

# Grand Commandery

## Knights Templar

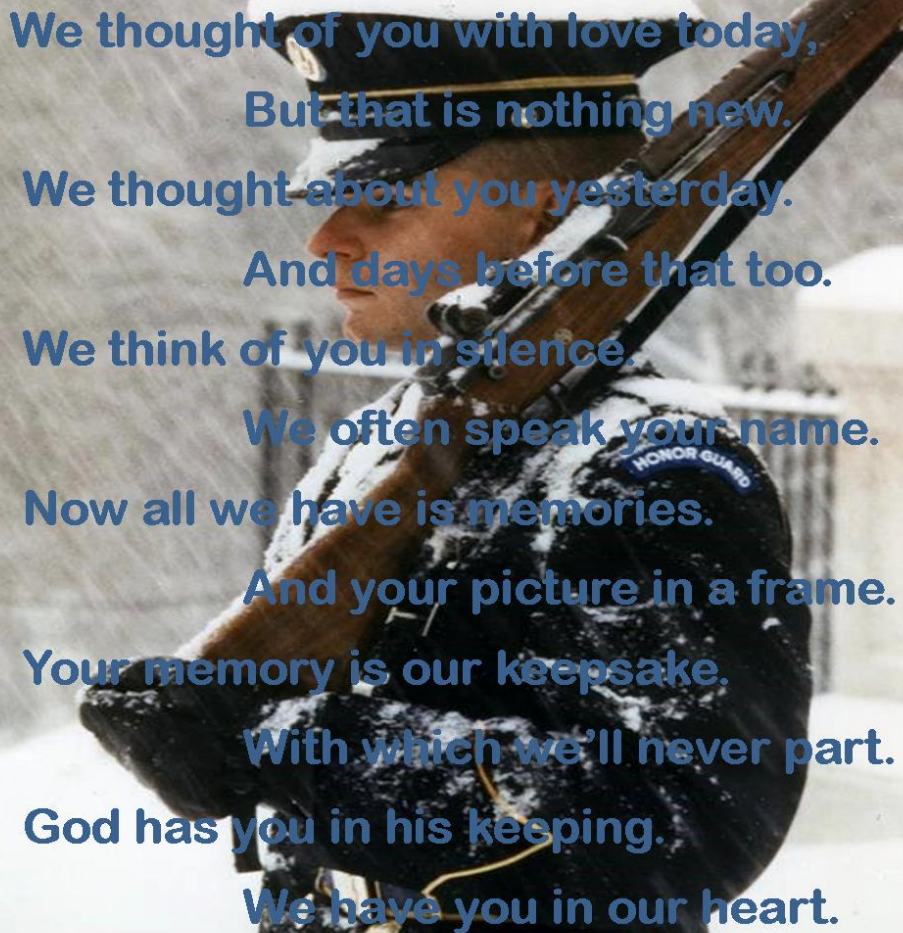


## Honoring Michigan Veterans Project

Our nation has many servicemen, who over the years have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country and our way of life. We in the proud state of Michigan are no different. On Easter Sunday 2014, in special tribute to all Michigan Veterans where ever they rest, The Right Eminent Grand Commander Of Knights Templar in Michigan will be placing a Wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Along with this program, Individual Commanderies from across the state will have the opportunity to place a special Memento at the grave site of a serviceman from their community.

The memento will consist of a 10" Michigan State Flag, a single stem of Acacia, (to represent the Masonic fraternity), A single stem Dwarf Iris (which is the state's official wildflower) and a single white rose (which represents the purity received by Jesus' sacrifice on the cross) all tied in Red, White and Blue ribbon honoring service to our country. After review by the Arlington National Cemetery, Office of public affairs, the normal timeframe for cut flower mementos has been extended from the normal 2 days to 6.

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We thought of you with love today,  
But that is nothing new.  
We thought about you yesterday.  
And days before that too.  
We think of you in silence.  
We often speak your name.  
Now all we have is memories.  
And your picture in a frame.  
Your memory is our keepsake.  
With which we'll never part.  
God has you in his keeping.  
We have you in our heart.

*Don't Let The Memory Of Them Drift Away*



## **U.S. Army Specialist Wilson A. Algrim**

**HOWELL, MI, USA**

**U.S. Army**

**SPC, COMPANY E, 125TH INFANTRY, (89 MP BDE), BIG RAPIDS, MI  
SALMAN PAK, IRAQ 12/23/2006**

Specialist Wilson Algrim was one of three soldiers who were supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom when they died December 23, 2006, in Salman Pak, Iraq, of wounds suffered when an improvised explosive device detonated near their vehicle during combat operations. They were assigned to the 1st Battalion, 125th Infantry, Big Rapids, Michigan.

Family and friends remembered the 21-year-old as a quiet, likable guy who was able to overcome several obstacles and mold himself into a strong young man during his time spent in the armed forces. Wilson Algrim was born in Antioquia, Columbia. When he was 8 years old, he and his two sisters and one brother were adopted by Don and Judy Algrim. Judy lived in Columbia when she taught at the University of the Andes, in Bogota, Columbia. Wilson attended Howell Public Schools for a short time, but since he had never gone to school in Columbia, he was far behind his classmates. Consequently, he was sent to Michigan Youth Challenge Academy at Fort Custer Training Center in Augusta, near Battle Creek. The program gives students a lot of help with tutoring and vocational education. He graduated from this program in 2004 and eventually became part of the Michigan Army National Guard.

