



Douglas James Ditrich

JAN 21, 2024



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FUNERAL HOME AND CREMATORY

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Douglas James Ditrich

JAN 21, 2024

Obituary of Douglas James Ditrich

Please share a memory of Douglas to include in a keepsake book for family and friends. View [Tribute Book](#)

Chief Douglas James Ditrich passed away tragically on Sunday, January 21, 2024, at the age of 50. He is preceded in death by his sister, Dawn Ditrich.

Left to cherish his memory are his parents, Norman and Judith (Bleil) Ditrich; beloved wife, Sherri (Shullaw) Ditrich; sons, DJ Ditrich, Kolton Ditrich, Tyler Smith, Ryan Walker and Austin Walker; daughters, Holly Jackson and husband Jalen, Jessica Rivas and husband Ricky; brothers, Chris Ditrich and wife Roxanne, David Ditrich and wife Stacie; sisters, Beth Ditrich, Angela Lahay and husband Matthew; grandchildren, Cambria White, Demri White, Avril White, Lorelei Walker, Victoria Rae Walker; along with a host of other family, friends, brothers and sisters in law enforcement, and the citizens of La Porte whom he served faithfully.

Chief Ditrich recently reached 26 years of service with the City of La Porte, Texas, on December 29, 2023. Chief Ditrich began his law enforcement career with the City on December 29, 1997, after completion of the T.C.L.O.S.E. Academy at the University of Houston - Downtown in August 1997.

Chief Ditrich began his service to the La Porte community as a Police Officer and held numerous other ranks and roles throughout his career. Recognitions Chief Ditrich acquired during his tenure with the City of La Porte include 2019 Manager of the Year, nominations for 2010 and 2013 Employee of the Quarter, and many letters of Thanks and Commendations.



Obituary

Douglas James Ditrich

In his leisure time, Chief Ditrich enjoyed spending time in the great outdoors with Sherri. From hunting deer or hogs, bass fishing with live bait, working his land and property, to just driving his truck or tractor, he preferred to spend time out in nature. More than anything, Chief Ditrich loved to spend time with his family, his dogs Sam and Fletch, and his cat Aero.

He will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him. In Lieu of flowers, please consider contributing to Chief Ditrich's funeral fund. A visitation for Chief Ditrich will be held on Friday, January 26th, 2024, at Clayton Funeral Home of La Porte, from 5 to 8 pm. (201 S 3rd St, La Porte, Texas 77571) Funeral Services will be held the following day, Saturday, January 27th, 2024, at the Bulldog Center in La Porte, Texas, at 2:00 pm. (301 E Fairmont Pkwy, La Porte, Texas 77571)



Tribute Wall

Douglas James Ditrich

AL

Angela Lahay posted:

My brother will be missed everyday by those of us who had the honor of calling him family. He always called me "Angie" and was the only one in the world who could. He sent random texts to me and my sister always starting with "Hello my beautiful sisters..." and he always had a contagious laugh and zest for life. Even though his life was taken too soon, he lived a rich and full life. He accomplished so many things and put 110% into everything he did. I love you Dougie and will never be the same without you. Watch down on me from heaven until we see each other again. All my love, your lil sis - Ange

February 4 at 7:00 PM

DD

David Ditrich posted:

My Big Brother I miss you. Im so grateful for all the love and memories we have shared. Thanks for helping Stacie catch her first fish! You taught me how to play the "Russian Spades". I will miss our random moments of Russian accents together, but I will teach Theo how to speak "Dah" Russian in your honor! We Love you bro and we will see you again one day! - Dave, Stacie and Theo

February 4 at 7:00 PM

RH

Ryan Harr posted:

Doug truly was one of the coolest and kindest guys I've ever known. He was always so supportive and appreciative of me as a coach. Every time we ran into each other we could spend forever just talking baseball and catching up. I will miss those times, as it always brightened my day when we would randomly run into each other. Rest easy friend.

February 3 at 7:00 PM

JJ

Jennie & Kyle Jones posted:

We are so honored to have known you in this life and called you a dear friend. The gift of your love and care especially these last couple of years is more than we could ever repay. I am so thankful for the love and happiness you gave to my best friend and pray that you visit her in her dreams. I know you will always be with your family in their hearts. Please help them heal through this transition. A Heavenly Angel here on earth, I know they had your wings waiting for you when you arrived. We miss you terribly, but know you are safe and sound with the Lord. Amen.

