

SOUTH DAKOTA FALLEN HERO



*Your
Memory
lives on in
our hearts.*



In Loving Memory

SSG LeRoy O. Webster



Sioux Falls, SD

US Army

6-21-1980 to 4-25-2009

Iraq

SSG LeRoy Webster

Husband, Father, Hero

SSG LeRoy O. Webster, the son of Donald and Crystal Webster, was born in Spencer, Iowa on June 21, 1980. He spent his childhood in Hartley, and graduated from Hartley-Melvin-Sanborn High School in 1999. He was united in marriage to Jessica Rieck on July 29, 2000, at St Joseph's Catholic Church in Hartley. LeRoy and Jessica were blessed to have their first daughter, Natasha, be a witness at their wedding.

LeRoy joined the Iowa National Guard in August of 2001. In 2002, he was activated with an Algona-based National Guard unit which mobilized for Operation Noble Eagle. He was assigned to Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 194th Field Artillery, Iowa Army National Guard. He provided guarder security at a Department of Defense chemical depot in Indiana. After their second daughter, Kaydence, was born, the family relocated to Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Six months after returning home, he volunteered to deploy in support of Operation Enduring Freedom with the 1st Battalion 168th Infantry, Iowa National Guard for a year-long tour in Afghanistan. During the deployment he was assigned to a mortar platoon. After two deployments with the Iowa National Guard, LeRoy decided to join the active Army in March of 2006. He was assigned to the Bravo Battery, 3rd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery, 2nd Brigade

Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division out of Fort Hood, Texas. In October 2006 he was deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 06-08. One month later their third daughter, Jady, was born. LeRoy returned home from Iraq in January of 2008 after serving 16 months overseas. The family enjoyed a year together in Texas before his unit was once again called to deploy to Iraq. SSG Webster deployed with Bravo Battery, 3/82 FA, 2nd Brigade, 1st Cav. in January 2009 to Kirkuk, Iraq. He was a Truck Commander conducting Mounted Patrols, and a Paladin Howitzer Gunner on FOB Warrior in support of the Kirkuk Security Forces. While serving in Kirkuk, Iraq on Saturday, April 25, 2009, LeRoy made the ultimate sacrifice for his country.

LeRoy loved being outdoors and spending time with family and friends. He spent many days hunting pheasants and deer in Iowa with friends. He enjoyed going golfing and shared his love of golf with his wife and daughters. He loved spending time with his daughters whether it was outside in the yard playing ball or going for a bike ride. His new-found hobby was playing the Wii with the girls—they especially loved Guitar Hero.

SSG Webster has been awarded the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal with Bronze Service Star, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Combat Action Badge, NCO Professional Development Award, Meritorious Unit Citation, Army Forces Reserve Medal, Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, Marksmanship Badge and the Driver's Badge.

Left to cherish in his memory re his wife Jessica and daughters Natasha, Kaydence and Jady; his parents, Donald & Crystal Webster, brother Matt Webster and sister Connie Breon, all of Hartley; his grandmothers, Maxine Webster and Carol Pederson; Jessica's parents, David and Nancy Rieck; her brothers, Joshua & Cari Rieck and Joel Rieck; her grandparents, Francis & Dee Rieck and Gerald & Alberta Dahne; other relatives and friends.

LeRoy will be remembered for his willingness to always go above and beyond the call of duty. He was always there to listen and help -family, friend or soldier- he was there for you when you needed him. We love you and miss you, LeRoy. You are forever in our hearts.

I AM A SOLDIER

Here I sit, silent, watching, observing, thinking. I am far from home. Far away from the ones that I love, and the ones who love me. I want to go home. I miss my family, my friends. Yet I stay here. I have been called here. My country needs me, my Lord needs me. I am here by his will.

I am here to protect. To protect my family, my friends. I am here to protect all those who believe in the Lord and our freedoms.

Sometimes I may sleep outside, in a tent, or in a vehicle. Yet I will continue. I must continue. Continue to protect the freedoms to which I was born. The freedoms that our forefathers fought and died to give us. I will continue for the faith that I have had since childhood, and for the children of tomorrow.