He liked Superman, and would run around the house in a Superman outfit and pretend that he was flying. He played basketball and enjoyed swimming and movies with his family; and he and his brother used to pretend they were Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.

Wilson was gregarious, courageous, curious, friendly, loving and affectionate. And one of the “9-11 generation” so called by friends who recognized this generation’s willingness to volunteer for dangerous war duty.

## Marine Maj. Gerald M. Bloomfield II



Published November 5, 2005

Family mourns Marine killed in Iraq

Fowlerville grad is school's third casualty

FOWLERVILLE, MICHIGAN - Friends and family are remembering Gerald Bloomfield II as a good-natured, humorous man who was focused on his career as a Marine and loved every minute of it. Bloomfield II, a 38-year-old Major, died Wednesday when his AH-1W Super Cobra heli-copter crashed about 70 miles west of Baghdad. The co-pilot, Captain Michael Martino, 32, of Fairfax, Virginia, also was killed. Bloomfield II, of Ypsilanti, is the third Fowlerville High School graduate to have died in the war, joining Lance Corporals Michael Hanks and Andrew Kilpela.

"He would fly high and see the green and know things were changing," his father, Gerald Bloomfield, said of his son's experiences in Iraq. He'd see "power lines going up - all the stuff you don't hear about in the news, all the good things going on. He was optimistic about a country coming back." Bloomfield II graduated from Fowlerville High School in 1984. He graduated from Eastern Michigan University and was on his third tour in Iraq.

Fun times remembered

His former band teacher, Terri Palazzolo, said she remembers Bloomfield II as a good kid who also was mischievous at times. "When something funny happened, there was no question of who was behind it," Palazzolo said. "He never let an opportunity for a dare pass him by." Palazzolo said she recalled how Bloomfield II and some of his friends once toilet-papered her car, and another time during band "initiation" when older members turned him upside down and stuck him in a garbage can. But Fowlerville's Kraig Sacker said he was amazed at how much Bloomfield II had turned his life around when the two talked at their 20th class reunion in 2004. "I sat down with him for a good 20 minutes to half-hour at the reunion," Sacker said, "and what he has accomplished and done with his life is amazing.

"Having three (Fowlerville High School) people getting killed for doing their duty over there is tough, but listening to Jerry, he felt strongly it was for a good cause." The Livingston County community has a population of a little more than 3,100. Bloomfield II received a score of accolades during his time with the Marines, which stretched back to 1989, including the Global War on Terror Service Medal, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon and the National Defense Service Medal. He leaves behind a son, Ryan, 13; wife, Julie Bloomfield of White Pigeon; two sisters, Paula Wallace of Howell and Katy Kerch of Brighton; brother, Tom Bloomfield of Chelsea; mother Shirley Spears of Howell; and stepmother Judy Bloomfield of Ypsilanti. "You're so unprepared" "You always have that feeling in the back of your head it could happen, but when it happens, you're so unprepared because you just don't want to believe it," Wallace said about her brother's death. "It's painful. It's a huge life that had so much more to go. We're just kind of standing here waiting for him to come back."



**Army Specialist Andrew P. Daul**



**Master Mason Linden Lodge, 132 Linden Michigan**

Died December 19, 2006 Serving During Operation Iraqi Freedom

Spc. Daul 21, of Brighton, Mich.; assigned to the 1st Battalion, 37th Armored Regiment, 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division, Friedberg, Germany; died Dec. 19 in Hit, Iraq, of injuries suffered then an improvised explosive device detonated near his Abrams tank during combat operations.

Andrew could bench press 475 pounds and his mother remembers his love of weightlifting blossoming early. "He would walk throughout the high school and he would be pumping these milk jugs full of water," said Kathy Daul, "that's kind of how I picture him and remember him and how many of his classmates remember him. Always to the extreme." Daul, 21, of Brighton, Mich., was killed by a roadside bomb on Dec. 19 in Hit. He was a 2003 high school graduate, on his second tour, and was assigned to Friedberg, Germany. Daul was known as the "feisty kid in the neighborhood," according to the Rev. Frank Graves. He said the soldier was a little reckless and a bit of daredevil, but "in a good way." Michael Daul, the soldier's father, said he misses his son's sense of humor. His younger sister, Lindsey, misses their brother-sister talks. His youngest sister, Audrey, misses the "tickle torture." Daul was scheduled to leave the service in July and take up a job with his father as an environmental consultant. Daul's dream was to open up a gym one day..

Published online on Dec. 22, 2006 .



## **Us Army Sargent Duane Dreasky**

Died on July 10, in the Brooke Army Medical Center, San Antonio, Texas, of injuries sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his HMMWV in Habbaniyah, Iraq, on Nov. 21.

Sgt. Duane Dreasky of Novi never expected a bedside visit from his commander in chief, but even swaddled in bandages, his response was immediate. "He tried to salute, and the president said, 'You don't need to salute, I need to salute you,' " his wife, Mandeline Dreasky, recalled of the five-minute visit her husband shared with George W. Bush at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio. "He was so proud and I was emotional for him. Bush is his hero." As the only survivor of a blast in Iraq that killed four of his comrades, Dreasky has become something of a symbol of hope for a Michigan National Guard unit that has lost six citizen soldiers -- more than any other unit in the state.

