

**SOUTH DAKOTA  
FALLEN HERO**



*Your  
Memory  
lives on in  
our hearts.*



*In Loving Memory*

*SGT Jeremiah J. Boehmer*



*Parkston, SD*

*US Army*

*4-10-1983 to 2-05-2006*

*Iraq*

## *Sergeant Jeremiah Boehmer*

Jeremiah James Boehmer was born to James and Josephine Boehmer on April 10, 1983. He has two brothers - Jason and James, and two sisters - Jessica and Jamie. He was born and raised in Parkston, South Dakota. He attended Parkston High School and graduated in 2002. He enlisted in the Army in fall of 2002.

Jeremiah was known as Flame to his school friends. He was a quiet person with an excellent sense of humor and individuality. He accepted people for who they were. That does not mean he wasn't above giving someone a hard time. He would take the opposite side of an argument if he knew he could get a response from you. He would be the one cheering for the opposite team in a room full of a team's fans. He vowed during his senior year in High School to wear shorts every day to school which he did. There were times when he wore long socks with them but he wore the shorts. He never let his sense of humor though get in the way of a job.

Jeremiah loved playing video games. There wasn't a video game he could not conquer and usually within a few days. He had a passion for music which he shared with his brother Jason. He almost needed a separate room to hold all the CDs he had. He loved to fish and was a big fan of WWF wrestling. He was a Boy Scout. His troop once went white water rafting plus yearly visits to Lewis and Clark Boy Scout Camp. He also worked for the Parkston golf course for some of his school years' summers.

After graduation in 2002, Jeremiah worked during the summer for a brick restoration company and then enlisted in the Army that fall. No one expected him to join the Army, but being the person who liked the element of surprise, this is what he did. He went to Fort Leonard Wood for engineer training and then was stationed in Fort Wainwright, Alaska. He served two tours of duty - one being in Afghanistan shortly after his arrival in Alaska and the other in Iraq.

He left to serve to serve in Operation Iraqi Freedom in August 2005 coming home to visit us in July before he left. He was a member of the 562nd Engineer Company, 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, Fort Wainwright, Alaska. The 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat team is known as the "Artie Wolves" and the 562nd Engineer Company is known as the "Alaska Artie Sappers". In Iraq, the 172nd Stryker Brigade was responsible for combat operations in northern Iraq, including the city of Mosul. The brigade fields the Army's new Stryker armored wheeled vehicle, designed to maneuver more easily in close and urban terrain while providing protection in open terrain. The brigade relieved the 25th Infantry Division's 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team in September 2005.

Jeremiah came home for a two week break in January 2006, giving us the best belated Christmas present. He and his brother James cooked up a scheme to surprise all of us so we did not even know he was coming. He spent his time with family and caught up with his friends. He talked of the good things that were being accomplished in Iraq

He was proud to have helped rebuild schools and other parts of Iraq. He also had just obtained the rank of sergeant and reminded his mom any emails sent once he went back was to be addressed as sergeant. He was trying to make a decision if he wanted to stay in the military or get out. He was thinking about becoming a teacher and did explore some options regarding this while home. The time went by so fast while he was home. When he left for the airport at 3:00 AM to go back, his sister, Jessica, got up to say goodbye and her last spoken words to him were "I love you." He stopped at the Parkston Hospital on the way out to say goodbye to his mom who was working. He gave her a big hug and told her that he loved her. The last email received from Jeremiah said to tell everyone he loves them and he would be back before you know it and ended the letter Peace out. His signature saying was Peace out and this is how he ended all his emails.



On February 5, 2006, Jeremiah and his company were doing a route sweep of an area in a Stryker unit he was serving as a rear air guard. Being demolitions experts, their duties were to try to make sure the route was safe for the rest of the convoy to pass through. Jeremiah and Staff Sergeant Christopher Morningstar lost their lives that day in Al Husayniyah, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device detonated near their Stryker unit and our lives were changed forever.

February 5, 2006, a day that will be engraved in our minds and hearts forever. It was Super Bowl Day and his mom's birthday. A few weeks later, on Thursday, February 16, Jeremiah was laid to rest. We had a near blizzard the day before and it was frigid the day of the funeral which just made it feel like Jeremiah was with us, especially since his home base was in Alaska. The church was packed with family, friends and people who just wanted to pay their respects. Jeremiah was awarded the Bronze Star, Purple Heart and Good Conduct Medal. He was laid to rest in the Sacred Heart Catholic Cemetery.

Submitted by his family who misses him dearly.