February 2 at 7:00 PM



Tribute Wall

Douglas James Ditrich

RK

Rhonda Kimberlin posted:

Doug just wanted to share Jesus and make sure he was following Gods plan for his life. He did just that. He was always uplifting and made me laugh and smile when I saw him. I was his baseball wife because I made sure when he was in school that he could see DJ's at bats. When he had baseball issues Sherri would say call Rhonda lol. I will cherish those talks. Doug loved his wife like Christ loved the church. He loved his family and children and saw the best in everyone. He was fair and kind and a man after Gods heart. I hope many people turn to God like he did. He is gone and in a better place that he deserves. I will never forget him and he will always be in my heart. Thanks for loving Jordan and Jaydon and always pouring positivity into them. I'm a better person today because I knew you! We will take care of your family. Until I see you again Rest in Paradise!

February 2 at 7:00 PM

JS

Joshua Shullaw posted:

Uncle Doug was an awesome dude. Through out my life, he was always kind and supportive. I'll never forget him.

February 2 at 7:00 PM

CS

Christopher Shullaw posted:

Doug - I will miss you. I remember all the great fishing trips we had here in Colorado. All the late night back porch conversations while having a cigar. Your love and devotion to my sister was second to none. Your memory will live on with me through the wisdom you shared and provided as the sudo big brother brother to me I never had. I will miss you but it won't be long until we meet again.Love, Chris

February 2 at 7:00 PM

LC

Lindsey Campuzano posted:

I'm so thankful to have worked with Chief Ditrich. I'm going to miss our baseball conversations and letting me know what message I should deliver back to Altuve. My favorite memory is our midnight drive to Whataburger during the freeze and watching him scrape the windows because EOC Staff got hungry and he wanted to make sure we were taken care of. I miss you Chief!

February 1 at 7:00 PM



Tribute Wall

Douglas James Ditrich

DS

Dawn Shullaw posted:

I always loved visiting Doug! We had many political debates on the front porch. We usually ended up with an agreement to disagree, but we would always have a laugh doing it. Doug was one of the kindest most loving people I know and I feel so blessed to have him as my brother-in-law. I love and will miss you, Doug!

February 1 at 7:00 PM

HN

Hope Novosad posted:

Friend, mentor, leader, and great boss. I am so thankful Matt had the opportunity to work alongside Doug for 24 years. Doug was one of Matt's field training officers, and he was so happy to see Matt's career blossom. He always shared kind words with me, and a hug...every single time I saw him. We love the Ditrich family and will continue to pray for them.

February 1 at 7:00 PM

ES

Emily Shullaw posted:

Uncle Doug, I will never forget that time that we went bungee jumping off the Royal Gorge or all the times I had to ask you to put a worm on my hook for me when we went fishing because I was too grossed out to touch them. You were the best fisher out of all of us and hopefully I can catch some in your honor one day! You will be missed greatly but your legacy will live on forever.

February 1 at 7:00 PM

DS

David Spade posted:

Brother you will be missed by all who knew you. I remember growing up together, baseball practices, running the neighborhood, the sleepovers and so many other memories. You were the best man at my wedding and I hate that we lost touch for some years. I know you are with your sister now and doing great things up there. Until we meet again my friend.

February 1 at 7:00 PM



Tribute Wall

Douglas James Ditrich

SS

Stephen Snook posted:

Even though our time with Doug was short, Kristen and I were lucky enough to consider him a part of the family. He would always share his wisdom and knowledge about life, family, faith, and baseball with us that will always be remembered."There are some who bring a light so great to the world that even after they have gone, the light remains."Until we meet again, you are forever in our hearts -
Stephen & Kristen Snook

February 1 at 7:00 PM

CR

Crystal Redden posted:

I just don't know how to begin to express our deepest sympathy, we are heartbroken that Doug is no longer with us in person. Sherry, you and y'all's beautiful family haven't left our thoughts and prayers. I'm gonna miss seeing Doug at Rotary, and especially seeing his smiling face as he walked through my store to the candle cabinet...I always knew that if I hadn't seen him at my store all year, I knew I couldn't close on December 24th until he stopped in for Sherry's candle... A tradition of about 20 years, I enjoyed seeing how much love he had for Sherry, he never missed an occasion big or small to express his devotion to such a beautiful marriage between 2 amazing people. We're so sad about such a tremendous loss, but our faith assures us we will see Doug again. Love, Crystal & Jason Redden and your CMR Jewelers family

February 1 at 7:00 PM

TS

Ty Smith posted:

Wisdom, patience, and love were the greatest gifts you gave to me.I'd give anything to have you here to share your wisdom once more with me. No piece of gold, money, land, or material thing on this earth is worth more than you or any of my other parents.I love you greatly. I miss you tremendously. I will be strong.I'll keep doing my best and I know that you and god will do the rest.