He also is an example of how advances in evacuation techniques -- and new, cutting-edge care at U.S. military hospitals -- are allowing more soldiers to survive injuries that might have killed them in previous conflicts. For Mandeline Dreasky, the drama of her husband's condition began on a day in November, when she arrived at her in-laws' Novi home, knowing Army officers were waiting inside with potentially devastating news about her husband. When she realized they were wearing their basic-duty uniforms instead of dress blues, her fear gave way to hope. "I knew we had a fighting chance," she recalled. "I went straight in and asked where is he and when could I get to him." The nearly eight months since that day have been a daily battle for survival for Duane Dreasky, 31, who is in critical condition. The former Walled Lake high school football player and martial arts enthusiast suffered third-degree burns over 75 percent of his body when a bomb exploded near his Humvee on Nov. 2. The biggest threat to Dreasky's health now is a bacterial attack on his heart valve, family and medical staff say. Because he is a burn victim, surgery is impossible, so he has to fight a condition called endocarditis, inflammation of the heart, through antibiotics. "He keeps fighting and overcoming. It is a testimony to his fortitude," said Mandeline, known as "Mandy," his wife of six years. "We rely on each other. His eyes light up when he sees me and he responds quite well. He always responds to me." Dreasky was on patrol near al-Habbaniyah, Iraq, with four other Michigan soldiers from Company B, 125th Infantry, when their Humvee was hit by an improvised explosive device. Pfc. John W. Dearing, 21, of Hazel Park, was killed instantly. Sgt. Spencer Akers, Sgt. Matthew Webber and Sgt. Joshua Youmans all suffered severe burns and were airlifted to Landstuhl, Germany, and ultimately to the burn unit at the hospital at Fort Sam Houston in Texas. Complications from the burns and their injuries slowly claimed the men who rode with Dreasky. Akers, 35, of Traverse City was in command of the Humvee and died Dec. 8. Youmans, 26, of Flushing died March 1. Webber, 23, of Kalamazoo died April 27. News of their deaths has been kept from Dreasky, who asks about them daily.

Capt. Anthony Dennis of Otisville, commander of Dreasky's National Guard unit, was riding in the same Humvee patrol when the remote control bomb exploded. The patrol was to go through al-Habbaniyah and report on the "atmosphere" of the town and observations to his commanders, Dennis said. After the bomb exploded near Dreasky's Humvee, Dennis ran to help. He recalls closing the door on the vehicle as Dreasky was evacuated to a nearby medical center. "He was last the guy evacuated," Dennis said. "He gave me a look that said, 'I'll be back.' "



## **U.S. Army Major Gregory J. Fester**

On Tuesday, August 30, 2005, Gregory J. Fester, Major, U.S. Army, passed away while on service duty in Iraq. Fester a resident of Ada, Mich. and formerly of Westerville, Oh. A graduate of The Ohio State University, he was a CNS Specialist with Pfizer Pharmaceuticals. Gregory is the beloved husband of Julie; devoted father of Jennifer, Megan and Peyton; dear son of Virginia Piecoro and William Fester; and son-in-law to Jack and Charlene Hammond; loving brother of Mindy (Fester) Lind and her husband, Brad and Lt. Col. Eric Fester, M.D., U.S.A.F. and his wife, Jennifer; brother-in-law to Julie's sisters, Jackie and her husband, Joe Whalen, Linda and her husband, Doug Frey, Beth and her husband, Jeff Ramsey. Greg is also survived by many nieces and nephews. Friends may call at the ARLINGTON FUNERAL HOME, 3901 N. Fairfax Dr., Arlington, Va. 22203 on Monday, September 12 from 7-9 p.m. Funeral service will be held at the Arlington Funeral Home on Tuesday, September 13 at 1 p.m. Interment will follow at Arlington National Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Gregory Fester Memorial Fund c/o 5th/3rd Bank, 475 Ada Dr., P.O. Box 311, Ada, Mich. 49301. All proceeds will be entrusted for scholarships for Greg's children.



**U.S. Army Private First Class Charles T. Heinlein Jr.**

To Private First Class Charles T. Heinlein Jr., the U.S. Army was one of the most important things in his life.

The only things more important were family and friends," his father, Thomas Heinlein said in a telephone interview Saturday. Charles Heinlein, who grew up in Hemlock, Michigan, was one of three soldiers who died Tuesday when an improvised explosive device detonated near their vehicle in Baghdad, the Department of Defense announced Friday night. The 23-year-old Heinlein died along with Specialist Zachariah J. Gonzalez, 23, of Indiana and Private First Class Alfred H. Jairala, 29, of Hialeah, Florida. They were assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division at Fort Lewis, Washington. "He was in his 14th month (of duty)," Heinlein's father said. "If they wouldn't have extended it, he would have been home by the end of June, beginning of July.

