

NORTH DAKOTA MEMORIAL TO THE FALLEN IN THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM



Family Remembrances
9/11 10-YEAR
COMMEMORATIVE EDITION



September 11, 2011

Dear Families and Friends,

For the past decade, America has been a nation at war. From the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, until today, Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen and Coast Guardsmen from North Dakota have made huge contributions in the Global War on Terrorism.

This memorial dedicated on September 11, 2009, honors the 24 North Dakotans who have lost their lives serving in combat overseas during the Global War on Terrorism. In March, 2003, the first North Dakotan who died in this struggle was serving with the U.S. Marine Corps in Iraq. Twenty three North Dakotans fell while serving with the U.S. Army. Of those, one was serving with the U.S. Army Reserve. Twelve were members of the North Dakota National Guard.

Each name enshrined on this memorial, serves as a reminder of the sacrifice and service offered by these brave North Dakotans in defense of our nation's freedom. We will always keep them and their families in our thoughts and prayers. While no one knows what the future will hold, we do know our nation's military men and women will always serve honorably and with pride, making a difference wherever their service leads them.

May God bless each of our Fallen Warriors, and may God continue to bless the United States of America. We will never forget them, their service, or their sacrifice.

Sincerely,



David A. Sprynczynatyk
Major General, ND National Guard
The Adjutant General



The Memorial to the Fallen

We will always remember. We will always be proud.
We will always be prepared, so we will always be free.

– President Ronald Reagan

This memorial is dedicated to members of the United States Military and Department of Defense civilians who lost their lives in the Global War on Terrorism. It is a place where Families, friends and fellow citizens can reflect on the lives of the Fallen and remember their service to our country. It was funded through the generosity of businesses, organizations and individuals throughout North Dakota and across the United States. The memorial is a joint venture between the City of Bismarck and the North Dakota National Guard.

The Battlefield Cross

The Battlefield Cross has been used as a visible reminder of a deceased comrade since the Civil War. The helmet and identification tags signify the Fallen. The inverted weapon with bayonet signals a time for prayer, a break in the action to pay tribute to the Fallen. The combat boots represent the final march of the last battle.



FAMILY REMEMBRANCES



SGT. MICHAEL E. BITZ

Feb. 14, 1972 - March 23, 2003

Michael Edward Bitz began life in Wishek, N.D. on February 14, 1972, the son of Darvin Bitz and Donna Bellman. He grew up in Ventura, Calif., with his mother and brothers Robert and Steven. Full of life and adventurous, Michael enjoyed a challenge and staying active. He faced personal adversity as he was trying to find his way in life until he joined the U.S. Marine Corps at the age of 24. Joining the Corps changed his life. Michael found his place in the USMC where he excelled and was quickly promoted. He married Theresa Morton and they share a son, Christian. He later married Janina Heron (now Bitz-Vasquez) and they share three children: Joshua and Caleb and Taylor Hope. Michael died without ever seeing his youngest children, twins born after he was deployed to Iraq.

Michael was a spiritual man who was hard-working, diligent and a respected Marine. He was a devoted and loving husband and father. Prior to his death, he was in the process of becoming a C-130 Flight Engineer to open up further career possibilities for himself and his family both in and out of the Marine Corps.

Michael was serving with Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 2nd Marines, as part of Task Force Tarawa when he lost his life on March 23, 2003, near An Nasiriyah, Iraq during his eighth year of military service. Posthumously awarded the Silver Star for valor in the engagements, he was killed assisting fellow Marines with security and escorting the wounded during combat operations. His actions saved the lives of many other Marines. Bitz Intermediate School at Camp Lejuene, N.C., is named in his honor.

FAMILY REMEMBRANCES

SPC. JON PAUL FETTIG

Jan. 3, 1973 - July 22, 2003



Jon Paul Fettig was an 11-year veteran of the 164th Engineer Battalion in Dickinson, N. D., who transferred to a National Guard unit in need of more Soldiers so he could help out. The deployment meant Jon and his wife, Cody, would have to put their plans of starting a family on hold, but that did not stop Jon from being a devoted husband. Family was important to Jon and he called home whenever he could to speak to his wife, parents and younger siblings. The day before he died, Jon called his grandmother to wish her a happy birthday.

Jon lost his life when his unit was ambushed outside Ar Ramadi while traveling to the Euphrates River. He was with a convoy that was delivering supplies and dropping off Soldiers to relieve others with the 957th Multi-Role Bridge Company on river patrol.

