

The Graveyard

Pay your respects to the characters who have left a mark. Here, we honor the lives and legacies of those who have passed away. Explore the narratives that shaped them, the impact they had, and the enduring memories they've left behind.

- [Nick Bender](#)

Nick Bender

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Nick Bender, a dedicated firefighter and emergency manager, left an indelible mark on the city of [Los Santos](#) through his selfless service and ultimate sacrifice in 2023. Born in 1996 in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania to David and Hannah Bender. After suffering immense personal tragedy as a teenager, Nick found purpose in serving his country and community., Bender's life was marked by both personal tragedy and unwavering commitment to helping others.

Nick Bender's life began in [Los Santos](#), but it was far from an easy start. As a teenager, he endured profound family tragedy, losing both of his parents and his sister in quick succession. Seeking a sense of purpose and structure, he enlisted in the Marine Corps, embarking on a distinguished three-year military career. Despite the camaraderie and discipline of the Marines,

Nick faced ongoing mental health challenges during this period.



Returning home, Nick initially pursued a career in law enforcement as a member of the [Los Santos Police Department \(LSPD\)](#). However, he soon realized that his true calling lay elsewhere. His unwavering desire to help people ultimately led him to become a firefighter in the [Los Santos Fire Department \(LSFD\)](#). Whether in uniform as a police officer or a firefighter, Nick's motivation was always the same: to serve and protect.

Firefighting Career and Leadership

Nick Bender's tenure with the [LSFD](#) allowed him to fulfill his aspiration of saving lives and making a difference in the community. His dedication and exceptional work ethic propelled him through the ranks, culminating in his appointment as Assistant Chief by 2021. This promotion was a testament to his experience and leadership skills.

During this period, Nick also devoted extensive time to volunteering with the Blaine County Fire Department (BCFD), where he served as Chief for three years. His visionary leadership modernized the agency and improved its emergency response capabilities. Nick's passion for hands-on leadership and emergency response was evident in every aspect of his service.

After his time with the BCFD, Nick returned to the [LSFD](#), where he continued to excel as both a firefighter and a commanding leader. His empathetic approach and unwavering dedication left a lasting impact on those he served alongside and the

community he protected.

Most recently, Nick worked as Assistant Fire Chief for the Los Santos County Fire Department. He put his whole heart into the job and his crew.

Outside of work, Nick's passion was ATV racing. He owned his own track for several years, and regularly competed in motocross events across Blaine County. Flying around the dirt tracks brought Nick immense joy.

The Ultimate Sacrifice

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/9bvgHmt17Ds>

Tragically, in August 2023, Nick Bender lost his life in the line of duty while protecting Chief Wynkoop's daughter during a home invasion. Nick's selfless act of shielding her from a dangerous assailant epitomized his character—always putting others' well-being ahead of his own, regardless of the risk.

Nick Bender's untimely passing left the entire [Los Santos](#) emergency services community shaken and heartbroken. To honor his legacy and the remarkable courage he displayed, a memorial statue was erected at Station 7, where Nick had served with dedication and pride.



Though Nick Bender's life was cut short, he embodied the true essence of service to one's fellow citizens and community. His giving nature, unwavering resilience in the face of adversity, and willingness to sacrifice for the greater good made Nick Bender an inspirational figure who will forever be remembered for his commitment to service above self.

Nick is survived by his son Mason and his truck, which he endlessly modified and rebuilt in his spare time. He loved driving that truck almost as much as helping others.

Nick was known for his humor, grit, and tireless work ethic. Though his life was cut far too short, he lived it heroically through service.

Nick Bender was buried at the [Vinewood Cemetery](#) in [Los Santos](#). Nick's brave sacrifice will never be forgotten. He embodied what it means to put others before yourself.