"He was tired, but he had no problem with them extending it. He thought he wanted to do his duty and wanted to do what was right. He thought what he was doing over there was good." In April, the government announced active component Army units would serve 15 months instead of 12 months, Fort Lewis public affairs officer Joe Jimenez said. "This unit had finished its 12 months," Jimenez said. "This battalion has had 40 casualties since they deployed from Fort Lewis in June of 2006." Thomas Heinlein said the family was told of his son's death Tuesday by the U.S. military. Charles Heinlein attended Merrill Public Schools and Hemlock High School near Saginaw, which is about 90 miles north of Detroit. He earned his General Education Diploma. Jimenez said Charles Heinlein enlisted on September 28, 2005 and was assigned to the unit at Fort Lewis in February 2006. He had received the Army Commendation, National Defense Service, Iraq Campaign, and Global War on Terrorism Service medals, and Combat Infantryman Badge. Donna Lynch of Hemlock said her grandson had talked about enlisting, but didn't know which branch. "Then he decided it would be the Army," Lynch said. "He said it was hard at first, but after he got adjusted Charlie said it would be his career." Charles Heinlein also is survived by his wife, Jessica, in Washington state, and a sister, Jody.





**U.S. Army Staff Sergeant William Samuel Jackson II**

Killed in Ar Ramadi, Iraq, Jackson and two other members of his combat team were killed on impact when an improvised explosive device detonated near their vehicle during combat operations.

SSG Jackson was 29 years old from Saginaw Michigan, and was an active duty member assigned to Company B, 16<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion, 1-1 Giessen Germany. No other or detailed biographical information is currently available for SSG Jackson.

SSG William Samuel Jackson II was also remembered November 23, 2006 in Seattle, WA. A local group called Wear Blue: Run to Remember, runs to honor the sacrifice of heroes like SSG Jackson, his family and all those who serve. A Michigan veteran, who requested that his name be withheld out of respect, stated that he got to know the extraordinary man that SSG Jackson was, and feel the loss, as well as celebrate his contribution. "I run for SSG William Samuel Jackson II. I will carry his name with me and live to honor his memory."



## **U.S. Marine Corporal Mark David Kidd**

Local marine killed in Iraq

U.S. Marine Cpl. Mark David Kidd, 26, of Milford, was killed at a dangerous checkpoint between Fallujah and Baghdad the morning of Thursday, Jan. 25. According to the family spokesperson and close personal friend Paige George, Kidd was shot in the neck by a sniper. Kidd joined the U.S. Marines on Jan. 1, 2000, and was on active duty until Dec. 31, 2005. He had served in Iraq for two active tours of duty, however, one person in his unit was shot and Kidd chose to stay and do another tour and replace him. "He didn't have to do that," George said. "That turned his two tours technically into three." Kidd was honorably discharged and started attending Eastern Michigan University, where in 18 months he earned enough credit to graduate with only one semester left. "He was one semester shy of graduation," George said. Kidd planned on attending law school, where he was going to major in international law. "He was planning on working for the (U.S.) State Department," George said. "He was ready." In April of 2006, Kidd was called back to duty with the Michigan Marine National Guard based out of Selfridge. His unit is still deployed in Iraq. On the morning of his death, Kidd had just been moved to a dangerous checkpoint between Fallujah and Baghdad, when he was shot and killed. Kidd's mother Janet is an art instructor at Fenton High School. "Mark proudly served the U.S. Marine Corps with honor. May God continue to bless America," she said. Kidd's father Frank Kidd said his son had technically served three tours of duty in Iraq when he was called to serve a fourth. Kidd told his father, "If I don't go and serve someone will have to, so I will go and serve with honor." Superintendent Peggy Yates said, "The entire Fenton Area Public School family mourns the Kidd family's loss. Mark, directly and indirectly, impacted the lives of many within our district."

Pam Bunka, a Fenton High School instructor and friend to Janet Kidd, said, "Mark was always thinking about others. During his first tour of duty, he told his mom how much he looked forward to and appreciated her care packages. He always shared the cookies and other goodies Janet sent to him, but he said he felt badly when some of guys serving with him received nothing from home. "Janet could not bear to hear this, so she immediately began organizing drives to send care packages to men serving with Mark," Bunka added. "Just last week she started her annual Valentine's Day project for our troops. This type of selflessness and compassion for others is a way of life for the entire family." Kidd attended Wixom Christian School. In addition to his parents Frank and Janet Kidd of Milford, he is survived by a brother, Matthew. His grandparents are Joseph and Wanda Kidd of Milford, and Daniel and Hulda Piercecchi of Livonia.



## **U.S. Marine Lance Corporal Minhee A. Kim**

Minhee “Andy” Kim knew from a young age he was going to be a Marine. At 13, he presumptively wrote a letter of intent to a local recruiting office and received a brief, but warm, reply stating he would be welcome in about five years. When Lance Cpl. Kim, 20, was killed Nov. 1, 2006 by small arms fire while conducting operations in Fallujah, Iraq, he died as he had always wanted to live — as a Marine. Minhee did not come from a military family. His father, Don Kim, was in the Korean military for a brief time as part of mandatory service, but much like the rest of his life Minhee forged his own identity from unbending moral beliefs and faith. The Kim family, first-generation from South Korea, moved to Ann Arbor in 1996 from Minhee’s native state of Maryland. A 2004 Pioneer High School graduate and University of Michigan-Dearborn student, Minhee started developing resolute Christian beliefs while attending the Harvest Mission Community Church, 1001 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor.