It's hard for Jon's family to accept the fact that they will never again pick up the phone to find him on the other end of the line, but are comforted by the memories. Because of the way he lived his life, there was never a question about how much he loved his family. Jon was 30-years-old.

FAMILY REMEMBRANCES



PFC.
SHELDON R. HAWK EAGLE

Aug. 17, 1982 - Nov. 15, 2003

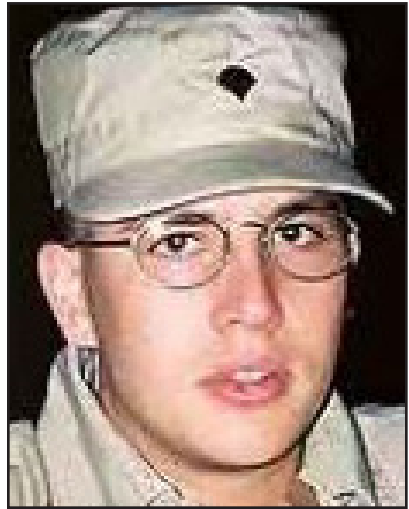
Sheldon Hawk Eagle, whose Lakota name was Wanbli Ohitika, or Brave Eagle, was assigned to 1-320th FA, 101st Airborne Division based at Fort Campbell, Ky., when he was killed at age 21 on November 15, 2003 after two Army helicopters collided in Iraq.

Sheldon joined the Army while visiting his sister Frankie in North Dakota and dreamed of becoming an elite Army Ranger. Sheldon grew up calling his cousin Tom, brother. He was humble and quiet but loosened up around family and friends. Sheldon defended our country and protected our freedom. He is a hero.

FAMILY REMEMBRANCES

SGT. THOMAS J. SWEET II

Oct. 2, 1980 - Nov. 27, 2003



Thomas J. "T.J." Sweet II was proud to be a Soldier and planned to make the military his career. Prior to enlisting in the Army, T.J. loved the sport of fencing, his favorite hobby, which he enjoyed with a group of close friends. He also spent many hours involved in Japanese animation, which he also loved.

The report we received begins, "This is a 23 year old male, Spc. in the U.S. Army, stationed in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. This is a well developed, well-nourished, 70 inch, 180-pound man Caucasian male whose appearance is consistent with the reported age of 23 years." What the report didn't say was that T.J. was kind, he was loving, he looked out for the underdog, he believed in justice, he was in pain looking at the faces of the Iraqi children, he missed his family and he was homesick for Bismarck.

FAMILY REMEMBRANCES



STAFF SGT.
KENNETH W. HENDRICKSON

May 7, 1962 - Jan. 24, 2004

Kenneth Hendrickson attended Bismarck public schools and graduated from the University of Mary in 1991 with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Mathematics and a minor in Secondary Education. In 1989, Ken joined the North Dakota National Guard and served with the 957th Multi-Role Bridge Company. Staff Sgt. Hendrickson was employed with Bismarck Public Schools in the technology department at the time of his passing during the 957's deployment to Iraq.

His happiest times were spent with friends and family. He loved traveling with his wife and spending "guy time" with his son. His sense of humor was one of kind; he had a flair for playing and fun. He could make anyone smile with his jokes and quirky personality. Ken was well-respected and admired by his co-workers and fellow guardsmen for his extraordinary knowledge in a variety of subjects and for his love of learning new things. He was a warm and caring man who lived his life to the fullest every day. Not only was he a great husband, father, son, brother and uncle, he was a great friend. There is not a day that goes by that he isn't missed.

FAMILY REMEMBRANCES



SGT. KEITH L. SMETTE

Dec. 1, 1978 - Jan. 24, 2004

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Keith L. Smette was born on December 1, 1978 in Minot, N.D. He attended school in Granville and Ryder before graduating from North Shore High School in Makoti in 1997. Keith was a senior at North Dakota State University when he volunteered to deploy with the 957th Multi-Role Bridge Company with his best friend and brother, Robert.

Keith had a special connection with children and used this gift in his work with the Big Brother/Big Sister Program in Fargo. He was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church in Ryder, the Makoti American Legion William Hanson Post #230, the Enlisted Association of the Army National Guard and the Toby Keith Fan Club. He worked for several summers as a landscaper for Lowe's Garden Center in Minot with his cousin Jeff and many of his best friends. He also worked in Fargo at the YMCA and Quizno's.

