



REMEMBERING MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT JASON DUNHAM



Out of the seven Medal of Honor recipients since Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom began, only one held the title Marine. Corporal Jason Dunham – who would have turned 28 this month – received the medal posthumously for “conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life.” On April 14, 2004, Dunham's squad was conducting a reconnaissance mission in the town of Karabilah, Iraq, when they heard rocket-propelled grenades and small arms fire erupt west of their position. Without

hesitation, Dunham lead his squad to reinforce another patrol of Marines with 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment. The minutes that followed Dunham’s decision would prove to be a testament to his personal honor, sacrifice and leadership as a United States Marine.

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NEWS

COMMANDANT: AFGHANISTAN IS TOP PRIORITY

During a recent visit to Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, S.C., Marine Commandant Gen. James Amos addressed his [top four priorities](#) with local Marines, the war in Afghanistan ranking number one. "It's more important to me than anything else," he said. Amos was

accompanied by Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps Carlton Kent, who also addressed the Marines, thanking them for "continuing the great legacy of our Corps" and encouraging them to take care of each other.

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US MARINES CONDUCT CLEARING OPERATION, BOOST SECURITY IN MARJAH

Marines with 2nd Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment recently conducted a massive clearing operation in Sistani, a region in Marjah notorious for remnant Taliban fighters who harass the local population. Marine squads, partnered with the Afghan National Army, swept across the surrounding farmland and engaged the local populace one compound at a time, in an effort that significantly disrupted terrorist activity in the region. By the end of the operation, children were seen running up to Marines who were handing out candy and toys in an area that was virtually a ghost town due to enemy activity weeks prior.

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CONTINUING PROMISE SAILS HOME AFTER DEPLOYMENT TO CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA

After four months of providing humanitarian assistance to eight countries in the Caribbean, Central and South America, Marines and sailors with Special-Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force Continuing Promise 2010 steamed through the Atlantic waters making their way home, Nov. 13. Marines and sailors stepped foot on Haiti, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Panama, Guyana and Suriname assisting Navy, Army and Air Force personnel at medical, dental, veterinary, engineering and community relations sites throughout the entirety of the four-month deployment.

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MARINE CORPS TEAMS UP WITH INFINITE SCHOLAR PROGRAM

The Marine Corps is continuing to pursue diversity among its ranks and they have found a new partner in the Infinite Scholar Program. The program assists disadvantaged minority students, primarily African-American and Spanish-speaking Americans, by providing mentorship and the financial support for them to continue their education at colleges across the nation.

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FAVORITE SON RETURNS TO ALABAMA FOR FOUNDERS DAY



Lt. Gen. Willie J. Williams, director of the Marine Corps staff at Marine Corps headquarters, recently returned to his hometown of Stillman, Ala., for a Founders Day ceremony. The general's military career has its roots in Stillman, where he was encouraged by his high school teachers to pursue college rather than enlist in the Air Force. A Stillman College alumni, Williams is the third black Marine to attain the rank of lieutenant general and is the highest ranking black Marine now serving. "The Marine Corps valued diversity," he said. "The Marine Corps promoted based on

merit. When you join the Marine Corps, there is a kindred spirit."

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CORPS LAUNCHES MARINES MAGAZINE IPAD APP

The Marine Corps recently launched the iPad edition of Marines magazine, available for free download from the iTunes App Store. Marines magazine is the official publication of the United States Marine Corps. Catch a [glimpse](#) of the engaging content, stunning photography, and interactive displays.

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HERO OF THE WEEK

MARINES HONOR FALLEN PLATOON COMMANDER IN AFGHANISTAN



In a dusty patrol base in southern Afghanistan, Marines with 3rd Platoon, Echo Company, 2nd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment recently paused to honor 1st Lt. James R. Zimmerman. A native of Aroostock, Maine, Zimmerman died Nov. 2 while conducting



combat operations in Helmand province. He was remembered by the Marines he led as platoon commander as an unselfish, unwavering warrior who was called to lead Marines.

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A GRATEFUL NATION

KENTUCKY MARINE VETERANS RALLY TO HELP LOCAL MARINE

The [Marine Corps Coordinating Council of Kentucky](#) recently coordinated a statewide outreach to help a local Marine through a personal tragedy. A Marine recruiter assigned to Marine Corps Recruiting Station Louisville had suffered the death of his child in a vehicle accident. The council began a grassroots effort to help defray funeral expenses. Through the generosity of its members and other friends of the Corps throughout the state, the council received substantial donations and was able to provide significant financial assistance. The grieving Marine was unaware of the effort until he learned from the funeral director that all expenses had been satisfied on his behalf by fellow Marines.

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE JOINS MAYOR IN MEMORY OF FALLEN MARINE

Ocean County Freeholder Joseph H. Vicari joined with Toms River Mayor Thomas F. Kelaher along with United States Marine Corps Veterans during the recent sign unveiling dedicating a portion of Old Freehold Road, Toms River, N.J., in memory of Major James J. Weis, United States Marine Corps. On Thursday, July 22, 2010, Major Weis, 37 was killed during combat operations in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. He was assigned to Marine Aircraft Group 39, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, I Marine Expeditionary Force, based in Camp Pendleton, Calif.

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EVENTS

MARINE BAND HERALDS HOLIDAY SEASON WITH CONCERT AT WOLF TRAP

Kick-off the holiday season with family and friends at Wolf Trap's 2010 [Holiday Sing-A-Long](#) Dec. 5 at the Filene Center in Vienna, Va. This annual musical celebration hosts a performance by the [United States Marine Band](#) and a Sing-A-Long of Christmas carols and Hanukkah songs with choir and vocal groups from the Washington metropolitan area. Wolf Trap will be participating in [Toys for Tots](#) by collecting new, unwrapped toys at the entrance to the Filene Center before the Sing-A-Long. Donations are strictly voluntary and not a requirement. Admission is free and no tickets are required. Parking is free but limited so plan on arriving early.

SOUTH CAROLINA GAMECOCKS HONOR VETERANS IN MATCH UP WITH TROY UNIVERSITY TROJANS

Marines from [4th Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion](#) will kickoff college football action Saturday with a color guard performance at the [University of South Carolina](#), as the Gamecocks take on the Troy University Trojans. The game will feature a halftime salute to all veterans.
