, 2024 at 11:24 AM



“ *Divine Light was purchased for the family of K9 Nyx Vargas.*



February 05, 2024 at 11:24 AM



“ *I was privileged to meet K9 Officer NYX and her partner Officer Vargas when I attended the Citizens Police Academy. She was a beautiful dog and it was evident how devoted they both were to each other! My heart goes out to the Rockford Police K9 unit and especially to Officer Vargas and his family for this tragic loss of K9 Officer NYX. She will always be remembered.*
Gail Pickering

Gail Pickering - February 05, 2024 at 07:59 AM



“ *Thank you for your service. Praying for the family.*

Teresa Reed - February 02, 2024 at 06:07 AM



“ *Prayers to the Family.*



Jenny - February 01, 2024 at 04:49 PM

SA

“ Sandee lit a candle in memory of K-9 Nyx Vargas



Sandee - January 31, 2024 at 07:31 PM

SK

Dear K9 Officer Vargas. I'm so very sorry for the loss of your Beloved Partner and DearFriend K9 Nyx. My name is Sergeant James O.Broughton Star #2331, Illinois State Police Retired K9 Officer. I know what it's like to loose A K9 Partner,as I lost mine also to injuries while on Duty.My K9 Partner Named Lucky,died while protecting me from serious injuries he received while attempting to control large rioting crowd. He survived the beating,but was retired to me , because injuries to him made it impossible to work.He died in my arms in 1995 while I held him in my arms. I hope you can get some strength from this story, as I am Praying for you and your Family,and all of your Fellow K9 ,s.Rest In PEACE K9 NYX. You Are What A Real HEROE,IS ALL ABOUT.

Sgt.James O. Broughton Dist Chgo Retd K9 - February 21, 2024 at 01:29 AM