

NATIONAL VETERANS MEMORIAL
8837 S STATE ROAD 57
ELBERFELD IN 47613-8445

To All Concerned:

Thank you so very much for the opportunity to honor my son, Staff Sgt. Bryan A. Burgess.

As far back as I can remember, Bryan was always concerned with the safety and security of his family and friends. His giving nature, too, contributed to the amazing young man he became years later.

After 9/11 Bryan came up to me and said, "Dad, I'm going to fight back."

He wasn't asking me. He was telling me. Bryan had already signed up with the U.S. Army. He went to Boot Camp at Fort Benning, GA where he graduated with honors and was immediately assigned to Fort Lewis in Washington.

Before we knew it, Bryan was deployed to Iraq.

I remember that first deployment going so slowly for both of us. We wrote letters, I sent care packages, we shared phone calls.

Then Bryan was home and we had a huge "Welcome Home" party for him.

Bryan told us he had re-upped. He was being assigned to the Army Garrison at Graffenwoher, Germany. He told us he enjoyed his training and was actually looking forward to his next deployment.

Both of our grandchildren were born in Germany while Bryan was stationed there. We were excited to visit with Makya and Zander in the beautiful village of Vilseck where they lived!

Bryan was then deployed to Iraq for his second tour. Again, the year went very slowly past, but Bryan was okay and looking forward to coming home. He told me he was being assigned to the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell. I was ecstatic!

Bryan was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry, No Slack, at Fort Campbell. I drove to Kentucky from Texas to celebrate Bryan's 29th Birthday. I met many of his friends, played with my grandkids, enjoyed grilling on the patio with him, and even though Bryan avoided talking about his previous deployments, I just had fun with my son that week.

Bryan was deployed to Afghanistan on Mother's Day, 2010. In November of 2010 Bryan was recommended for a Bronze Star of Valor for his actions.

On March 29th, 2011, Bryan and five of his brothers were killed in action during Operation Strong Eagle III in Kunar Province, Afghanistan. They were sixteen days from coming home. Bryan was a month away from his 30th birthday.

An ABC News journalist was embedded with the 101st during the mission. His footage of the nine-day battle that claimed the lives of six of the soldiers from No Slack became the film The Hornet's Nest.

The second hardest thing I've ever done after attending my son's funeral was watching the footage of the day he was killed.

We have since endorsed the film and continue to do so because that is how we tell Bryan's story. That is how I honor him and will continue to honor him.

In memory of:

Staff Sgt. Bryan A. Burgess
23 April 1981 - 29 March 2011
U.S. Army
101st Airborne
2nd Bn - 327th Inf
No Slack

Terry A Burgess

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