



Nacanieli Sikinairai Tuivavalagi

March 1, 1983 - July 18, 2025

Nacanieli “Nate” Sikinairai Tuivavalagi (affectionately known as Naca to his family in Fiji), 42, of Novi, Michigan, passed away on July 18, 2025. Born in Suva, Fiji, Nate was raised in the village of Vunivaivai by his beloved aunties, Tavaita and Meredani. With warmth and care, they instilled in him the values of compassion, generosity, and strength that shaped him into the man he became.

Nate attended Marist Brothers High School in Suva before immigrating to the United States, where he settled in Honolulu, Hawaii, with his mother, Ana. During this time, he proudly represented his heritage by performing as the Fijian Chief at the Polynesian Cultural Center. In 2005, driven by a desire to serve his adopted country, he enlisted in the United States Army.

Nate met the love of his life, Lisa Marie (McComas) Tuivavalagi, in 2006 while stationed at Fort Hood, Texas. Their connection was immediate and deep, leading them to marry on March 17, 2007, in Plano, Texas. Their love was not just passionate, but steadfast, built on an unbreakable bond that endured all things. Nate and Lisa were not only husband and wife, but each other’s greatest source of comfort, strength, and understanding. Their marriage was not defined by perfection, but by devotion, the kind of love that weathers every season of life, grows through challenges, and never wavers. Nate adored Lisa, and she adored him, their lives deeply intertwined in a love that transcended circumstance, time, and even words. Through it all, Nate’s sense of duty remained strong, leading him to serve his country with the same

commitment he gave to his family.

During his time in the Army, Nate served as a Combat Engineer, achieving the rank of Sergeant (SGT) and earning the respected designation of Sapper. He deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan, dedicating 10 years of honorable service to his country before retiring. In recognition of his dedication, he was awarded the Army Commendation Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, and the Non-Article 5 NATO Medal. Nate remained deeply proud of his military service and cherished the lifelong bonds he formed with his fellow soldiers.

After completing his military career, Nate and Lisa settled in Novi, Michigan, where they raised their three beautiful children—Matteo, Stella, and Violet. A playful and devoted father, Nate savored every moment spent with them, whether through special outings, everyday moments, or simply making them laugh. He spoiled them endlessly and would do anything to see them smile. Each of his children carries forward a part of him: Matteo inherited his joyful spirit, Stella his gentle sweetness, and Violet, always his little sidekick, his generous heart.

Nate continued to grow both personally and professionally, earning his Bachelor's degree in Social Studies and Secondary Education from Madonna University in Livonia, Michigan. He went on to build a fulfilling career as a Contract Security Specialist and Security Trainer at Rock Security (Rocket Companies), a role he deeply enjoyed and took great pride in.

Outside of work, Nate deeply valued the Fijian tradition of drinking kava, a ritual he loved sharing with friends and family as a way to honor his heritage. He was especially passionate about rugby, proudly supporting the Fiji National Rugby Team, and also enjoyed American football, always cheering for the Dallas Cowboys. More than anything, Nate loved gathering with family and friends over bon fires, laughter, and meaningful moments.

Nate is survived by his loving wife, Lisa; their three young children, Matteo, Stella, and Violet; his mother, Ana Moce; his aunt, Meredani (Win) Straube; cousins, Metuisela (Roshan) Tuivavalagi and their children, as well as Losalini

Tuivavalagi, along with many dear friends and extended family members. He was preceded in death by his beloved aunt, Tavaita Ligica, whose love and guidance profoundly influenced his life, and his grandfather, Josua Ligica, whom he deeply admired.

Visitation will be held on Wednesday, July 23rd from 2 PM until 9 PM at Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, 46401 Ann Arbor Road West (Between Sheldon and Beck) Plymouth, Michigan 48170. A Kava ceremony will be held at 6:30 PM.

The Funeral Service will be held on Thursday, July 24th 11 AM, also at the funeral home.

Nate will be laid to rest with full military honors at Great Lakes National Cemetery in recognition of his dedicated service to his country.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that memorial donations be made to Sai Prema Foundation Fiji, an organization dedicated to providing free heart surgeries and medical care to underprivileged children throughout Fiji. This cause reflects Nate's love for his homeland and his enduring heart for others.

To donate, please visit: giftoflifefiji.com

(No account required; credit cards and PayPal accepted.)

Nate's legacy of love, courage, and generosity will continue through those who knew him.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL **23**. 2:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home Plymouth
46401 Ann Arbor Road West
Plymouth, MI 48170
(734) 459-2250
plymouth@vermeulenh.com

Kava Ceremony

JUL **23**. 6:30 PM (ET)

Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home Plymouth
46401 Ann Arbor Road West
Plymouth, MI 48170
(734) 459-2250
plymouth@vermeulenh.com

Funeral Service

JUL **24**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home Plymouth
46401 Ann Arbor Road West
Plymouth, MI 48170
(734) 459-2250
plymouth@vermeulenh.com

Tribute Wall



“ Vermeulen Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Nacanieli Sikinairai Tuivavalagi



Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home - July 21, 2025 at 09:43 AM

LD

🙏🙏🙏🙏 Tukai

Lusi Domo - July 22, 2025 at 12:32 AM

JS

“ I am Just seeing all of this. I should have taken more care to spend time and see you while you were with us. You were one of the kindest and best people I met in the Army. Always positive. I am sorry I did not keep in contact as well as I should have and Rest in Peace, My Friend. I will miss you.