Keith loved his family who adored him. His parents, Doug and Charlotte, his brother, Robert, and his sister, Sarah, have many stories of his adventures, each of which Keith approached with a pure heart and boyish charm. Keith's infectious smile affected everyone who knew him and it was clear evidence of his happiness. He was a caring young man who inherited his mother's sensitivity and his father's sense of humor, both of which gave him the ability to know no stranger and endeared him to everyone he met.

FAMILY REMEMBRANCES



SPC. PHILIP D. BROWN

Dec. 20, 1982 - May 8, 2004

Philip D. Brown was an incredible, amazing, kind and giving young man who firmly believed in his faith, family, country and community. He actively looked into opportunities to improve, strengthen and fulfill his life. He was devoted to his friends who say his smile went on vividly for miles. His sense of humor carried into his hobby as a disc jockey where his love for good music rocked any place into the wee hours. He told us in an e-mail "I rock in Iraq!"

Phil found the positive in any situation. His buddies said it was an unbearable 110 degrees in Iraq when Phil said, "Oh come on, it's not so bad" Then he rounded up a forklift to bring everyone icy cold Gatorade.

He welcomed a good challenge, such as when he was told he had been chosen to play against the Harlem Globetrotters in Iraq.

When you have a heart as gigantic as Phil's, there's no doubt it's still beating strongly in heaven and he's now a Soldier for God. Shine on bright angel as your soul goes marching on!

FAMILY REMEMBRANCES

SPC. JAMES J. HOLMES

Oct. 3, 1975 - May 8, 2004



James Jay Holmes was born on October 3, 1964 to George and Rhonda Holmes. James began his military career in 1993, enlisting in the Marine Corps Reserve and serving until 2000. He graduated from Arizona State University in 2000 with a Bachelor's degree in History and a minor in Military History, Business and a completed thesis on Psychological Warfare. In 2003, he enlisted in the North Dakota Army National Guard's F Battery, 1st Battalion, 188th Air Defense Artillery. In 2003, James volunteered to deploy with the 141st Engineer Combat Battalion. During the deployment to Iraq, James died from wounds on May 8, 2004.

James is best described by one of his best friends. "The impact of his life is one that not enough words or the right word could possibly summarize. James is best described through me as a man that always put others before himself. He had charisma that could win over the passing stranger, but on the reverse side a stubborn streak that gave you relief he was on your side. Above all he is a fellow Marine and Solider that you could honestly rely on anytime and any place. These qualities are found in few, and I feel honored a man of this caliber is my best friend and always will be. I think everyone who is a family member or friend will agree that James is achieving his dreams, and without a doubt soaring high through those blue skies as we remember and pay tribute to his life."

James, you dreamed of accomplishing great things and you did your best to make your dreams come true. We love and miss you always – Mom, Dad, and Brother.

FAMILY REMEMBRANCES



STAFF SGT.
LANCE J. KOENIG

Dec. 31, 1970 - Sept. 22, 2004

Lance Koenig is described as a very quiet, shy person completely devoted to his family. His wife, Angie, and their two little girls, Alexandra and Brooklynn meant the world to him.

Lance graduated from Carrington High School in 1989. A year prior to graduating from high school, he enlisted in the National Guard, following his father's footsteps. After basic training, he was assigned to Company B, 141st Engineer Combat Battalion as a combat engineer. He was carrying on a tradition as his father was also a member of the unit until his retirement. Lance was a former All-American wrestler at North Dakota State University where he finished second in the NCAA Division II national wrestling tournament as a sophomore and sixth as a junior.

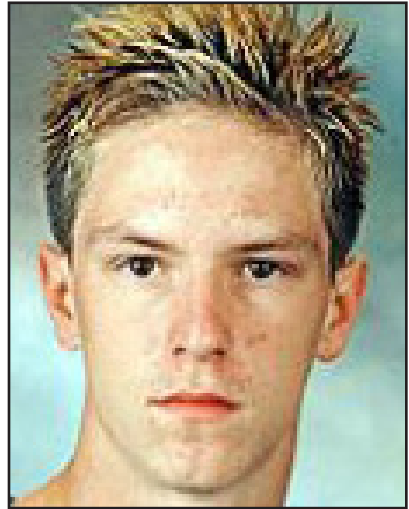
Lance volunteered for flood duty during the 1997 flood in Grand Forks and also volunteered to work on Task Force Shield in Devils Lake during 2002. In 2003, the 141st battalion was alerted for mobilization.

Lance was someone who led by example, not words. He's a hero in everybody's eyes.