January 31 at 7:00 PM

SG

Savannah Guidry posted:

My family and I are with the Ditrich's during this time, and want to extend a hand in remembrance of Chief Douglas Ditrich. He was a light in our lives, and we are so grateful for the memories that we were granted to share with this family. My heart especially goes out to Sherri, a woman with a heart of steel and a presence of warmth wherever she may roam. My family wishes to lift this family up, just as they did for us many times before.Thoughts and prayers,The Guidry/Johnsons

January 31 at 7:00 PM



Tribute Wall

Douglas James Ditrich

KA

Kristen Acton posted:

Doug, My heart just hurts for your beautiful wife and family. From the day I met you and Sherri you have always been so kind and always smiling. You and Sherri were a power couple like no other! When Dad passed away and everyone was so far away, y'all took everything in your hands and helped make everything perfect. Always giving everyone your heart. You are always in ours. Forever apart of our family. Now sitting in heaven at peace, you will be dearly missed. We will have to take comfort in knowing we will see you again. Rest in peace Mr. Doug, your forever in our Hearts. David & Kristen Acton

January 31 at 7:00 PM

KP

Kai And Cheryl Patrick posted:

I will always remember the stories of Kai and Doug playing video games after evening shift and Doug complaining because Kai, or K Lo as Doug called him, always won. Doug was one of his first friends at the PD. Doug and Sherri were the first couple we met while living at Harbor Bay apartments as newly weds. Nothing but great memories from the early days before kids, to SWAT competitions, to Bike Patrol, to kid's birthday parties, then talk about when and what they will do when they retire. When Doug would send a email out to the guys he would address it "Gentleman and Kai", Kai always got a kick out of that. Doug will be greatly missed by both of us. We love you and your family Sherri.

January 31 at 7:00 PM

CB

Christina Boles posted:

Bennie and I will dearly miss Doug! He was a great leader and friend. He had the best sense of humor and biggest heart! We pray that God's overwhelming peace would carry you all through this time of grief.

January 31 at 7:00 PM

CG

Chris Gottus posted:

Wendy and I remember how great Doug and Sherri were together, bringing smiles and laughter to those around them. As one of my field training officers, I found Doug to be both a tough and effective instructor who was enjoyable to work with. He was a consummate professional and a godly leader. Wendy and I are both grateful to have known him and his family.

January 31 at 7:00 PM



Tribute Wall

Douglas James Ditrich

SK

Shawn Kominek posted:

One of my favorite memories is from the freeze of 2021. We were in EOC on the night shift - some had opted to nap but Doug and I stayed strong. Lol!! I was flipping through the TV channels and paused briefly on The Golden Girls. As I clicked to the next channel Doug made a sound of disappointment. It was that night that I learned that Doug Ditrich loved The Golden Girls!

January 31 at 7:00 PM

JB

Josh Bruegger posted:

Like others I do not know where to begin. It's been almost two weeks since I received the tragic news and I still don't understand it, but it's not for me to understand but all apart of His plan. It's times like these when it's hard to find the right words. Doug was a good man. A dedicated public servant, loving husband, and amazing father. We spent many Friday Chiefs' breakfast together. You and I talked quite a bit as you were going through the Chief process. Afterward you'd call to bounce something off me, but you always took a genuine interest in how I was doing. In one of our last texts you told me you owed me lunch and I am disappointed I never took you up on it. You quickly learned it can be lonely at the top and any decision you make is going to not be well received by everyone. We were able to vent to each other. You have left a hole that will never be filled, but more importantly you left a legacy. Your memory will live on in the memories of all the people you touched, both personally and professional. Rest easy Doug, we have it from here. Josh Bruegger

January 31 at 7:00 PM

JM

Jackie And Wes Morrell posted:

Sending our deepest sympathy to you, your family, and friends. Thoughts and prayers are with you

January 31 at 7:00 PM



Tribute Wall

Douglas James Ditrich

HJ

Holly Jackson posted:

Dad, Thank you for the love you've given each of us on days we did and didn't deserve it. Thank you for being a man of Integrity and Honor. Thank you for being the definition of a Godly Man. You were the father you didn't have to be to me and my siblings and for that I will forever be thankful. You have given me the best memories of my life and I'll hold on to them each sec of everyday. I'll miss our everyday talks and being able to call you to grip about the Astros or cry because I'm having a hard day. I'll miss your laugh and beautiful smile. I'll miss your sarcastic humor. Most of all I'll miss you. You are our world. My heart will never be the same but I know you have the biggest wings and mansion in Heaven. I pray that you continue to watch over each of us. I love you Douglas. Forever, Your Baby Girl

January 31 at 7:00 PM

SB

Shawn And Andrea Boznango posted:

Doug and I started at La Porte Police Department within a very short time of each other. I remember noticing, from the first time I met him, that something was just different about him. Doug's intelligence and professionalism spoke for itself and many will testify as to what an amazing police officer he was and his career speaks to that fact, but I am talking about the man - Doug Ditrich. Doug was the most honest, friendly, patient, compassionate and morally sound person I have ever met within law enforcement or outside of it. Doug was ALWAYS true to himself, his family, his profession and his friends. In the decades of knowing this exceptional human being, I cannot remember a single time where he did not do everything in his power to do the right thing or to do right by someone else. If God made a model for how to love others as yourself, that model is Doug Ditrich. Brother, I will miss you every day of my life until that day I see you again and hug your neck.