Becoming a Marine was something he was very compelled to do and a part of it was maybe his faith. Minhee’s family believes that Minhee was influenced by the Sept. 11 attacks terrorist attacks in New York, having grown up in the generation that witnessed the birth of modern terrorism. “I think a lot of it was that he grew up with Sept. 11, and everything after that motivated him even more,” says a former pastor. “He had a desire to fight for his country, a desire to give something back and he had a very strong foundation of faith. Some of that was spurred by the fact that he believed in a greater purpose, having that sense of duty was very strong with Andy.” Younger brother Isaac remembers the goofball, and the Marine. In a sad twist of irony, Isaac says one of the reasons his parents left Korea was so their children would not have to serve in the military. He says his mother, Mi Hea Kim, was very much against Minhee becoming a Marine. “My dad served in the Korean army, so he was a little more understanding,” says Isaac. “But they always supported us following our passions and dreams and they eventually kind of accepted (Minhee’s) decision.” Isaac, also a Pioneer High School graduate, shared enthusiasm for the military as two brothers playing with water guns and toy soldiers in the backyard. The only difference is Isaac grew out of it eventually enrolling and graduating from the University of Michigan. Minhee never did.

“My parents always knew (Minhee) wanted to be a Marine, they could never understand why,” says Isaac. Out of the two, Isaac says his older brother was definitely the more outgoing and friendly one. He says Minhee was very much a “people person” and would go out of his way for friends and family. “I was a lot more going about my own business, and he was always the more friendly one. In a way, he was nicer,” says Isaac as he chuckles. “It was just like interesting that his personality was like that.” Minhee also was athletic having played junior varsity tennis at Pioneer and hockey during grade school years. Isaac says one of his fondest memories growing up was traveling to Minhee’s myriad hockey tournaments across the state. Isaac says he also played hockey but Minhee was more committed to the sport. “When we were really little, we grew up playing hockey,” Isaac says. “Andy was a lot more into it, and I remember his teams were always really good. I’m not saying he was that good but his teams were really good. “So my parents and I would go out for all his travel hockey tournaments just to see him play. It was just like a really good time, we weren’t thinking about anything else. We were just there for him.”



**U.S. Marine Corporal Gary A. Koehler**



**Master mason, redford-metropolitan #152, Redford MI.**

The Department of Defense reported Cpl. Koehler, who graduated from Milan High School in 2003, was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C. He is the seventh Operation Iraqi Freedom casualty from the Monroe County region.

Koehler, died November 1, 2006 in Haditha, Iraq while serving our country. He was born March 29, 1985 in Ypsilanti to Ron and Mary (Goodney) Koehler. Gary graduated from Milan High School in 2003 where he played football and baseball. He also was a member of St. Luke's Lutheran Church of Ann Arbor. On February 17, 2006 he married Hillary Moss and she survives. Survivors also include his parents of Albuquerque, New Mexico, his brother Rob Koehler of Ypsilanti, grandparents Ted and Ruth Koehler and Arline Goodney all of Marquette, his in-laws Dr. Gary and Nancy Moss of Ypsilanti, and several aunts, uncles and cousins. Gary was a wonderful husband, son, brother, dedicated marine and great friend. Visitation will be held at the First United Methodist Church, 209 Washtenaw Ave, Ypsilanti on Thursday from 4-8 p.m. where a Marine Corp League Memorial Service will be held at 8:00 p.m. The funeral service will be held 11:00 a.m. Friday, November 10th at the church followed by military honors. Those desiring may make contributions to Milan High School Athletic Dept., Purple Heart, or Shriners Children's Hospital



## **U.S. Marine Staff Sargent Jason A. Lehto**

SSG Jason A. Lehto a Macomb County Marine who was killed in Iraq January 2005. "Jason was an outstanding young man who died doing his job, serving our great country and trying to keep the world safe and secure for us," Walsh (his father-in-law) said Thursday. "There is nothing political about this. It was his decision to join the Marines, he volunteered to go over there to Iraq and fight for freedom." Lehto, 31, who was raised in Clinton Township and most recently resided in Warren, enlisted in the U.S. Marines after graduating from Clintondale High School in Clinton Township in 1992. He served in active duty until 1996, and then joined the reserves. He leaves behind his wife, Michele Lehto, and sons, Nathan, 11, Joseph, 3, and Joshua, 2. He was employed as a service technician for SBC Communications in Trenton before he left for Iraq. SBC has helped supplement the income for his family, Walsh said. "SBC sent them an extra check around Christmas, which we are very grateful for," Walsh said. "And the AMVETS Post 57 in Harper Woods and the AMVETS Post 14 in Hamtramck have helped out also." Lehto was assigned to the Marine Forces Reserve Marine Wing Support Group 47, 4th Marine Aircraft Wing, housed at Selfridge Air National Guard Base in Harrison Township. The Department of Defense has not revealed how Lehto died. A news release issued by the military said only that he died in a non-hostile incident. The family knows the circumstances of his death but doesn't want to disclose the details, calling it only a "total accident," Walsh said.

Lehto was trained by the military in defusing explosives. "Unfortunately, he had a very dangerous mission," Walsh said. "We were worried about him and what he had to do over there, but he always walked to the beat of a different drummer. Even when he joined the military, he just walked in one day and said, 'Mom, Dad, I joined the Marines.' We were stunned." His death came as an additional blow to his family, which earlier this year endured the death of his mother, Priscilla Lehto-Walsh, who died in April at age of 62 of cancer.