FAMILY REMEMBRANCES

SPC. ANTHONY W. H. MONROE

Apr. 26, 1984 - Oct. 11, 2004



Anthony “Tony” William Hamilton Monroe was born April 26, 1984, to Jeffery and Bernadette (Hamilton) Monroe. As a baby, he moved with his parents to Lakeland, Fla., where he attended kindergarten and first grade. The family moved to Bismarck and he graduated from Bismarck High School in May 2002. Following in his father’s footsteps, Monroe enlisted after graduating from high school. He took basic training at Fort Jackson, S.C. Because his father had been a member of the Air Force and remained in the North Dakota National Guard, Monroe followed his father’s and grandfather’s example and joined the military. Anthony loved North Dakota and joined the military to travel and receive an education.

Monroe worked at the Pretzel Maker kiosk at Kirkwood Plaza in Bismarck and job shadowed at KXMB-TV while attending school. He enjoyed photography and writing poetry, and he aspired to be a photojournalist. He loved music and was a talented bass guitarist. In his spare time, Monroe was an avid billiards player. He is described as a good kid who really enjoyed life. He was a clown and liked to make people laugh. Monroe had a large family and was close to his younger sister, Caitlin, his brother, Nicholas and many of his cousins. Monroe was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Bismarck and is remembered as a hero, a son and a friend.

FAMILY REMEMBRANCES



SPC. CODY L. WENTZ

Feb. 16, 1983 - Nov. 4, 2004

Cody L. Wentz called Williston, N. D., his home and he was 21 at the time of his passing. He served with A Company, 141st Engineer Combat Battalion of the North Dakota Army National Guard in his hometown of Williston and he deployed with A Company. He served until an attack on his vehicle on Route Tampa in Iraq claimed his life on November 4, 2004.

When Cody wanted anything from his parents, he was known to declare “It’s time to do some bonding!” He enjoyed weight-lifting and working on old cars.

Cody’s father, Kenny, said of his son, “Determination wins the game; celebrate the victories that lie within.”

FAMILY REMEMBRANCES



SPC. DENNIS J. FERDERER, JR.

Jan. 3, 1985 - Nov. 2, 2005

Dennis James Ferderer, Jr., known as DJ to his family and friends, was born January 3, 1985 to Dennis and Claudina “Dina” (Ternes). His brother John Baldwin currently serves in the U.S. Air Force and has also deployed to Iraqi and Afghanistan. Church and faith were a strong part of DJ’s life. He served as altar boy and also enjoyed hunting pheasant and deer. DJ participated in football, basketball, wrestling and 4-H where he enjoyed showing his heifer calves. He loved nature and planned to take over the family farm one day. Most of all, he just enjoyed hanging out, joking with and listening to his classmates.

DJ enlisted in the United States Army during his senior year and left for training at Fort Benning, Ga. just a few days after graduation. Being in the army was always a dream of his. His goal was to be an Army Ranger with the hopes of returning to Iraq. November 2, 2005 at age 20, his life in this world was ended by a rocket propelled grenade that hit his Humvee while on a mission. DJ’s mission in life was to make everyone’s life happier.

FAMILY REMEMBRANCES



SPC. MICHAEL HERMANSON

Jul. 7, 1984 - May 23, 2006

Michael Hermanson was a Fargo native and attended Horace Mann Elementary School, Oak Grove Lutheran School and Ben Franklin Junior High School. He graduated from Fargo North High School in 2002. Michael enlisted in the North Dakota Army National Guard in 2002 and after basic training, he was assigned to Headquarters Support Company of the 142nd Engineer Combat Battalion in Fargo as a technical engineer. He attended North Dakota State University for two semesters prior to and following basic military training and advanced individual training for the National Guard. In April 2005, Michael volunteered to deploy with the Minot-based company. His family includes Layne and Scharlotta Hermanson and his sister Lindsey.

FAMILY REMEMBRANCES

CPL. CURTIS R. MEHRER

Feb. 6, 1985 - June 6, 2006



Curtis was born February 6, 1985 in Bismarck, N. D. to Kevin and Joyce (Palenberg) Mehrer. He graduated from Bismarck High School in 2003 and on November 20, 2003 he joined the North Dakota National Guard. He was mobilized in December of 2005 to deploy with the 1-188th Air Defense Artillery in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He believed in what he was fighting for: freedom from terrorism.