Jason Sheppard - July 29, 2025 at 01:59 PM

SA

“ SGT Tui was an amazing person and it was an honor to known and to serve with him. May YaHWeH bless him and his loved ones in Jesus Christ mighty name 🙏 amen

Sanchez

Sanchez - July 27, 2025 at 03:37 PM



“ Thank you Lord for the life of our nephew,
cousin brother, and grandson Nacanieli
Tuivavalagi.



*Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let
perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul and all the souls of the
faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.
Amen.*

*Our thoughts and prayers are with your children, beloved wife,
Aunty Ana, Aunty Dani and Uncle Naca and families.*

*With love and prayers always, from your family in Sydney,
Tawakilagi and Naisogovau.*

Lusia Lusia - July 24, 2025 at 06:16 PM



“ *Just reminiscing about our journey with Naca — from being childhood neighbours. We shared so much together: the jokes, the games, cleaning and raking the yard, the roller skates they taught me to use, and even the time Naca taught me how to drive using Uncle Komasa’s car! 😭*

So many memories, all filled with laughter and love — moments I will always treasure.

May you rest well, Champ. We will meet again on that beautiful morning.

Sending my deepest condolences to Lisa and the family. Naca will be deeply missed by all of us — forever missed, forever cherished. 💔



Amelia Draumasei - July 24, 2025 at 09:51 AM

JM

“ *1 file added to the album Nate at Rock Security*



Jason Mitchell - July 23, 2025 at 12:26 PM

LF

“ Naca and I attended high school together in Fiji. On our very first day we were allocated seats next to each other and quickly formed a friendship. Through the following HS years we were always sat next to each other. I’ve know him as Nazca, Nate, a great human being and a brother figure. I pay tribute to the great memories we shared in HS. Rest in Peace Naca, gone too soon brother. Until the glorious morning.



Lisa Fifita - July 23, 2025 at 12:34 AM

TL

“ Tammy L. purchased a sympathy card for the family of Nacanieli Sikinairai Tuivavalagi.



Tammy L. - July 22, 2025 at 10:56 PM



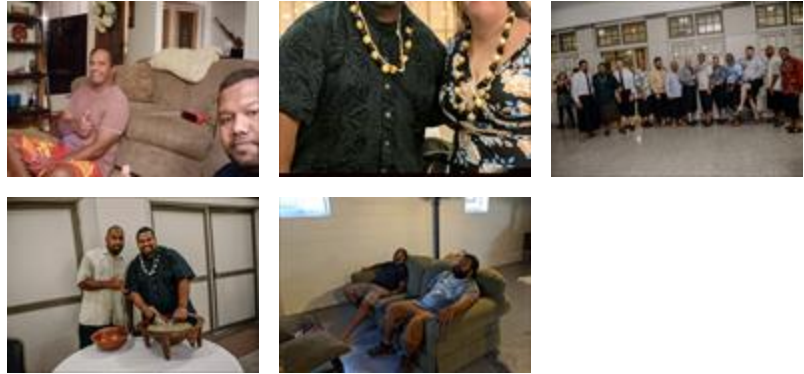
“ Dani Ranuku lit a candle in memory of Nacanieli Sikinairai Tuivavalagi



Dani Ranuku - July 21, 2025 at 08:59 PM

SC

“ *Isa Naca, I will definitely miss our problem solving session about world, family, village and sports . Miss you my brother. Till we meet again. Ni qai gole toka ena vakacegu.* ”



Sake Cava - July 21, 2025 at 07:24 PM



“ *Repeka Taletawa lit a candle in memory of Nacanieli Sikinairai Tuivavalagi* ”



Repeka Taletawa - July 21, 2025 at 06:55 AM

RT

“ 11 files added to the album Naca with Tui and NZ family



Roshan Tuivavalagi - July 20, 2025 at 08:07 PM

MM

“ He was more than a son in law very proud of Nate

Mike McComas - July 20, 2025 at 01:50 PM

GP

RIP Nate, you were a great dad, husband and we as your family love and cared for you very much. Till we meet again.

Gay Pawlak - July 20, 2025 at 02:08 PM

LD

Gone to soon my brother 🥹🥹🥹🥹

Lusi Domo - July 20, 2025 at 03:34 PM

RT

Our hearts mourn and miss you Naca but we are so grateful for the moments we shared with you

Roshan Tuivavalagi - July 20, 2025 at 08:09 PM



My mum and Naca's mum are first cousins, which makes Naca my cousin brother. I've been reminiscing about our childhood days in the village — the memories we built together, the laughter we shared, and the precious moments with our dear Aunt Tavaita that helped shape the people we've become today.

My brother, you are deeply missed by your family here in Fiji. We will always hold close the special times we had with you at home, and your memory will remain with us always.

Repeka Taletawa - July 21, 2025 at 07:00 AM



Thank you Lord for the life of our nephew, cousin brother, and grandson Nacanieli Tuivavalagi.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Amen.

Our thoughts and prayers are with your children, beloved wife, Aunty Ana, Aunty Dani and Uncle Naca and families.

With love and prayers always, from your family in Sydney, Tawakilagi and Naisogovau.

Lusía Lusía - July 24, 2025 at 06:09 PM