IN LOVING MEMORY

Timothy Scott Farris

Sergeant First Class, U.S. Army (Retired)

Born 03 January, 1979, in Spokane, Washington | Died 21 November, 2026 in Columbus, Georgia

"Blessed be the LORD, my rock, who trains my hands for war, and my fingers for battle." Psalms 144:1

The fight house at Fort Benning has its own sound and smell. Bodies writhing across mats, heavy bags being pulverized. Heavy breathing under pressure. The smell of muscle and fat burning. One steady voice cut through it all. For a generation of Soldiers and instructors who came through the Modern Army Combatives Program, that voice belonged to Sergeant First Class Tim Farris. He forged warriors. A combat leader who made everyone who entered harder to break when they left.

Tim raised his right hand on March 7, 2000, and served in the US Army twenty years. He served as an 11B Infantryman and NCO and deployed twice to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, two tours of more than a year each. He earned the Combat Infantryman Badge and the Expert Infantryman Badge, a master of his profession in training, and under fire. He earned the Bronze Star Medal and the Army Commendation Medal with Valor Device for courage, competence, and commitment to his men and the mission. He was a paratrooper and a qualified sniper. He retired as a Sergeant First Class on March 31, 2020, from 1-29 Infantry Battalion, 316th Cavalry Brigade, Ft. Benning, Georgia.

Combatives was Tim's calling. He climbed every level of the Modern Army Combatives Program, Level 1 through Level 4, became a Level 4 instructor, and rose to serve as NCOIC of the US Army Combatives School at Fort Benning. The combatives community counts him among the most influential figures in building the Army Combatives program and its instructor corps. He taught and trained Soldiers across the Army and shaped a generation of instructors. He earned a third-degree black belt in Brazilian jujitsu, placing him among less than 1% of martial artists in the world. Tim lived a simple truth written by the undefeated swordsmen, Miyamoto Musashi, "One-thousand days of training to forge, ten-thousand days of training to refine."

Retirement gave Tim a new mat. He opened Against the Grain Gym and kept building fighters. He coached MMA champions. He served as head coach of the 75th Ranger Regiment Combatives Team, and in 2025 the Rangers won the Lacerda Cup, the All-Army Combatives Championship. That trophy carries the name of Staff Sergeant Pedro Lacerda, a Ranger and Army Combatives Champion. Most importantly, he coached his son Cale, who carries on the Farris grappling legacy.

For all the champions he coached, the title Tim carried with the most pride was Husband to Amanda, and Dad, to Kennedie and Cale. Amanda was his partner and teammate. Around them he gathered a second family, the brothers and sisters of Army Combatives, the Combatives Black Belt Guild, professional MMA trainers and fighters, and Brazilian Jiu Jitsu practitioners. Tim was a generational change agent who truly embodied the warrior ethos and prepared our nation's men and women to win our nations wars.

The psalmist wrote, God trains warriors hands for war and fingers for battle. Tim knew that work intimately. He trained his own hands for battle and spent his life training the next generation with lethality. His legacy lives in Soldiers who came home, fighters who raised championship belts in the Octagon, and in his own gym where people learned that discipline and love are warrior virtues.

Tim's Awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal; Meritorious Service Medal (3rd Award); Army Commendation Medal with Valor Device; Army Commendation Medal (4th Award); Army Achievement Medal (4th Award); Meritorious Unit Commendation; Army Superior Unit Award; Army Good Conduct Medal (6th Award); National Defense Service Medal; Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal; Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; Iraq Campaign Medal with two campaign stars; Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon (3rd Award); Army Service Ribbon; Overseas Service Ribbon (3rd Award).

Tim earned the following badges and qualifications: Combat Infantryman Badge; Expert Infantryman Badge; Parachutist Badge; Sniper Qualification; Combatives Level 4 Instructor; Combatives Program Instructor Course; Army Instructor Training; Professional Leadership Development Course.

Tim graduated from the following military schools: Advanced NCO Course; Basic NCO Course; Airborne Course; Basic Military Mountaineering Course; Combat Lifesaver Course; Combatives Levels 1, 2, 3, 4.

Tim is survived by his wife, Amanda; his daughter, Kennedie; his son, Cale; his father, Tim Farris; his mother, Tina Gere; and his beloved brothers and sisters of the Army Combatives, MMA, and Brazilian Jiu Jitsu community.

Memorial Service

A memorial service will be held Friday, November 27, 2026, at 2:00 PM at the U.S. Army Combatives School on Kelly Hill, Marne Road, Fort Benning, Georgia. Guests without a DoD ID card should allow extra time to obtain a visitor pass to enter Fort Benning.

Order of Service

Welcome — Dr. Anthony Randall, *Chaplain (LTC), U.S. Army (Retired)*

Prayer — Dr. Anthony Randall, *Chaplain (LTC), U.S. Army (Retired)*

Honored Guest Remarks — LTG (Ret.) Mike Ferriter

Honored Guest Remarks — LTC Isaac Henderson, *Deputy Commander, Airborne and Ranger Training Brigade*

Honored Guest Remarks……Mr. Matt Larsen, *Course Director and Instructor, Army Combatives Program, United States Military Academy, West Point*

Ohana Brothers Remarks

Warrior Eulogy — Dr. Anthony Randall, *Chaplain (LTC), U.S. Army (Retired)*

Family Remarks	Mrs. Amanda Farris and Kennedie Farris
A Son's Tribute	Cale Farris
Military Honors	
Presentation of the Colors	
Benediction	Dr. Anthony Randall *Chaplain (LTC), U.S. Army (Retired)*

Please join the family for fellowship following the ceremony.

Please join us for an Open Mat at Against the Grain MMA this evening.

Stand With the Farris Family

The Combatives Black Belt Guild has organized a fundraiser for Amanda and the children. All money raised, minus processing fees, goes directly to Amanda. **Combatives Community: Stand With Tim Farris's Family** at

gofundme.com/f/stand-with-tim-farris-family

Service Record

Awards and decorations: Bronze Star Medal; Meritorious Service Medal (3rd Award); Army Commendation Medal with Valor Device; Army Commendation Medal (4th Award); Army Achievement Medal (4th Award); Meritorious Unit Commendation; Army Superior Unit Award; Army Good Conduct Medal (6th Award); National Defense Service Medal; Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal; Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; Iraq Campaign Medal with two campaign stars; Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon (3rd Award); Army Service Ribbon; Overseas Service Ribbon (3rd Award).

Badges and qualifications: Combat Infantryman Badge; Expert Infantryman Badge; Parachutist Badge; Sniper Qualification; Combatives Level 4 Instructor; Combatives Program Instructor Course; Army Instructor Training; Professional Leadership Development Course.

Military schools: Advanced NCO Course; Basic NCO Course; Airborne Course; Basic Military Mountaineering Course; Combat Lifesaver Course; Combatives Levels 1, 2, 3, and 4.

"Well Done; Be Thou At Peace."