Curtis loved life. He was fearless and lived for the moment. His goals included being a loving and dedicated father to his daughter Hailee, proposing to Crystal Schmidt, becoming a helicopter pilot and becoming a warrant officer, following in the footsteps of his father. Curtis' life was filled with family and friends and the National Guard. He enjoyed snowboarding and spending time on the river. He was there to give anybody a ride or if someone needed someone to talk to, he was ready to help. You could always see a smile on his face. Curtis is forever embraced in his family's heart.

FAMILY REMEMBRANCES



SGT. TRAVIS A. VAN ZOEST

Jan. 31, 1985 - June 6, 2006

T Travis joined the North Dakota National Guard when he was a sophomore in high school, following the attacks on September 11, 2001. He felt very strongly about this big decision in his life and we felt he had made the right decision when he would get ready for his drill weekends and his deployment to Afghanistan. He was doing what he was passionate about—serving his country.

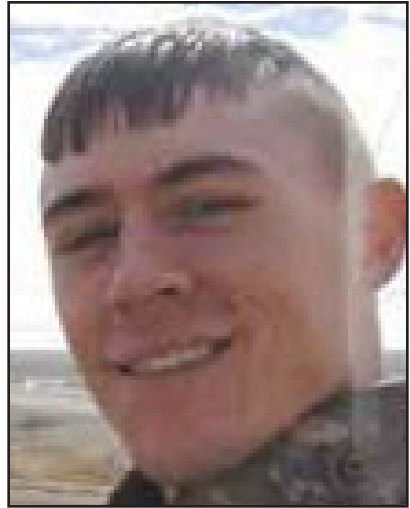
Travis lived life to the fullest. He worked hard and played hard, but never lost sight of his future plans. If there was something he wanted to do, he always gave 110 percent. He was enrolled at Minot State University online, working full time as an intern at MDU Resources and serving in the North Dakota National Guard. He loved being around family, friends, his dogs and watching ESPN. His other interests included bowling, hunting, snowboarding, golf, camping, music, being on the river and sports. He was a huge Dallas Cowboys football fan.

Travis' time on earth may be over but his spirit, his smile and his laugh will never die. Travis' job serving his country is over, too, but we will never forget this brave young soldier. Travis now serves our Heavenly Father and is probably doing great things there too. Someday we'll see you again. We love you, miss you and we are very proud of you! Thank you, Travis, for the gift of love you gave to us.

FAMILY REMEMBRANCES

CPL. JEREMIAH S. SANTOS

Apr. 6, 1985 - June 15, 2006



Jeremiah was born April 6, 1985 to Laurie (McGlone) and Shannon Santos in San Diego, Calif. He attended elementary school in Santee and Escondido, Calif. and attended middle school and high school in Devils Lake, N. D. He was involved in ROTC at Devil's Lake High School, where he was in the color guard. Jeremiah left school and attended the Quentin Burdick Job Corps Center in Minot where he earned a GED and graduated in the facility maintenance program in January 2004. He also attended a semester of classes at Minot State University. Jeremiah met his wife Jessica Tyner while at Job Corps. They joined the Army at the same time in 2004 and later were married.

He was assigned to A Company, 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment and transferred to B Company, 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment. He deployed to combat with his unit in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in November of 2005 and his unit was assigned to Kalsu, Iraq.

Jeremiah lost his life in Baghdad, Iraq on June 15, 2006 when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle during combat operations. Jeremiah is described as a self-confident, strong and very determined young man.

FAMILY REMEMBRANCES



SPC. PAUL A. BEYER

Mar. 8, 1985 - June 23, 2006

Paul Beyer was born in St. Paul, Minn., and moved to Jamestown with his parents, brothers and sisters when he was four years old. The neighbors remarked that he was the first one of the family they met as he went up and down the block making new friends upon arrival in Jamestown.

Paul graduated from Jamestown High School in 2003 and joined the Army in March 2005. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team based at Fort Campbell, Ky., with the 101st Airborne Division. Paul deployed to Iraq in October 2005.

Paul had a great love for his family, including two older brothers Dan and Jon, and he always looked out for his younger sister Leah. He also adored his nephew Lestat and Lestat thought the world of his uncle. Paul had been married to his wife Calli for 16 months. When Paul was home on leave he told his family that he took the candy he received from home and gave it to the Iraqi children, often sticking around to make sure bullies didn't steal it.

Paul enjoyed camping and fishing, rock music, movies, jokes and hanging out with his friends. His family was told by his army buddies that he was the heart and soul of their group.

