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1/25/2012 1:23:00 PM

Hillsboro man killed in Mexico resort accident

Davide Soprano remembered as a caring, fun-loving man



By **MEREDITH CREEK**
Contributing
Writer



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Davide Soprano (front) served in the U.S. Army Old Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, D.C. where he was stationed for four years.

Family and friends from across southern Ohio are remembering a Hillsboro man who lost his life Saturday while vacationing in Mexico.

Davide Allan Brethauer (Soprano), 31, was known by many as a caring, fun-loving man who lived his life putting others first.

"Davide was filled with such goodness and selfless love and compassion that it could not be contained in this physical world," said Michael Henry, one of Davide's close friends. "But now it will carry on like a wildfire within the hearts of those whose lives he touched."

According to his sister, Amber Brethauer, on Jan. 16 Davide and his wife, Jessica Strausbaugh, were at a resort about an hour outside of Cancun. They were riding in a tourist vehicle that had a roof, but no sides, when the driver reportedly took a turn too sharp causing the couple to fall from the vehicle.

Amber said Davide's head hit a curb and Jessica hit her face and elbow.

"He said a couple of words and then the ambulance came," Amber said. "They transferred him from a smaller hospital to a larger one in Cancun."

It was there that Davide immediately underwent surgery for a blood clot in his brain and remained in an induced coma until Saturday when the family was notified that he passed away.

Jessica's father, Phil Strausbaugh, and two of her cousins flew to Mexico to be with her.

Amber said that while Jessica and her family returned from Mexico Sunday, Davide's body was scheduled to return on a flight into Cincinnati late Wednesday.

Davide and his family first arrived in Highland County when Davide was three years old. Throughout elementary school and high school, he made many friends who have blanketed Facebook with memories of him since his death.



"Dave was a very good friend, not only to me, but many others," Zac Hudson told the Times-Gazette. "There has never been a time when he wouldn't be there for any of his friends. He was one of the most caring, loving, fun persons I've had the privilege to know and he will be missed, loved, and remain in our hearts and memories. We love you Dave."

Henry and Hudson both attended [Hillsboro High School](#) with Davide, who graduated in 1999 and later changed his legal name to Davide Soprano for unknown reasons.

"Everyone wondered, but we never knew why," Amber said.

Five years after graduation, Davide entered into Army boot camp and eventually became a member of the U.S. Army Old Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, D.C. where he was stationed for four years.

He was still active in the Army Reserves, but had taken a break to complete his college education. Last month he graduated from [Southern State Community College's](#) law enforcement officer program and was preparing to join a police force.

According to his mother, Kim (Show) McKown, Davide spent his life giving himself to others.

"He embraced the cause of animal rescue and neglect and he believed strongly in his duty to serve his country in a time of war," she said. "He looked forward to serving his community, which he loved and where he spent his life. His family and the community lost a son, and a friend, who followed his calling to give love and compassion to others."

Davide and Jessica married seven years ago and made their home in Hillsboro. Davide's mother and step-father, Dr. James McKown, also live in Hillsboro, and his father and stepmother, Steven and Nancy Brethauer, reside in Williamsburg. In addition to his sister, Amber, Davide had one brother, Richard Sisler, of Peebles.

Amber said that her brother had the "craziest luck" with things from claw machines to lottery tickets.

"Those memories stick out for me," she said. "He always amazed me because things that normal people couldn't win at, he did. He won at every game he played and made it look easy."

She recalled the annual vacations the family took to North Carolina since Davide was six years old and said that she could never catch lizards, but that Davide would "catch them every time."

His life touched many people in Highland County and Davide's friends continue to post old videos, quotes, and pictures on Facebook as they remember a man who, in the words of Henry, was "truly genuine..."

A visitation will be held for Davide on Friday from 4-8 p.m. at the Turner and Son Funeral Home in Hillsboro. His funeral will take place Saturday at 11 a.m. at the funeral home. Burial, with military honors presented by the Highland County Honor Guard, will follow in the Grandview Cemetery in Chillicothe.

Reader Comments

Posted: Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Article comment by: **Pedro Martin**

I couldn't agree more with the story.
He was fun and caring, truly genuine.
I will definitely miss you buddy... R.I.P. "Super Dave"
I won't forget you man I promised!