January 26 at 7:00 PM

CA

Crisis Chaplaincy Of America posted:

We, the volunteer chaplains of Crisis Chaplaincy of America, are praying for you! May God continue to comfort your family!

January 26 at 7:00 PM

WR

Wanda Richards posted:

My most heartfelt condolences to the Ditrich Family, the LaPorte Police Department & the LaPorte community. My thoughts & prayers are with all. Wanda Richards

January 26 at 7:00 PM



Tribute Wall

Douglas James Ditrich

PB

Pete Bacon posted:

On behalf of the men and women of the Webster Police Department, we wish peace and comfort upon the Ditrich Family, the La Porte Police Department, and the entire community. Chief Ditrich was a friend and colleague and my heart aches for all impacted by his tragic passing. May God begin to heal the broken hearts and may we all ensure a lasting legacy for a great man. Rest easy, Chief. Pete Bacon, Chief of Police Webster Police Department

January 26 at 7:00 PM

DW

Doris Woods posted:

Chief Ditrich you have been a shining star that could not be dimmed, my heart felt condolences to your family everyone in LaPorte will miss you. God Bless.

January 26 at 7:00 PM

JR

Jorge Rios posted:

Shared lots of baseball together cheering for our boys. I won't say how we got when our boys had a bad game because you had to be there to see it. What started as baseball group many many years ago quickly became forever FAMILY.

January 25 at 7:00 PM

JR

Jorge Rios posted:

The world was a better place because he was in it. He will be greatly missed. We love you Doug and family.

January 25 at 7:00 PM

AC

Alvin Yellow Jacket Booster Club posted:

To the Ditrich Family, (Holly Jackson) Yall are in our thoughts and prayers.

January 25 at 7:00 PM



Tribute Wall

Douglas James Ditrich

LR

Lynette Rodriguez posted:

During this time of sorrow, our deepest and heartfelt condolences are with you and your family.
~Lynette Rodriguez & family

January 25 at 7:00 PM

ND

Nassau Bay Police Department posted:

We would like to express our most heartfelt sympathies for your loss. Our thoughts & prayers are with you & your family during this difficult time.

January 24 at 7:00 PM

CF

Carolyn Filson posted:

Sending our love and deepest sympathies to you and your family. You and your family are in our prayers. Love, Carolyn & Craig Filson

January 24 at 7:00 PM

KG

Kelly Green posted:

When Doug came to work at LPPD, I was fortunate enough to be one of his Field Training Officers. It was my job to mold him and make him a good police officer. I didn't need to put that much effort into that, he was already a brilliant individual. During the 4-6 weeks of our training when he was a rookie, we immediately became friends as we shared so many interests in life, music, policing and other things. My memory to share is this: we got stuck working a late shift after we arrested someone and during that processing, we didn't have a chance to eat lunch. We both had very regimented work out schedules at that time in our lives and we were not prepared to work so long without getting a chance to eat lunch. We were starving! We finished the 10-12 hour shift and decided to just drive through a McDonalds in Pasadena on our way back to La Porte. He was driving the car, so he ordered his meal. 50-piece chicken McNuggets, large fries and a soft drink. I told him to double the French fry order and get me a tea to drink thinking we were about to split the 50 nuggets. Doug quickly told me if I was hungry, I too needed to order something other than fries and a tea. We drove out of there with 100 McNuggets and quantities of their dipping sauces. I had never before, or since, eaten that many fried chicken nuggets. But we ate them all and could have taken out some more if we had them. We laughed about that and reminisced over it for years. This is only one of my first memorable moments with this wonderful man. He was truly a man of integrity, trust, loyalty and unbreakable friendship. His loss will be felt for years to come and everyone, in their life, should be lucky enough to be blessed with having a friend like Doug.

January 23 at 7:00 PM



Tribute Wall

Douglas James Ditrich



The La Porte Education Foundation posted:

Deepest condolences to you and your family.

January 23 at 7:00 PM



The Nassau Bay Volunteer Fire Department posted:

With Deepest Sympathy for your loss.

January 23 at 7:00 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Douglas by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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