



Blake Randall Thacker

December 28, 2000 - June 14, 2026

Blake Randall Thacker, age 25, passed away on Sunday, June 14, 2026. He was among the twelve individuals who lost their lives in the aviation accident at Sky Dive Kansas City in Butler, Missouri.

Born on December 28, 2000, in Tallahassee, Florida, Blake was the beloved son of Dr Richard and Sherry Thacker. Growing up in Tallahassee, he attended Roberts Elementary School, Montford Middle School, and Lawton Chiles High School. During his time at Chiles, Blake was an active member of the National Honor Society and graduated in 2019 as a National Merit Scholar. He was deeply involved in the school music program and marching band, where he was a talented and dedicated member and leader of the drumline.

Blake went on to attend the University of Florida as a National Merit Scholar, where he earned Bachelor's degrees in computer science and philosophy and a Master's degree with honors distinction in computer science engineering. He was a member of the Marching Gator drumline, an ambassador for the UF college of engineering and a member of Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society. While in college Blake had the opportunity to work with NASA as lead intern contributing to work associated with the Artemis II mission. Following graduation, he began his career as an aviation software Engineer at Garmin in Olathe, Kansas.

Those who knew Blake remember him as intelligent, funny, kind-hearted, and deeply caring. He had a passion for protecting the environment and loved spending time outdoors, especially hiking.

One of Blake's greatest passions was skydiving. He had over 300 jumps, had earned a United States Parachute Association (USPA) Level C License and was working on his coach certification. Skydiving gave him courage, confidence, and a profound sense of purpose. He often spoke about the joy it brought him and encouraged others who were interested to experience it for themselves. Among his most cherished memories were two skydives he shared with his mother, Sherry.

Blake is survived by his parents, Dr. Richard and Sherry Thacker, his younger sister, Allison Thacker, a host of close family and friends, and his beloved cat, Sasha.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to either of the following charities in Blake's honor: The United States Parachute Association's U.S. Skydiving Safety Foundation or the Leon County Humane Society.

A celebration of Blake's life will be held on Friday, July 3rd at East Hill Baptist Church in Tallahassee, Florida. Family visitation will begin at 10:00 am followed by services at 11:00 am. There will be Facebook Livestream of the services from the church facebook page.

Kelly Barber of Bevis Funeral Home is assisting the family with service arrangements. www.bevisfh.com

Upcoming Events

Visitation

JUL 3. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

East Hill Baptist Church
912 Miccosukee Road
Tallahassee, FL 32303

Celebration of Blake's Life

JUL 3. 11:00 AM (ET)

East Hill Baptist Church
912 Miccosukee Road
Tallahassee, FL 32303

Tribute Wall

JB

“*Ba-La-kay...I stole that name from a comedian but the first time I met you, you were my real-life Ba-la-kay. I said it and you took to it like a champ. I remember doing a few of your first AFF jumps. Most were awesome, best student ever, but there was one where you just jumped out and fell thru the sky...you did not do anything you were supposed to do...including pulling your deployment handle!! Once you landed you had the biggest smile on your face, knowing what had just happened, and without flinching laughed it off and said it was on purpose. We both chuckled, got packed up and back on the plane and did it right the next time.*

I never saw you without a smile or a super positive attitude. I will miss seeing your face in Palatka and Deland.

Blue Skies forever my friend. Much love

PS: the first jump I did after hearing about this tragedy was dedicated to you, my brother!!

James "JB" Bartel - 1 hour ago

HR

“ Ill always remember all the awesome times we had out at skydive palatka.

Watching you go from an enthusiastic student on day 1 of "First Jump Course" to a well rounded fun jumper heading towards your coach rating. I wish you had gotten a chance to give back to this community with that rating, you would have made a great coach and mentor.

I just want to say thank you, and as you had put it the last time i saw you..."Those jumps were Electric!"

Blue Skies

Hunter Riess - 2 hours ago