The Spc. Paul A. Beyer Scholarship was started in the spring of 2007. To date, \$6,000 in scholarships has been given to graduates of Jamestown High School who are pursuing a college degree.

FAMILY REMEMBRANCES

CPL.
NATHAN J. GOODIRON

Feb.23, 1981 - Nov. 23, 2006



Nathan was born Feb. 23, 1981, a member of the Three Affiliated Tribes, Mandaree, N. D. He was given his Indian names of “Distant Thunder” and “Young Eagle” by his maternal grandmother, Cora Black Bear. Being named after the family medicine bundles means you can see and hear something big coming before it hits.

On Thanksgiving Day on November 23, 2006, while Americans at home were enjoying their traditional meals, Nate’s 3rd platoon of the 188th Air Defense Artillery Regiment of the North Dakota Army National Guard was on a combat mission in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. During the mission, the unit was ambushed and all armored vehicles were hit by enemy fire. Fighting their way through the ambush, the patrol regrouped and awaited air support. According to reports, rocket propelled grenades fired by the enemy flew like bottle rockets. During the intense enemy fire, Nathan’s vehicle was hit four times and resulted in his death.

Nathan was laid to rest at Mandaree, N. D. during a blizzard. Despite the weather, his funeral was attended by so many family and friends that two large gymnasiums provided standing room only.

His father Paul wrote three books about his son and Nathan is featured in another book called *Warriors in Uniform*. Nathan’s view of service was summed up in his own words when he said, “Our parents defended our Country when it was their turn. Now it’s our turn.” The National Gold Star Mothers have also featured him in their book to represent North Dakota.

Nate lives on.

FAMILY REMEMBRANCES



CPL. CHRISTOPHER
K. KLEINWACHTER

Dec. 30, 1976 - Nov. 29, 2006

Christopher Kleinwachter was born December 30, 1976 and lived in Wahpeton and Grand Forks. Christopher enlisted in the North Dakota Army National Guard while still a senior in high school. After graduation from Grand Forks Central High School in 1995, he reported to basic training at Fort Sill, Okla. He completed basic training and advanced individual training in 1995 and served as a power generator equipment repairer.

In December 2005, Christopher was mobilized with the 1-188th ADA SECFOR where he deployed with 152 Soldiers to Afghanistan. The unit provided around-the-clock security in support of U.S. armed forces. Christopher was killed in action in eastern Afghanistan on Nov. 29, 2006. He was participating in military convoy operations in the Ghazni province when the vehicle in which he was riding was involved in a roll-over. Christopher was 29 years old.

FAMILY REMEMBRANCES

MAJ. ALAN R. JOHNSON

Dec. 30, 1962 - Jan. 26, 2007



Alan R. Johnson started his 23-year military career assigned to the 141st Engineer Combat Battalion in Jamestown, N. D. As a newly appointed Second Lieutenant he moved to Yakima, Wash. in 1987 where he served in the Washington Army National Guard. After advancing through leadership positions within the Army National Guard, Major Johnson transferred to the U.S. Army Reserve in 2003, continuing his career in the military as a chemical officer with the 476th Chemical Battalion based at Seattle, Wash. Johnson transferred to the 402nd Civil Affairs Battalion in Tonawanda, N.Y. and in April 2006 he was mobilized and deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Maj. Johnson was employed by the Yakima Country Department of Corrections. His civilian education included a Bachelor's of Science degree in Workforce Education from Southern Illinois University.

Maj. Johnson's contributions to the department and the community he loved were immense. His leadership, professionalism and guidance were evident in all facets of his life. Maj. Johnson had a strong religious faith and lived for his family and his country. He gave his life in service for the country he loved. As a husband to Victoria, he was a leader, supporter, protector and best friend – he was a knight in shining armor. As a father to his daughter Megan, he mirrored the image of God in his ability to love unconditionally. He positively affected the lives of many and his influence and loss will continue to be felt for years to come. All who knew him respected him. He is loved and he is deeply missed by his family and friends.

FAMILY REMEMBRANCES



SGT. JASON A. SCHUMANN

Jan. 7, 1984 - May 19, 2007

Jason was a Cavalry Scout based out of Fort Polk, La. He was in command of 12 men who were his sole concern. He volunteered for his second mission and was killed by an improvised explosive device May 19, 2007 at Ad Diwaniyah, Iraq. He joined the Army at age 17 and completed his basic training following graduating from Hawley High School in 2002. In 2004, he married Laura Endrotti of England, Colo. and in 2006 his son Joe was born. His mother currently resides in Fargo, N.D.