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**U.S. Marine Lieutenant Colonel Joseph T. McCloud**

December 3, 2006, LTC Joseph T. McCloud, 39,, Grosse Point Park, Michigan was killed when the CH-46 helicopter he was traveling in malfunctioned and was forced to make an emergency landing on Lake Qadisiyah. "He was fully committed and believed whole-heartedly in what he was doing," said Wade Hutchens, who has been friends with McCloud, known by his middle name, "Trane," since they both pledged a fraternity in 1985 at the University of Tennessee. "There was never a shred of doubt with anything he did, going all the way back to college." McCloud was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, 3rd Marine Expeditionary Force in Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, where he reported in April. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1990 and was commissioned in April 1992. He was promoted posthumously to Lieutenant Colonel.

He leaves behind his wife, Maggie McCloud, and three young children. "He was the love of my life," Maggie McCloud told The Washington Post shortly after her husband's death. "I'm so devastated that my children are not going to grow up with him, because he was a man of character and honor." McCloud attended high school in Grosse Pointe, Michigan, outside Detroit, and later graduated from the University of Tennessee, where he studied liberal arts and history. According to news reports, he enlisted in the Marine Corps just in time for Desert Storm and served on the USS Missouri. It was the ship's captain who encouraged him to attend Officer Candidate School. During his career, McCloud worked at the Pentagon, did a fellowship on Capitol Hill and served as an instructor at the Marine Corps Officer Candidate School in Quantico. He and his wife moved from Alexandria to Hawaii this year. Marine Major Pat Zaleski first met McCloud 13 years ago when they served together at Camp Lejeune. They later served together on the staff at Officer Candidate School and remained close friends. "There were very few things he loved more than the Marines, but things he did love more were his wife and children," Zaleski said. "As good a Marine as he was, he was a much better husband and father. . . . He was an absolutely selfless and humble man. Those are the best kind."



**U.S. Army Private First Class Jason M. Meyer**



**past State Master councillor, DeMolay of Michigan  
Master Mason, Howell lodge #38, Howell mi.**

PFC Meyer, 23, and his wife, Melissa, 20, marked their first wedding anniversary long distance March 30, 2003. He was in Iraq, she was in Georgia. A week later, he was killed by U.S. friendly fire on the outskirts of Baghdad. At his Arlington Graveside service Army chaplain Douglas Fenton told the weeping mourners. "Since the Civil War . . . this cemetery has been a place to say goodbye to the nation's heroes," "Jason is someone who liked to help people. That is what he was doing near the end. . . . Today we're here to say goodbye to another American hero." Clutching tissues, Melissa Meyer was presented with her husband's Purple Heart and Bronze Star awards. The couple met through a Masonic youth group in Michigan and moved to Fort Stewart, Georgia, where Jason Meyer was based with the Army's 11th Engineer Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division. The young widow was the first of several family members to approach the casket after the service. She touched her fingers to her lips and then brushed the polished wood. Jason Meyer's mother, Kathleen Worthington, held tight to the U.S. flag presented to her by Army General Robert Griffin and sobbed uncontrollably at the sight of her son's coffin. Worthington had worried that her family would not be able to attend the burial because they couldn't afford the trip to Washington. But last week, according to media reports in Michigan, she was presented with donations totaling more than \$2,300 and an offer by U.S. Representative Mike Rogers (R-Mich.) to pay for hotel accommodations for the family. In an interview last week with the Associated Press, Worthington said her son's letters and calls from the Middle East were always positive. The last time she heard from him was Valentine's Day, when he telephoned from Kuwait City. He constantly sought to calm her fears, she recalled, adding: "He was always upbeat and happy. He was always a great kid." Meyer graduated from Howell High School in 1999 and worked construction jobs before joining the Army in 2001. He drove an M113 armored personnel carrier. A Pentagon source told The Washington Post that Meyer was killed April 8 by a U.S. tank round that blasted through a building at what is now known as Baghdad International Airport, ricocheted off a tank and struck him.

Meyer's stepmother, Deb, knelt beside his casket and draped her arms across it in an emotional, final embrace.

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**Army Capt. Lowell T. Miller II**



**master mason, st. Joseph lodge #437, Benton Harbor mi.**

## **Died August 31, 2005 Serving During Operation Iraqi Freedom**

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35, of Flint, Mich.; assigned to the 1st Battalion, 155th Infantry Regiment, Mississippi Army National Guard, McComb, Miss.; killed Aug. 31 when his military training team, conducting operations with the Iraqi Army, came under attack by enemy forces using small arms in Iskandariyah, Iraq.

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Miller followed in father's footsteps

The Associated Press

There was only one man who Lowell T. Miller wanted to have pin military bars to his uniform, one man he wanted to salute after being commissioned as an officer: his father. "Dad, I serve so others don't have to," he once wrote to his father, Lowell Miller, who served 22 years in the Naval Reserves. "You taught me to be a leader, to stand up and sacrifice so others would not have to. You were in the military and served so your kids wouldn't, yet we do. You taught us well." Miller, 35, of Flint, Mich., was killed Aug. 31 by small-arms fire in Iskandariyah, Iraq. He was assigned to McComb, Miss. Miller graduated in 1993 from Virginia Military Institute and later joined the Michigan Army National Guard. Miller worked for automotive supplier Yazaki North America Inc. and was an engineering supervisor. "He'd constantly go to bat for them for things like raises within the company," said Erin Haven, who was hired by Miller. "He'd really stick out his neck for people."

