

**SOUTH DAKOTA
FALLEN HERO**



*Your
Memory
lives on in
our hearts.*



In Loving Memory

SSG Robb L. Rolfing



Stouxx Falls, SD

US Army

12-04-1977 to 6-30-2007

Iraq



Staff Sergeant Robb L. Rolwing
10th Special Forces "Green Beret"
Group (A) ODA 053
Dec 4, 1977 – June 30, 2007



Staff Sergeant Robb L. Rolwing enlisted into the United States Army on January 3, 2003 following the events of 9/11/2001. His first assignment

was with 3/187th Infantry Battalion, Fort Campbell, Kentucky where he served as an Infantryman and deployed with his unit in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM I. After serving there for one and a half years, SSG Rolwing was selected for Special Forces training at Fort Bragg, North Carolina where he earned the 18C MOS, Engineer. He was assigned to ODA 053, B Co., 2nd Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) at Fort Carson, Colorado and deployed again with his new unit in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM V in 2007. Having participated in the original invasion of Iraq, SSG Rolwing fully knew the dangers and challenges associated with the Anti-Iraqi Forces (AIF) entrenched in the volatile Rasheed area of Southern Baghdad. SSG Rolwing and his Operational Detachment were given the difficult task of conducting operations considered so dangerous, it became the Multi-National Corps-Iraq, Commanding General's main focus during the Baghdad Security Plan surge of 2007. In light of this, SSG Rolwing took it upon himself to ensure force protection measures were employed in and around the camp as well as on every combat mission his Detachment conducted. SSG Rolwing used his outstanding interpersonal qualities, expert engineering skills and knowledge to bring improved quality of life to his detachment members, the Iraqi guards and their families who lived in and around their compound. During combat operations, his actions were paramount to the unit's ability to inflict damage to insurgents set on undermining and discrediting the legitimate Government of Iraq (GOI). Over the course of a few months, SSG Rolwing and his detachment were able to reestablish Military Source Operations (MSO) in the Rasheed and Northern Arab Jabur area of Al Doura, filling a void in the MSO footprint in the Baghdad area. This precision targeting led to multiple combat operations by U.S. Special Forces in this area resulting in the capture of multiple High Value Individuals. Additionally, these operations led to the



discovery of one of the largest IED caches found in Southern Baghdad to date and five Vehicle Bone Improvised Explosive Device (VBIED) assembly sites with a total of seven VBIEDS destroyed. His overwhelming concern and desire to help the innocent people of Iraq was nothing less than admirable. On June 30, 2007 while conducting combat operations in the vicinity of Al Doura, Iraq SSG Rolwing was fatally wounded when he was struck by a bullet from a desperate enemy.

[previous text taken from narrative that accompanied SSG Rolwing's Award of the Bronze Star Medal]

SSG Rolwing's military education includes the Special Forces Qualification Course, Survival Evasion Resistant Escape (SERE) Course, The Basic Non-Commissioned Officers Course, The Warrior Leadership Course, Airborne School, Air Assault School and the Combat Life Savers Course. His



awards and decorations include: the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Iraqi Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Special Forces Tab, Combat Infantry Badge, Parachute Badge, Air Assault Badge.

Robb loved serving his country and served like he did everything.....with passion. He "trained" for Basic Training, continued to run after the drill was over and was always trying to design something to improve any situation. His Special Forces team leader recognized his talents and education stating, "he was probably the only rifleman capable of explaining quantum physics and the theory of relativity!"



A picture from Robb's last email stating, "I'm the one in the middle."

Robb L. Rolfing
Sioux Falls, South Dakota
Orlando, Florida
Boston, Massachusetts

Athlete - Enthusiastic
Teammate - Scientist - Chemist
- Sports & Trivia Fan - Coach



From the time SSG Robb L. Rolfing was a little boy he was a “soldier” in every sense of the word – not just on the battlefield but also in the classroom, on the athletic field and while establishing friendships around the world. Robb was born on December 4, 1977 in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. He attended school in Sioux Falls and graduated from O’Gorman High School where he was involved in soccer, football, hockey, band, debate, science club and theater. For graduation ceremonies he attached a parachute to his graduation cap. “MacGyver” was one of his favorite TV shows and he carried a Swiss Army knife and duct tape with him at all times. He went on to Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, New York to play soccer and attained his BA degree in Astronomy and Physics. While there, he captained the soccer team to Vassar’s first NCAA tournament post-season berth in any sport and scored the winning goal in the first round of play. In 1999 he was named to the NSCAA/Adidas All-Region Team and the All-New York team and was Vassar’s Newspaper’s Athlete of the Year. He also played on their lacrosse team. After college graduation Robb worked in the field of soccer at two colleges – Rollins College in Florida and Curry College in Boston. It was during this time that the events of 9/11/2001 changed his passion to protecting America.



Another passion of Robb’s was being a Minnesota Viking fan through good times and bad. He established a bank account for buying Super Bowl tickets whenever they would get there and he had a Viking logo tattoo on his arm. He and his cousin made a video about the team called “To Be Forgotten”. The only thing he wanted sent to him during his second deployment was a “Chad Greenway” jersey. Robb was also an expert ping-pong player and a TV, movie, and Star Trek trivia expert. He was also very passionate about watching the World Cup Soccer games and backed DC United and England’s Liverpool teams.

On June 30, 2007 Robb’s family was eating in downtown Sioux Falls and saw a bronze statue on the SculptureWalk of a soldier carried by an angel upward – titled “Going Home” by Sondra Jonson, Cambridge, Nebraska. It was the next morning they were told about Robb. Through a city-wide fundraising effort the statue was enlarged to ten feet and placed in Sioux Falls Veterans’ Park on November 7, 2009. It is placed to honor all fallen heroes from all military conflicts. Forever missing him will be his parents Rex & Margie Rolfing and brother TJ, sister-in-law Jena & nephew Miles and sister Tiffany Rolfing. He was preceded in death on Nov 9, 1985 by his infant brother Alex Clark.



Robb’s dad & mom, sister, brother, sister-in-law and nephew:
Rex, Margie, Tiffany, Jena, TJ & Miles Rolfing (November 2009)

