



CPL. JAMES "JIM" R. MILLER

CLASS OF 1989

James "Jim" Miller was born October 16, 1970 in Decatur, Indiana to James Miller Sr. and Florence (King) Miller. James attended Belmont High School and graduated in 1989. James married Belmont classmate Susan Shoaf in June of 1989 and would leave for basic training at Fort Jackson, GA for the U.S. Army seventeen days later.



At Belmont, he was an expert high school rifle marksman and was elected captain of the team for three years. Jim helped lead the team to scholastic state titles each of the four years he competed. At one time Jim held two school shooting records including kneeling accuracy and quarter course record. Jim also played varsity football, and ran on the track and cross-country teams.

Miller's first son, Marcus, was born September 11, 1989 and in November Jim was deployed to Nuremberg Germany and assigned to Army 7th Corps, Headquarters 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment. In October 1990 Specialist Miller learned that his unit would be sent to the Persian Gulf as part of an allied coalition in response to the invasion of Kuwait by Iraqi Dictator Saddam Hussein. The allied offensive to liberate Kuwait began on January 16, 1991 as *Operation Desert Storm*. After a month of aerial bombardment of Iraqi targets, a massive ground campaign was launched to expel Iraqi forces from Kuwait. Within three days, Kuwait was liberated and the Iraqi resistance had completely collapsed. A cease fire was declared on February 28, 1991.



Specialist Miller died February 28, 1991 at 1:35pm when he exited from a supply truck and stepped unsuspectingly on an Iraqi land mine in Northern Kuwait. His death occurred almost six hours after the official cease-fire ended the Persian Gulf War with Iraq.



A second son, Mathew James, was born just a week before James' death on February 21, 1991.

Specialist Miller was posthumously promoted to the rank of Corporal and his awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart, Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal, and the Kuwait Liberation Medal.

"His ultimate sacrifice for the noble and just cause of freedom for his fellow man is the proudest of legacies to be passed on to his family and, especially, his two young sons, who will come to know their father as a true hero"

– Decatur City Council Resolution, March 1991.