

## MARINE CORPORAL KYLE W. POWELL



Corporal Kyle W. Powell was the son of Dave and Nancy and big brother to Megan. He was blue-eyed and blond with an infectious laugh. He was a friend to many and like a brother to his fellow Marines. He was born to Army parents at Ft. Carson Hospital, near Colorado Springs, Colorado on December 14, 1984, on a cold snowy day. He was in kindergarten when Desert Storm started in 1991. He would watch the news every day and give me a full report of what our military was doing each day when I returned home from work. Through Boy Scouts and school projects we knew he'd end up serving his fellow man somehow, somewhere. Throughout junior high and high school he'd always dress up in Dave's and my old uniforms for school video projects, imaginary war games or Halloween. So, between Scouts, sports, Halloween, etc., it seemed he was frequently in a uniform.

Kyle entered the United States Marine Corps on the delayed entry program while a senior in high school. I swore him in. He went to boot camp in San Diego in September, 2003 and then on to Combat Engineering School. He told us that Combat Engineers build things and blow things up. Kyle's home base was Camp Pendleton, CA. He loved to party with his buddies on the beach, drinking beer and grilling steaks.

His first deployment took him to many places besides Kuwait and Iraq as he went as part of a group of four who did a multitude of short assignments. Kyle's second tour took him to Ramadi to work with the 3/7 Infantry. He received the Navy Achievement medal for building a bunker that withstood five RPG's (rocket propelled grenades) without anyone getting hurt. He deployed the third time in late August, 2006 to Fallujah, Iraq, this time to work with 2<sup>nd</sup> RECON from Camp Lejeune and then with 3<sup>rd</sup> RECON from Okinawa. He was excited about this assignment, as he knew they'd be doing interesting things. Kyle liked to be actively engaged in something worthwhile, not sitting around. In October, he was credited with saving the lives of two wounded Marines (one severely), and probably several others. For this, he was awarded the Bronze Star with Valor in May, 2007. On November 4, 2006, he and another Marine were on foot in front of a convoy, sweeping the road for bombs, when one found them. They were both killed by the IED. Kyle was just 21 years old. He'd spent two birthdays in Iraq and was on his third winter in a row over there. Kyle was the imaginative one, the creative one, and the organizer of fun. He is sorely missed and will always be our Hero.

These words were written by Nancy Pfander Powell, proud American Gold Star Mother of Marine Corporal Kyle W. Powell.