He is survived by his wife, Angela, and two stepchildren, Jessica, 13, and Jordan, 6.

"It was just wonderful to be with him," Angela Miller said.





## **U.S. Army Staff Sargent BRETT J. PETRIKEN**

501st Military Police Company

Killed in a vehicle accident in Samawah, Iraq on May 26, 2003.

Staff Sgt. Petriken, 30, of Flint, Mich.; assigned to the 501st Military Police Company, Wiesbaden, Germany; killed in a vehicle accident in Samawah, Iraq, May 26, 2003. Petriken and another soldier were escorting a convoy in a Humvee when a heavy equipment transporter crossed the median and struck their vehicle. Brett Petriken joined the Army in 1991. He was killed May 26 — a day before his 31st birthday — in a vehicle accident involving his Humvee, which was leading a convoy. Petriken was such a loyal Detroit Lions football fan that he had game tapes sent to him overseas. "He loved to watch them, win or lose," said his stepmother, Kathy Petriken.

He also loved a good joke, and knew how to make people feel at ease, said his uncle, Dave Petriken. "Nobody had a bad word to say about him," he said. Just before he left for Iraq, he told his mother not to worry. "He said 'I have a bulletproof vest and a bulletproof Humvee. Mom, I'm trained for this,'" Deborah Petriken said. Jeff Blanchard, a former high school substitute teacher, said Petriken was "just a clean-cut, polite, nice young man." "You never had to ask him to be quiet, you never had to ask him to sit down," he said. "When it's that quality of an individual, it really hurts." Petriken is survived by his wife, Christina, and 8-year-old daughter."



## **U.S. Air Force Staff Sargent Scott D. Sather**

Scott D Sather, Clio, Michigan, Age 29, US Air Force SSGT, 24th Special Tactics Squadron, Pope Air Force Base, North Carolina

SSgt. Sather was a quiet professional, trained and performing the duties of a special forces combat controller, he was described as the "do" man. In one of the few public statements published by USAF personal it was related that, "He'd basically go out, take care of matters, that is the simplest way to describe , Sather" said Staff Sgt. Michael Bain. SSgt. Sather of Clio, Mi., who was and based at Pope Air Force Base, was killed in combat operations mission on April 8. He was married.

He was a 1991 graduate of Clio High School, where he played football and baseball. Sather was married in July 2002, and often talked about his plans to build a home, Bain said. In his free time he {Sather} enjoyed riding and working on his motorcycle. "He was well-loved in the community," stated his uncle, state Rep. John Gleason. "He was very outgoing. ... He was just a great person... We will all miss him."



**U.S. Air Force Technical Sargent Howard A. Walters**

Walters, a 15-year veteran, served in the 1991 Persian Gulf War. Later, while stationed at Kirtland as an aerial gunnery instructor, he helped rescue a lost hiker in the mountains of New Mexico. Port Huron airman killed in Afghan crash recalled for love of flying. An Air Force commando from Port Huron who died in a helicopter crash in Afghanistan was remembered by relatives for his love of flying and desire to serve his country. Technical Sergeant Howard A. Walters, 33, an aerial gunner, was among five service members killed when an Air Force special operations helicopter crashed on Sunday, the military said Wednesday. He leaves behind a wife and four daughters. "He just always wanted to go into the Air Force," his father, James Walters, of Manton, said Wednesday night. Howard Walters enlisted after graduating from Port Huron High School and served in Operation Desert Storm. He was recently serving in Africa, James Walters said, and received orders shortly before his death that sent him to Afghanistan. "My brother was in the Air Force. I guess he admired that," James Walters said, adding, "My dad flew small planes." Linda Walters, wife of James Walters' brother Michael, said her nephew loved his career in the military. She last saw him in February and he spoke with her husband, who served in the Air Force from 1965-69, about a love of flying. "He was just a very sweet boy growing up. Always thought of others. ... He always talked about flying," said Linda Walters, who lives with her husband in Nashville. Howard Walters' wife, Melissa, and four daughters -- Kalie, Breanna, Samantha and Grace -- live in Florida, home of Hurlburt Base, headquarters of the Air Force Special Operations Command. Walters' mother, Patricia Riedel, lives in Port Huron. Walters and two others killed in the crash were assigned to the 20th Special Operations Squadron, part of the 16th Special Operations Wing:

Pentagon officials said engine failure rather than enemy action may have caused Sunday's crash about seven miles east of Bagram Air Base. Nearby villagers said the helicopter hit near a riverbed around sunset and caught fire. "The entire 16th Special Operations Wing is experiencing great sorrow over the loss we've suffered," said Col. O.G. Mannon, the wing's commanding officer.

Walters was memorialized at the Arlington Grave side ceremony by a Chaplain, Colonel David E. Boyles, as "a brave young man who gave his life not only for his country, but for friends and family, to keep them free."



### **U.S. Marine Lance Corporal Brandon J. Webb**

Swartz Creek, Michigan, Killed in Action. June 20, 2006

Red Mountain grad killed in Iraq

A Marine who was raised in the East Valley and graduated from Red Mountain High School in 2004 died in Iraq on Tuesday. A roadside bomb exploded while Lance Corporal Brandon Webb, 20, was driving an SUV in Fallujah, killing him and two other soldiers, according to his mother, Ann Christofferson. Webb was scheduled to return home from Iraq on August 2, 2006. "He had always wanted to be a Marine, even when he was a little kid," Christofferson said. When Webb told his mom he had joined, "I was scared to death for him, but I wanted him to know he had all of my support," she said. Christofferson said she talked to her son last week. "He was joking and laughing. But he had also seen stuff he hoped he never had to see again." "The only thing he hated was not being able to sleep in a bed," she said. Webb grew up in Tempe and attended McClintock High School his freshman and sophomore years, where he pitched and played first base on the baseball team. When his mother moved to Michigan, he followed, but missed friends in Arizona so much that he returned to the Valley for his senior year. "We were pretty much inseparable," said Private Marcus Otero, 20, of Mesa. Webb lived with Otero's family during senior year. "He was the closest thing to a brother I've ever had." Webb and his mother worked as firefighters in Michigan after Webb graduated, but he decided to become a Marine a year later, persuading Otero to join the military as well. The two saw each other at Christmas last year and were planning to spend time together in September after Webb returned and before Otero left for his tour of duty in Iraq. Otero and Webb remained close with their McClintock baseball coaches, Terry and Kerry Reeder, after high school. Webb called Kerry Reeder from Iraq a few weeks ago, saying he wanted to move back to the Valley after the military and help coach the team. "He loved baseball," Reeder said. In his history classes this semester, Reeder used Webb as an example when discussing the conflict in Iraq and offered the students extra credit to write Webb letters. With the hectic pace of the end of the semester, Reeder hadn't had time to mail them yet. "I've got 30 letters on my desk right now," he said. "It gives new meaning to those letters." He plans to give them to Christofferson when he and his brother go to the funeral.

"He was one of those kids that didn't want to be in the limelight, but he liked being around everybody," said Reeder, whose brother owned a Water & Ice store where Webb worked. "He was just a good kid." Christofferson said the community in Swartz Creek has been supportive, bringing food to her house, calling and dedicating a brick for Webb at the city's proposed veteran's memorial. Otero said Webb's death still doesn't seem real. "He had all kinds of things going for him. He was almost done with Iraq. He was even figuring out what kind of car he wanted to get when he came home," Otero said. "The last thing he said was, 'I'm almost ready to come home. I'll see you soon.'"



**U.S. Army Master Sargent Anthony R.C. Yost**

Master Sgt. Yost, Special Forces A Detachment Team Sergeant, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne), Fort Bragg, N.C., 39 from Flint, Michigan, Killed in Action 19 November 2005

Special Forces Operational Detachment-Alpha team sergeant assigned to 3rd Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne) died Nov. 19 in Mosul, Iraq of wounds sustained when an explosion occurred inside a building he was searching. His wife, Joann and his children, Donovan, Cheyenne, and Anthony survive him. Yost, was deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. At the time of his death, Yost was in the process of searching a building in Mosul for insurgents. During the search, an explosion occurred collapsing the building. Yost was killed by the blast. Yost was born in Oklahoma and raised in Flint, Mich. He enlisted in the Army in 1987. His awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, six Army Commendation Medals, six Army Achievement Medals, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Kosovo Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Korean Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, NCO Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, NATO Medal, Senior Parachutist Badge, Military Freefall Master Parachutist Badge, Driver and Mechanic Badges, and the Special Forces Tab. De Oppresso Liber (It is United States Army tradition that this phrase in Latin is considered to mean "to free from oppression" or "to liberate the oppressed", in English.[1] However, a translation of "to free from oppression" would be de oppressione liberare. Similarly, "to liberate the oppressed" means oppressos liberare)



Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord

and may perpetual light

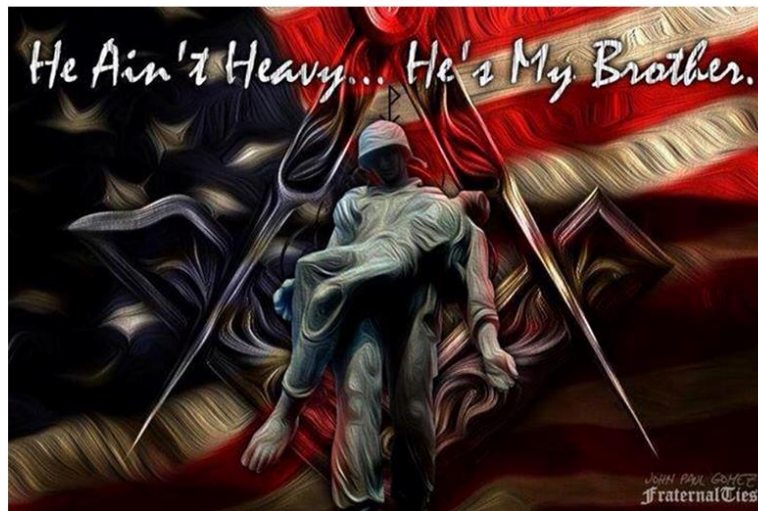
shine upon them forever.



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