

On Tuesday, March 17th, 2026, a man with no connection to Nic walked into the Jasper VA and shot him in the head at point blank range. Police killed the shooter on the scene. Nic died the next day.

My wife and several friends who knew Nic well all testified to what a unique spirit he had. I never got the chance to meet him myself. That’s my loss because he sounded like the type of person I would have loved to know. Sitting against the back right wall of the sanctuary, I began to understand the fuller picture of who he was.

The clearest illumination came from his wife, Alyssa. Her brother Caleb read the testimony of his sister as she sat in the front row eight months pregnant. For five minutes, the somber room burst into explosions of laughter as she described the intricacies of his personality. She painted the picture of a man who was completely authentic, unafraid of going deep, and totally comfortable in his own skin. He loved Sabrina Carpenter, was a long suffering Falcons fan and never took himself too seriously. She implored those that knew Nic to laugh as they reflected on their

memories and to strive to find joy in the blessing that was knowing him.

The momentary laughter and lightheartedness was unexpected and beautiful. But I couldn’t stop thinking about his kids. I thought of my own boys, happy and innocent, saying goodbye to their dad on a typical weekday morning and then being hit with the news that I’m never coming home. In an instant their whole world flipped upside down. The confusion, pain and loneliness that those poor young souls had to face left knots in my stomach that couldn’t be unwound.

As the memorial reached its close, a friend of mine named Tony Karamitas approached the stage to pray. I closed my eyes, bowed my head, and clasped my hands. What followed sent a shock through my body:

*“Sometimes we try to find silver linings, or explain grief away, or say, ‘At least this’ or ‘Maybe it was God’s will.’ This was not your will, Father. We know it wasn’t. You didn’t create Nic to finish like this.”*

*Editor’s note: This has been cut due to space, please search for this story on DisciplesToday.org for the entire article.*

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# Remembering Nic Crews

June 30, 2026 • Mick Connors – Atlanta, GA, USA

I’ve been to many funerals over the last 20 years, but the sheer scale of this memorial was unique. By the time I arrived, the church parking lot had long been filled up and so was the overflow parking at the school administration building next door. The residential streets behind the church were lined with cars, a few sticking out past no-parking signs. Local news vans lined the curb. It was standing room only in a building that could easily seat 800. The man they were all there to remember was beloved by a multitude.



Nic Crews was a 34-year-old husband and father of two, with a third child due in a matter of weeks. He’d been sobered by life, became a disciple at Kennesaw State, and wasn’t the type of guy who majored in small talk. He was a man of depth, and the circle of his closest friends reflected it. It wasn’t a homogenous group, but they were all substantive people. That depth made him relentlessly curious and pushed him toward excellence in every domain of his life.

He was built like an inside linebacker and had all the stereotypical passion of someone with a full head of bright orange hair. But his imposing frame guarded a soft heart. Before going into social work, helping veterans at a local Veterans Affairs (VA) office, Nic had been applying for the National Guard. Saving people was grafted into his soul. Children are often the best barometer for someone’s character, and kids loved him. None more so than his oldest son, who by all accounts absolutely worshipped his dad.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### US ICMC

July 30-August 2, 2026  
Milwaukee, WI, USA

### North American Singles Conference

September 3-6, 2026  
Baltimore, MD, USA

### DT Travel 2026 Mediterranean Cruise: Footsteps of Paul

September 12–22, 2026

### North American Teachers Conference

September 17-19, 2026  
Raleigh, NC, USA

### Spacon

October 2-4, 2026  
Brisbane, Australia

### Minister’s Wellness Webinar

October 15, 2026  
Online

### Conferencia de Las Americas

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil  
Oct 15-18, 2026

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