For many years, Jason wanted to be a doctor. He wanted to help people and was always kind and tolerant. He was the most polite person you would ever want to meet. He was soft-soften, but a soft-spoken young man who could not stand any discrimination against those who practice Islam. He loved his baby, he loved to write historical novellas, sail, go grouse hunting, read and play video games. He was stubborn, but thoughtful, and was someone who should have lived in another time.

When he was in Iraq the first time, he watched his friend die in an ambush. It really bothered him and he struggled with his friend's death. Jason said many profound things in his short life, but perhaps it was most true when he wondered after his friend's death "How do you fight an enemy whose greatest weapon is the hate they have for you in their heart?"

He did not know how to fight that hate. He is our angel.

FAMILY REMEMBRANCES

STAFF SGT. DAVID C. KUEHL

Feb. 25, 1980 - May 22, 2007



David graduated from Wahpeton High School in 1999 and immediately entered the Army upon graduation. David was assigned to the 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team of the 2nd Infantry Division based at Fort Lewis, Wash. He was on his second tour in Iraq and lost his life on May 22, 2007 when a roadside bomb detonated near his unit in Taji, Iraq. He was 27.

David left behind his wife Amy and two children, Kiley and Messa, his parents Keith and Laura of Wahpeton and two sisters, Shawna Chenowith and Wendy Kuehl, Wahpeton.

FAMILY REMEMBRANCES



PFC. JONATHAN C. YANNEY

June 3, 1989 - Aug. 18, 2009

Jonathan Yanney, formerly of Hettinger, N.D., was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 17th Infantry Regiment, 5th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division at Fort Lewis, Wash. He died at the age of 20 on Aug. 18, 2009, in Argandab, Afghanistan, of wounds sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his unit. Jonathan was reportedly on his way to help another unit under fire.

He was described “extremely driven” by his former high school principal, Marcella Swatosh.

“We knew that he wanted to go into something where he could help people,” Swatosh said. “He was always very focused on wanting to help people, and it sounds like that’s what he was doing.”

Jonathan’s baseball coach, Kevin Drake, remembers his upstanding character. “Very respectful, always, ‘Yes sir, Mr. Drake.’ ... As far as the respectful part, you could see the military in him.”

Both Drake and Swatosh remembered his sense of humor. “It was very dry,” Swatosh said.

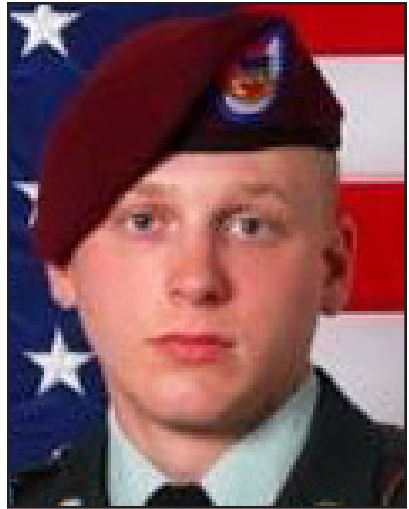
Jonathan later moved to Tennessee for a short time. Samantha Lynn Fedele worked with him at a Wendy’s in Johnson City and stayed in touch after he moved to Minnesota and then deployed abroad. She remembered him as outgoing and friendly.

“He just had this big, bright smile,” she said. “His smile would be the very first thing you noticed.”

FAMILY REMEMBRANCES

SPC. KEENAN A. COOPER

Jul. 12, 1990 - Jul. 5, 2010



Keenan Alexander Cooper was born in Morden, Manitoba, Canada. He was the oldest son of Dave and Heather (Doerkson) Cooper and big brother to Dawson, Twyla, Gabby and Carly. He and his family moved to Wahpeton, N.D., in 1993 where Keenan attended school. In high school, he was active in FFA and was an honor student. He enjoyed the sciences and reading war novels. Keenan worked many different jobs including paper delivery, serving customers at Java 'n Juice and detailing cars at Vision Ford. He enjoyed driving new mustangs and “shop talk” about cars.

Faith played an important role in Keenan's life. He attended youth groups and Bible camps and considered his walk of faith an important part of his journey toward becoming a man. He met April Travis, his eventual fiancée, through mutual friends who attended Cooperstown Bible Camp.

Keenan's attitude toward his duties as a Soldier was not to criticize or complain, but to acknowledge his role unassumingly.

He will be remembered for his integrity, upright character and incredible sense of responsibility. He was a man of his word and a man of few words. His actions conveyed honor and his smile imparted optimism and a zeal for life. The highlight of his life was the love of his life, April Travis. They were to be married on October 23.

On July 5, 2010, Spc. Keenan Alexander Cooper was killed in combat while serving his country in Yakuta, Afghanistan. He served with A Troop, 4th Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, United States Army, based at Fort Bragg, N.C.

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTORS

Platinum

Capital Credit Union, Bismarck, ND
North Dakota Education Association & Members, Bismarck, ND
TriWest Healthcare Alliance, Phoenix, AZ

Gold

American Veterans Post #9, Bismarck, ND
Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Bismarck, ND
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Goldade Landscaping, Bismarck, ND (stone)
Jim Fetter Masonry, Inc., Bismarck, ND (labor)
Mandan Steel Fabricators of Mandan, ND (materials)
Metal Arts, Mandan, ND (bronze plaque)
Midwest Testing Laboratory, Bismarck, ND (soil testing)
Matt Morrell, Bismarck, ND (labor)
Matt Schwabb Bismarck, ND (labor)
Northwest Contracting, Inc., Bismarck, ND (construction)
Steve & Mary Schwab, Bismarck, ND (stone)
Strata Corp., Grand Forks, ND (concrete)
Col. Steve Tabor (brochure boxes)

FLORAL AND FLAG REGULATIONS

Fresh flowers may be placed on the Memorial at any time. During the Christmas season, fresh wreaths are permitted to be placed on the Memorial beginning December 15 and will be removed by caretakers by January 15 each year. Permanent plantings will not be permitted at the Memorial other than in specific instances approved by the Memorial Board. Commemorative items of any other nature are not permitted on the Memorial at any time.

The flag will be displayed each day of the year on the Memorial flag pole. The flag will also be flown at half-staff as directed by the President of the United States, the Governor of North Dakota, or the Adjutant General of North Dakota for appropriate recognition of fallen military service or Department of Defense personnel. The flag will not be draped on any part of the Memorial at any time.

ORIGIN OF MATERIALS USED IN THE MEMORIAL

The fieldstone used in building the North Dakota Memorial to the Fallen in the Global War on Terrorism dates back to the founding of Bismarck. The stone formed the foundation of the Yegan family home, a building first constructed in 1872 and later moved following a fire. Eventually the house and foundation were removed and the stone was stored for decades until it was donated for construction of the Memorial. Just as the fieldstone served as a foundation for families in Bismarck's early days, it will continue to serve as a foundation for families, friends and the community as we reflect on the lives of our fallen heroes.

The flagstone used in the Memorial is from the North Dakota Heritage Center on the state Capitol grounds.

The Fallen

Spc. Paul A. Beyer	U.S. Army
Sgt. Michael E. Bitz	U.S. Marine Corps
Spc. Philip D. Brown,	U.S. Army, N.D. National Guard
Spc. Keenan A. Cooper	U.S. Army
Spc. Dennis J. Ferderer, Jr.	U.S. Army
Spc. Jon Paul Fettig	U.S. Army, N.D. National Guard
Cpl. Nathan J. Goodiron	U.S. Army, N.D. National Guard
Pfc. Sheldon R. Hawk Eagle	U.S. Army
Staff Sgt. Kenneth W. Hendrickson	U.S. Army, N.D. National Guard
Spc. Michael L. Hermanson	U.S. Army, N.D. National Guard
Spc. James J. Holmes	U.S. Army, N.D. National Guard
Maj. Alan R. Johnson	U.S. Army Reserve
Cpl. Christopher K. Kleinwachter	U.S. Army, N.D. National Guard
Staff Sgt. Lance J. Koenig	U.S. Army, N.D. National Guard
Staff Sgt. David C. Kuehl	U.S. Army
Cpl. Curtis R. Mehrer	U.S. Army, N.D. National Guard
Spc. Anthony W. H. Monroe	U.S. Army
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Sgt. Keith L. Smette	U.S. Army, N.D. National Guard
Sgt. Thomas J. Sweet II	U.S. Army
Sgt. Travis A. Van Zoest	U.S. Army, N.D. National Guard
Spc. Cody L. Wentz	U.S. Army, N.D. National Guard
Pfc. Jonathan C. Yanney	U.S. Army

We will never forget





DEDICATED SEPTEMBER 11, 2009

Bismarck

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