I have chosen my path. I have chosen to help. To help in the fight against those who threaten my family, my friends, and my country. I shall do all that I can to protect all the freedoms in which so many take for granted. For I am a Soldier.

I am a Soldier sent to protect our faith, freedoms, and our country. I shall be a Soldier as long as I live, and after. For the Lord will not abandon me, or those who choose to believe in him. And I shall not abandon him. I am a Soldier.

I am a Soldier. Never to be forgotten.

Written by,
SSG LeRoy Webster
In memory of SSG Shane Koele
KIA March 2005 in support of OEF

My Dad SSG LeRoy O. Webster

My dad, SSG LeRoy O. Webster, was a hero. When I lay my head down to go to sleep I knew he was on his feet watching out for us so we all can have our freedom one day. Every time he came back I would cry of happiness. When he was home we spent most of our time outdoors. Our favorite thing was golfing or playing softball. When we didn't feel like going to a golf course we would just play in the yard. We would see who could hit the farthest most of the time it was him who would win. Often we would lose the ball so we went through a lot of balls. I love being catcher in softball so, when we played softball I would catch if we weren't just playing catch. Sometimes we would get bored always playing the same position so we would switch. Occasionally we would go in the open grass in front of our house and hit the ball. Now I'm good at playing catcher and pitcher thanks to my athletic dad. My dad and I would do gymnastics in the yard. He would help me do front and, back hand springs manly. He is the funniest guy you will ever meet. Our suppers were always cooked by the best grilling chef ever. Him. When he had to leave you could take all my tears and make Lake Erie one foot deeper. The leaving was always the hardest part. I wish he was still with me!! I LOVE him so much!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

By Natasha Webster



Dear LeRoy,

Today I was sitting here just thinking of you and how much I love you and miss you when a memory of you came to me and I could see you taking your first step and falling on your bun buns, but you didn't give up because you wanted your dad's watch that he held out in front of you so you got up and took another step and then another and before we knew it you were walking and life was never going to be the same.

You were my first born and such a joy. You had so much energy and so full of life. You lit up a room when you walked in it. It must have been that glowing crooked smile and magnetic personality of yours. Everyone just seemed to love you.

I remember when your brother was born and how you just took him under your wing and was very protective of him and I thought to myself are all brothers like this or do I just have great kids and then I told myself, you have great kids. I can't remember a time when you even had an argument with your brother, all I can remember is how you willingly shared everything with him, took him sledding, pushed him in a swing, played cars with him, protected him and loved him. You were a great brother and he was very blessed to have a big brother like you. Then your sister came along and it was a little different because you didn't always get along and you didn't want her tagging along like your brother but yet you were always there to help her and protect her if she needed it.

My precious baby boy, I sit back and I remember so many wonderful things, like the time you were playing baseball and you hit the ball and as you were running I was yelling, "run Oddie run!" and you stopped running, looked at me and said "mom, please stop calling me that." Of course you got out because of that but you didn't care. You just did not want me to call you that in front of all your friends, and a sadness came over me because I knew you were growing up and there was nothing I could do about it. As I remembered that a smile fell upon my face though because it was like a flash of your life in front of me and how wonderful and truly special you were and are to me.

You were like a light that never burned out, just kept getting brighter and brighter with age. You were a natural at everything and everything came easy to you. There was never a time that I was not proud of you and did not love you and I am so glad that you got the chance to see and feel what it was like to be a dad, and I will never forget the fear in your face when you first became a daddy, but also the love that radiated from your eyes when you looked at her, You melted and she had you wrapped around her little finger and life was never going to be the same.

I always said my greatest accomplishment in life was my children and I remember how proud I was when you looked at me and said, "Mom, you know my greatest accomplishment is my daughters. I don't think I could ever out do that. The best thing that could ever happen to me already has, I married Jessica and had my girls

Well sweetie that is all for now, I love you and will write again, soon.

Love Always,

Mom
