Recipe: Boston Fudge Cake  
Honoring: LCDR Charles Walker (July 7, 1986 – July 31, 2019)

Recipe submitted by Katie Polak (spouse) and Debra Huey-Walker (mother)

*“This was actually my birthday cake favorite, but one year on my birthday, we were visiting Charles in his new house in another state, and I wouldn’t get my cake. To my surprise, he baked this for me − his first time baking a cake. It was perfect and the best one I ever had. Charles also loved desserts with peanut butter and chocolate flavors together!” – Debra Huey-Walker, USN (ret)*

Lieutenant Commander Walker was born in Santa Clara, California but grew up in Fairfax, VA. He graduated from the Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, receiving a Bachelor of Aerospace Engineering. He was a lifelong Philadelphia Eagles and Boston Red Sox fan, loved throwing a baseball, and was the child of two Navy veterans. He was the perfect partner and husband. Aside from growing an epic mustache he was a badass fighter pilot. His call sign: “JTACz.”

Following his college graduation, LCDR Walker was commissioned as an Ensign through the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps in December 2008. In January 2009, he reported to Pensacola, Florida for Aviation Preflight Training and was designated a Naval Aviator in May 2011.

Following his initial F/A-18 training, LCDR Walker's first operational assignment was with VFA-195, based in Atsugi, Japan. During his tour with the "Dambusters", he deployed with USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (CVN 73) in 2012 and served as Aircraft Division Officer, Head Landing Signal Officer, and Assistant Operations Officer.

Following his tour with VFA-195, he completed the TOPGUN course. In August 2015 he reported to the Strike Fighter Weapons School Pacific for duty as a Strike Fighter Tactics Instructor he served as the Assistant Operations Officer and was the Air-to-Air Employment Subject Matter Expert.

In February 2018 LCDR Walker joined the VFA-151 Vigilantes in Lemoore, California. During his tour he served as the Training Officer, where he oversaw the tactical training of 15 pilots during work-ups and a combat deployment. He deployed on the 2018- 2019 around the world cruise on USS JOHN C. STENNIS (CVN 74) and supported Operations FREEDOM'S SENTINEL and INHERENT RESOLVE. He leaves a lasting legacy on the naval aviation community. LCDR Walker mentored junior officers, some of whom went on to complete the TOPGUN course themselves. He was an asset to the Navy and the warfighter, and his influence is still felt today.

Lieutenant Commander Walker accumulated over 2,000 flight hours, 465 carrier arrested landings, and 9 combat missions. His awards include a Meritorious Service Medal, a Navy Commendation Medal, two Navy Achievement Medals, an Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, and other unit, service, and campaign awards.

He is profoundly missed and buried among great company in section 60 of Arlington National Cemetery.

Submitted by Katie Walker, Surviving Spouse of LCDR Charles Walker

PHOTO:



