



North Dakota
Memorial to the Fallen
in the
Global War on
Terrorism

We Remember

20th Anniversary Remembrance
11 September 2021



20th Anniversary Remembrance Event

September 11, 2021 - 10 a.m.

Memorial to the Fallen in the Global War on Terrorism

Fraine Barracks, Bismarck, ND

Welcome - Mrs. Connie Sprynczynatyk – Master of Ceremonies

Recognition of Guests & Gold Star Families

Posting of the Colors – Veterans Service Organizations

National Anthem – 188th Army Band

Invocation – National Guard Chaplain (Captain) Chad Gion

Remarks – Distinguished Speakers

- Governor Doug Burgum – Commander in Chief of NDNG
- Senator John Hoeven
- Senator Kevin Cramer
- Major General Al Dohrmann – The Adjutant General
- Command Sergeant Major Eric Binstock

Vignettes – 20 Years of Memories

- Master Sergeant (Retired) Holly Wadeson – Serving on 9/11
- Major Matt Voeller – Joined because of 9/11
- Private Casin Buckmeier – Born after 9/11
- Mr. Jesse Orgaard – Representing Gold Star Families

Reading of Names on the Memorial

Military Tributes

- Moment of Silence
- Taps
- Ceremonial Rifle Firing
- Musical Selection

Benediction – National Guard State Chaplain (Colonel) David Johnson

Closing – Master of Ceremonies

Social – Sponsored by Team Red, White, & Blue

Global War On Terrorism

- ❖ August 26, 1996: al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden declares war on the U.S.
- ❖ October 12, 2000: The USS Cole was attacked by suicide terrorists as it was refueling in Yemen.
- ❖ September 11, 2001: 4 hijacked aircraft attacked targets in the U.S.
- ❖ 2,977 people were killed in the attacks on the Twin Towers and Pentagon, and on the aircraft that went down in Pennsylvania.
- ❖ September 12, 2001: The Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) was declared.
- ❖ December 13, 2003: Saddam Hussein, revolutionary president of Iraq, is captured by U.S. forces. He was turned over to an interim Iraqi government, found guilty of crimes against humanity, and executed December 30, 2006.
- ❖ May 2, 2011: Osama bin Laden, mastermind of the September 11 attacks, was killed by U.S. forces in Pakistan.
- ❖ August 29, 2021: U.S. forces depart Afghanistan.
- ❖ Over 3.7 million Americans served in the GWOT.
- ❖ 7,061 U.S. Service Members were killed in the GWOT.
- ❖ 53,283 U.S. Service Members were wounded in the GWOT.
- ❖ 21,647 North Dakotans have been deployed (as of January 1, 2021) since September 11, 2001: 16,987 Active Duty; 4,178 National Guard; 482 Reserve.
- ❖ 29 North Dakotans made the ultimate sacrifice during the GWOT, including 14 from the ND National Guard.
- ❖ 6 service medals have been authorized (eligibility varies):
 - Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, September 11, 2001
 - Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, September 11, 2001
 - National Defense Service Medal, September 11, 2001
 - Afghanistan Campaign Medal (Operation Enduring Freedom), October 24, 2001
 - Iraq Campaign Medal (Operation Iraqi Freedom), March 19, 2003
 - Operation Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal, June 15, 2014



We Will Never Forget

MEMORIAL TO THE
FALLEN IN THE
GLOBAL WAR
ON TERRORISM



Dedicated September 11, 2009

Fraire Barracks, Bismarck, N.D.



The Memorial to the Fallen

We will always remember. We will always be proud.
We will always be prepared, so we will always be free.
— President Ronald Reagan

This memorial is dedicated to members of the United States Military and Department of Defense civilians who lost their lives in the Global War on Terrorism since Osama bin Laden's first declaration of war against the United States on August 23, 1996. It is a place where families, friends, and fellow citizens can reflect on the lives of the Fallen and remember their service to our country. It was funded through the generosity of businesses, organizations, and individuals throughout North Dakota and across the United States. The memorial is a joint venture between the City of Bismarck and the North Dakota National Guard.

The Battlefield Cross

The Battlefield Cross has been used as a visible reminder of a deceased comrade since the Civil War. The helmet and identification tags signify the Fallen. The inverted weapon with bayonet signals a time for prayer, a break in the action to pay tribute to the Fallen. The combat boots represent the final march of the last battle.



FAMILY REMEMBRANCES



NAVY PETTY OFFICER 1ST CLASS KEVIN S. RUX

Died October 12, 2000
USS Cole, early terrorist attack

Age 30, of Norfolk, VA;
assigned to the USS Cole (DDG-67), a guided missile destroyer;
died during refueling at the port Aden, Yemen, when suicide bombers gravely damaged the ship

Kevin S. Rux was born in Coronado, California. He graduated from Mayville-Portland High School in North Dakota before moving to West Virginia, where he enlisted in the United States Navy. After training in Pensacola, Florida, for Electronic Warfare, he went to his first duty station in Charleston, South Carolina, where he served from 1989 – 1993. He previously served aboard USS Taylor (FFG-50) and USS Deyo (DD-89).

His next duty station was the Naval Submarine Base New London as a Federal Police Officer from 1994 – 1999. He loved being a police officer and applied with the State Police of West Virginia before eventually re-enlisting with Navy (months later, he received a letter of acceptance from the State Police).

He was stationed in Norfolk, Virginia, aboard USS Cole (DDG-67) in August 2000. The ship then deployed for a 6-month tour. USS Cole was refueling in Aden, Yemen, when suicide bombers launched a surprise attack; they detonated an explosive-laden boat against the ship's port side, tearing a 40-by-40-foot hole in the hull, which sent seawater gushing into the engineering compartment. The attack killed 17 sailors and left 39 wounded aboard USS Cole.

Electronic Warfare Technician 1st Class Kevin S. Rux (who received Purple Heart) was among the 17 killed. His life was cut short due to a senseless act. He loved his country and served it well. He was so many things to all of us who knew him. Most of all, he was honest and dedicated to whatever he did in life. He loved his family and very much wanted children. According to his wife, this was to be his last cruise so that they could start a family.

We extend a very special thanks to those who made this memory book. To the families of the fallen, our hope is that, in the midst of all the tragedies and pain, may we find peace that our loved ones will never be forgotten.

FAMILY REMEMBRANCES

MARINE SERGEANT MICHAEL E. BITZ

Died March 23, 2003
Operation Iraqi Freedom

Age 31, of Ventura, CA;
assigned to 2nd Assault
Amphibious Battalion, 2nd
Marine Division, Camp Lejeune,
NC; died near Nasiriyah, Iraq,
while supporting Charlie
Company, 1st Battalion, 2nd
Marines



Michael Edward Bitz began life in Wishek, North Dakota on February 14, 1972, the son of Darvin Bitz and Donna Bellman. He grew up in Ventura, California, with his mother and brothers Robert and Steven. Full of life and adventurous, Michael enjoyed a challenge and staying active. He faced personal adversity as he was trying to find his way in life until he joined the U.S. Marine Corps at the age of 24. Joining the Corps changed his life. Michael found his place in the USMC where he excelled and was quickly promoted. He married Theresa Morton and they share a son, Christian. He later married Janina Heron (now Bitz-Vasquez) and they share three children: Joshua, Caleb and Taylor Hope. Michael died without ever seeing his youngest children, twins born after he was deployed to Iraq.

Michael was a spiritual man who was hard-working, diligent and a respected Marine. He was a devoted and loving husband and father. Prior to his death, he was in the process of becoming a C-130 Flight Engineer to open up further career possibilities for himself and his family, both in and out of the Marine Corps.

Michael was serving with Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 2nd Marines, as part of Task Force Tarawa when he lost his life on March 23, 2003, near An Nasiriyah, Iraq during his eighth year of military service. Posthumously awarded the Silver Star for valor in the engagements, he was killed assisting fellow Marines with security and escorting the wounded during combat operations. His actions saved the lives of many other Marines. Bitz Intermediate School at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, is named in his honor.

FAMILY REMEMBRANCES



ARMY NATIONAL GUARD SPECIALIST JON P. FETTIG

Died July 22, 2003
Operation Iraqi Freedom

Age 30, of Dickinson, ND;
assigned to the 957th Engineer
Company (Multi-Role Bridge), ND
Army National Guard, Bismarck,
ND; died when his Heavy
Expanded-Mobility Tactical Truck
was hit by a rocket-propelled
grenade outside of Ramadi, Iraq

Jon Fettig was an 11-year veteran of the 164th Engineer Battalion in Dickinson, North Dakota, who transferred to a National Guard unit in need of more Soldiers. The deployment meant Jon and his wife, Cody, would have to put their plans of starting a family on hold, but that did not stop Jon from being a devoted husband. Family was important to Jon and he called home whenever he could to speak to his wife, parents and younger siblings. The day before he died, Jon called his grandmother to wish her a happy birthday.

Jon lost his life when his unit was ambushed outside Ar Ramadi while traveling to the Euphrates River. He was with a convoy that was delivering supplies and dropping off Soldiers to relieve others with the 957th Multi-Role Bridge Company on river patrol.

It's hard for Jon's family to accept the fact that they will never again pick up the phone to find him on the other end of the line, but are comforted by the memories. Because of the way he lived his life, there was never a question about how much he loved his family. Jon was 30 years old.

FAMILY REMEMBRANCES

ARMY PRIVATE FIRST CLASS SHELDON R. HAWK EAGLE

Died November 15, 2003
Operation Iraqi Freedom

Age 21, of Grand Forks, ND;
assigned to the 1st Battalion,
320th Field Artillery, 101st
Airborne Division (Air Assault),
Fort Campbell, KY; died
when two UH-60 Black Hawk
helicopters crashed in Mosul, Iraq



Sheldon Hawk Eagle, whose Lakota name was Wanbli Ohitika, or Brave Eagle, was assigned to 1-320th FA, 101st Airborne Division based at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, when he was killed at age 21 on November 15, 2003 after two Army helicopters collided in Iraq.

Sheldon joined the Army while visiting his sister Frankie in North Dakota and dreamed of becoming an elite Army Ranger. Sheldon grew up calling his cousin Tom, brother. He was humble and quiet, but loosened up around family and friends. Sheldon defended our country and protected our freedom. He is a hero.

FAMILY REMEMBRANCES



ARMY SERGEANT THOMAS J. SWEET II

Died November 27, 2003
Operation Iraqi Freedom

Age 23, of Bismarck, ND;
assigned to 1st Battalion, 5th
Field Artillery Regiment, 1st
Infantry Division, based in Fort
Riley, KS; died of non-combat
related injuries in Junction City,
Iraq

Thomas J. "T.J." Sweet II was proud to be a Soldier and planned to make the military his career. Prior to enlisting in the Army, T.J. loved the sport of fencing, his favorite hobby, which he enjoyed with a group of close friends. He also spent many hours involved in Japanese animation, which he also loved.

The report we received begins, "This is a 23 year old male, Spc. in the U.S. Army, stationed in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. This is a well developed, well-nourished, 70 inch, 180-pound man Caucasian male whose appearance is consistent with the reported age of 23 years." What the report didn't say was that T.J. was kind, he was loving, he looked out for the underdog, he believed in justice, he was in pain looking at the faces of the Iraqi children, he missed his family and he was homesick for Bismarck.

FAMILY REMEMBRANCES

ARMY NATIONAL GUARD STAFF SERGEANT KENNETH W. HENDRICKSON

Died January 24, 2004
Operation Iraqi Freedom

Age 41, of Bismarck, ND;
assigned to the 957th Engineer
Company (Multi-Role Bridge),
ND Army National Guard,
Bismarck, ND; died when his
convoy was attacked by an
improvised explosive device
north of Fallujah, Iraq



Kenneth Hendrickson attended Bismarck public schools and graduated from the University of Mary in 1991 with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Mathematics and a minor in Secondary Education. In 1989, Ken joined the North Dakota National Guard and served with the 957th Multi-Role Bridge Company. Staff Sgt. Hendrickson was employed with Bismarck Public Schools in the technology department at the time of his passing during the 957's deployment to Iraq.

His happiest times were spent with friends and family. He loved traveling with his wife and spending "guy time" with his son. His sense of humor was one of kind; he had a flair for playing and fun. He could make anyone smile with his jokes and quirky personality. Ken was well-respected and admired by his co-workers and fellow guardsmen for his extraordinary knowledge in a variety of subjects and for his love of learning new things. He was a warm and caring man who lived his life to the fullest every day. Not only was he a great husband, father, son, brother and uncle, he was a great friend. There is not a day that goes by that he isn't missed.

FAMILY REMEMBRANCES



ARMY NATIONAL GUARD SERGEANT KEITH L. SMETTE

Died January 24, 2004
Operation Iraqi Freedom

Age 25, of Fargo, ND; assigned to the 957th Engineer Company (Multi-Role Bridge), ND Army National Guard, Bismarck, ND; died when his convoy was attacked by an improvised explosive device north of Fallujah, Iraq

Keith L. Smette was born on December 1, 1978 in Minot, North Dakota. He attended school in Granville and Ryder before graduating from North Shore High School in Makoti in 1997. Keith was a senior at North Dakota State University when he volunteered to deploy with the 957th Multi-Role Bridge Company with his best friend and brother, Robert.

Keith had a special connection with children and used this gift in his work with the Big Brother/Big Sister Program in Fargo. He was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church in Ryder, the Makoti American Legion William Hanson Post #230, the Enlisted Association of the Army National Guard and the Toby Keith Fan Club. He worked for several summers as a landscaper for Lowe's Garden Center in Minot with his cousin Jeff and many of his best friends. He also worked in Fargo at the YMCA and Quizno's.

Keith loved his family who adored him. His parents, Doug and Charlotte, his brother, Robert, and his sister, Sarah, have many stories of his adventures, each of which Keith approached with a pure heart and boyish charm. Keith's infectious smile affected everyone who knew him and it was clear evidence of his happiness. He was a caring young man who inherited his mother's sensitivity and his father's sense of humor, both of which gave him the ability to know no stranger and endeared him to everyone he met.

FAMILY REMEMBRANCES

ARMY NATIONAL GUARD SPECIALIST. JAMES J. HOLMES

Died May 8, 2004
Operation Iraqi Freedom

Age 28, of East Grand Forks, MN;
assigned to C Company, 141st
Engineer Combat Battalion, ND
Army National Guard, Hettinger,
ND; died May 8 in Landstuhl,
Germany, from injuries sustained on
May 3 in Iraq when an improvised
explosive device detonated near the
driver side of his military vehicle



James Jay Holmes was born on October 3, 1964 to George and Rhonda Holmes. James began his military career in 1993, enlisting in the Marine Corps Reserve and serving until 2000. He graduated from Arizona State University in 2000 with a Bachelor's degree in History and a minor in Military History, Business and a completed thesis on Psychological Warfare. In 2003, he enlisted in the North Dakota Army National Guard's F Battery, 1st Battalion, 188th Air Defense Artillery. In 2003, James volunteered to deploy with the 141st Engineer Combat Battalion. During the deployment to Iraq, James died from wounds on May 8, 2004.

James is best described by one of his best friends. "The impact of his life is one that not enough words or the right word could possibly summarize. James is best described through me as a man that always put others before himself. He had charisma that could win over the passing stranger, but on the reverse side a stubborn streak that gave you relief he was on your side. Above all he is a fellow Marine and Solider that you could honestly rely on anytime and any place. These qualities are found in few, and I feel honored a man of this caliber is my best friend and always will be. I think everyone who is a family member or friend will agree that James is achieving his dreams, and without a doubt soaring high through those blue skies as we remember and pay tribute to his life."

James, you dreamed of accomplishing great things and you did your best to make your dreams come true. We love and miss you always – Mom, Dad, and Brother.

FAMILY REMEMBRANCES



ARMY NATIONAL GUARD SPECIALIST PHILIP D. BROWN

Died May 8, 2004
Operation Iraqi Freedom

Age 21, of Jamestown, ND; assigned to Company B, 141st Engineer Combat Battalion, ND Army National Guard, Jamestown, ND; died in Balad, Iraq, from injuries sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated west of Samarra, Iraq

Philip D. Brown was an incredible, amazing, kind and giving young man who firmly believed in his faith, family, country and community. He actively looked into opportunities to improve, strengthen and fulfill his life. He was devoted to his friends who say his smile went on vividly for miles. His sense of humor carried into his hobby as a disc jockey where his love for good music rocked any place into the wee hours. He told us in an e-mail "I rock in Iraq!"

Phil found the positive in any situation. His buddies said it was an unbearable 110 degrees in Iraq when Phil said, "Oh come on, it's not so bad." Then he rounded up a forklift to bring everyone icy cold Gatorade.

He welcomed a good challenge, such as when he was told he had been chosen to play against the Harlem Globetrotters in Iraq.

When you have a heart as gigantic as Phil's, there's no doubt it's still beating strongly in heaven and he's now a Soldier for God. Shine on bright angel as your soul goes marching on!

FAMILY REMEMBRANCES

ARMY NATIONAL GUARD STAFF SERGEANT LANCE J. KOENIG

Died September 22, 2004
Operation Iraqi Freedom

Age 33, of Fargo, ND;
assigned to Company B, 141st
Engineer Battalion, ND Army
National Guard, Jamestown,
ND; died when an improvised
explosive device detonated
while he was conducting a
dismounted patrol in Tikrit, Iraq



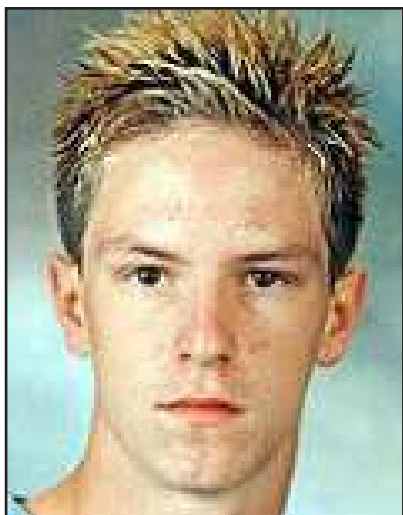
Lance Koenig is described as a very quiet, shy person completely devoted to his family. His wife, Angie, and their two little girls, Alexandra and Brooklynn meant the world to him.

Lance graduated from Carrington High School in 1989. A year prior to graduating from high school, he enlisted in the National Guard, following his father's footsteps. After basic training, he was assigned to Company B, 141st Engineer Combat Battalion as a combat engineer. He was carrying on a tradition as his father was also a member of the unit until his retirement. Lance was a former All-American wrestler at North Dakota State University where he finished second in the NCAA Division II national wrestling tournament as a sophomore and sixth as a junior.

Lance volunteered for flood duty during the 1997 flood in Grand Forks and also volunteered to work on Task Force Shield in Devils Lake during 2002. In 2003, the 141st battalion was alerted for mobilization.

Lance was someone who led by example, not words. He's a hero in everybody's eyes.

FAMILY REMEMBRANCES



ARMY PRIVATE FIRST CLASS ANTHONY W. MONROE

Died October 11, 2004
Operation Iraqi Freedom

Age 20, of Bismarck, ND;
assigned to Division Artillery, 1st
Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, TX;
died when two rockets impacted
his camp in Baghdad, Iraq

Anthony "Tony" William Hamilton Monroe was born April 26, 1984, to Jeffery and Bernadette (Hamilton) Monroe. As a baby, he moved with his parents to Lakeland, Florida, where he attended kindergarten and first grade. The family moved to Bismarck and he graduated from Bismarck High School in May 2002. Following in his father's footsteps, Monroe enlisted after graduating from high school. He took basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. Because his father had been a member of the Air Force and remained in the North Dakota National Guard, Monroe followed his father's and grandfather's example and joined the military. Anthony loved North Dakota and joined the military to travel and receive an education.

Monroe worked at the Pretzel Maker kiosk at Kirkwood Plaza in Bismarck and job shadowed at KXMB-TV while attending school. He enjoyed photography and writing poetry, and he aspired to be a photojournalist. He loved music and was a talented bass guitarist. In his spare time, Monroe was an avid billiards player. He is described as a good kid who really enjoyed life. He was a clown and liked to make people laugh. Monroe had a large family and was close to his younger sister, Caitlin, his brother, Nicholas and many of his cousins. Monroe was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Bismarck and is remembered as a hero, a son and a friend.

FAMILY REMEMBRANCES

ARMY NATIONAL GUARD SPECIALIST CODY L. WENTZ

Died November 4, 2004
Operation Iraqi Freedom

Age 21, of Williston, ND;
assigned to Company A, 141st
Engineer Battalion, ND Army
National Guard, Williston,
ND; died when an improvised
explosive device detonated near
his military vehicle while he was
on patrol in Iraq



Cody L. Wentz called Williston, North Dakota, his home and he was 21 at the time of his passing. He served with A Company, 141st Engineer Combat Battalion of the North Dakota Army National Guard in his hometown of Williston and he deployed with A Company. He served until an attack on his vehicle on Route Tampa in Iraq claimed his life on November 4, 2004.

When Cody wanted anything from his parents, he was known to declare, "It's time to do some bonding!" He enjoyed weight-lifting and working on old cars.

Cody's father, Kenny, said of his son, "Determination wins the game; celebrate the victories that lie within."

FAMILY REMEMBRANCES



ARMY SPECIALIST DENNIS J. FERDERER, JR.

Died November 2, 2005
Operation Iraqi Freedom

Age 20, of New Salem, ND; assigned to the 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Benning, GA; died when enemy forces threw a hand grenade at his Humvee during convoy operations in Duluiyah, Iraq

Dennis James Ferderer, Jr., known as DJ to his family and friends, was born January 3, 1985 to Dennis and Claudina "Dina" (Ternes). His brother, John Baldwin, served in the U.S. Air Force and deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. Church and faith were a strong part of DJ's life. He served as altar boy and also enjoyed hunting pheasant and deer. DJ participated in football, basketball, wrestling and 4-H where he enjoyed showing his heifer calves. He loved nature and planned to take over the family farm one day. Most of all, he just enjoyed hanging out, joking with and listening to his classmates.

DJ enlisted in the United States Army during his senior year and left for training at Fort Benning, Georgia, just a few days after graduation. Being in the Army was always a dream of his. His goal was to be an Army Ranger with the hopes of returning to Iraq. November 2, 2005 at age 20, his life in this world was ended by a rocket-propelled grenade that hit his Humvee while on a mission. DJ's mission in life was to make everyone's life happier.

FAMILY REMEMBRANCES

ARMY NATIONAL GUARD SPECIALIST MICHAEL L. HERMANSON

Died May 23, 2006
Operation Iraqi Freedom

Age 21, of Fargo, ND; assigned to Company A, 164th Engineer Battalion, ND Army National Guard, Minot, ND; died of injuries sustained when his RG-31 Mine Protected Vehicle came under attack from an improvised explosive device, a rocket-propelled grenade, and enemy small-arms fire while on a route-clearing mission in Abayachi, Iraq



Michael Hermanson was a Fargo native and attended Horace Mann Elementary School, Oak Grove Lutheran School and Ben Franklin Junior High School. He graduated from Fargo North High School in 2002. Michael enlisted in the North Dakota Army National Guard in 2002 and after basic training, he was assigned to Headquarters Support Company of the 142nd Engineer Combat Battalion in Fargo as a technical engineer. He attended North Dakota State University for two semesters prior to and following basic military training and advanced individual training for the National Guard. In April 2005, Michael volunteered to deploy with the Minot-based 164th Engineer Company. His family includes Layne and Scharlotta Hermanson and his sister Lindsey.

FAMILY REMEMBRANCES



ARMY NATIONAL GUARD SERGEANT TRAVIS A. VAN ZOEST

Died June 6, 2006
Operation Enduring Freedom

Age 21, of Bismarck, ND;
assigned to the 1st Battalion,
188th Air Defense Artillery
Regiment, ND Army National
Guard, Grand Forks, ND;
died when his Humvee struck
two anti-tank mines during
combat operations in Khogyani,
Afghanistan

Travis was born January 31, 1985, in Madison, Wisconsin, and moved to Bismarck, North Dakota, in 1997. He attended Century High School and joined the North Dakota National Guard during his sophomore year, following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. He felt very strongly about this big decision in his life and we felt he had made the right decision when he would get ready for his drill weekends and his deployment to Afghanistan. He was doing what he was passionate about—serving his country.

Travis lived life to the fullest. He worked hard and played hard, but never lost sight of his future plans. If there was something he wanted to do, he always gave 110 percent. He was enrolled at Minot State University online, working full time as an intern at MDU Resources and serving in the North Dakota National Guard. He loved being around family, friends, his dogs and watching ESPN. His other interests included bowling, hunting, snowboarding, golf, camping, music, being on the river and sports. He was a huge Dallas Cowboys football fan.

Travis' time on earth may be over but his spirit, his smile and his laugh will never die. Travis' job serving his country is over, too, but we will never forget this brave young soldier. Travis now serves our Heavenly Father and is probably doing great things there too. Someday we'll see you again. We love you, miss you and we are very proud of you! Thank you, Travis, for the gift of love you gave to us.

FAMILY REMEMBRANCES

ARMY NATIONAL GUARD CORPORAL CURTIS R. MEHRER

Died June 6, 2006
Operation Enduring Freedom

Age 21, of Bismarck, ND;
assigned to 1st Battalion, 188th
Air Defense Artillery Regiment,
ND Army National Guard, Grand
Forks, ND; died when his Humvee
struck two anti-tank mines during
combat operations in Khogyani,
Afghanistan

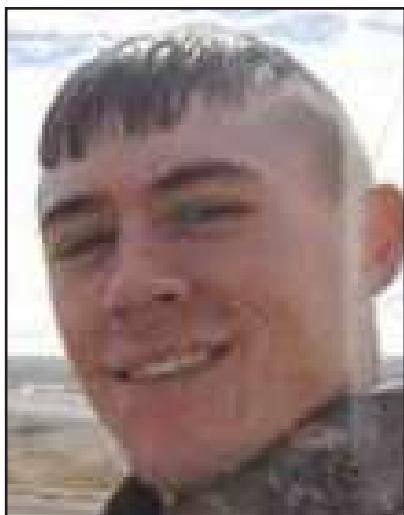


Curtis was born February 6, 1985 in Bismarck, North Dakota, to Kevin and Joyce (Palenberg) Mehrer. He graduated from Bismarck High School in 2003 and on November 20, 2003, he joined the North Dakota National Guard. He was mobilized in December of 2005 to deploy with the 1-188th Air Defense Artillery in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He believed in what he was fighting for: freedom from terrorism.

Curtis loved life. He was fearless and lived for the moment. His goals included being a loving and dedicated father to his daughter Hailee, proposing to Crystal Schmidt, becoming a helicopter pilot and becoming a warrant officer, following in the footsteps of his father. Curtis' life was filled with family and friends and the National Guard.

As a young boy, Curtis and his twin brother Alan played soccer, football and baseball on the same team. As he got older, he enjoyed snowboarding and spending time on the river. He was there to give anybody a ride or if someone needed someone to talk to, he was ready to help. You could always see a smile on his face. Curtis is forever embraced in his family's heart.

FAMILY REMEMBRANCES



ARMY CORPORAL JEREMIAH S. SANTOS

Died June 15, 2006
Operation Iraqi Freedom

Age 21, of Minot, ND; assigned to 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Hood, TX; died of injuries sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his Humvee during combat operations in Baghdad, Iraq

Jeremiah was born April 6, 1985 to Laurie (McGlone) and Shannon Santos in San Diego, California. He attended elementary school in Santee and Escondido, California, and attended middle school and high school in Devils Lake, North Dakota. He was involved in ROTC at Devil's Lake High School, where he was in the color guard. Jeremiah left school and attended the Quentin Burdick Job Corps Center in Minot where he earned a GED and graduated in the facility maintenance program in January 2004. He also attended a semester of classes at Minot State University. Jeremiah met his wife Jessica Tyner while at Job Corps. They joined the Army at the same time in 2004 and later were married.

He was assigned to A Company, 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment and transferred to B Company, 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment. He deployed to combat with his unit in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in November of 2005 and his unit was assigned to Kalsu, Iraq.

Jeremiah lost his life in Baghdad, Iraq on June 15, 2006 when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle during combat operations. Jeremiah is described as a self-confident, strong and very determined young man.

FAMILY REMEMBRANCES

ARMY SPECIALIST PAUL A. BEYER

Died June 23, 2006
Operation Iraqi Freedom

Age 21, of Jamestown, ND; assigned to 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Fort Campbell, KY; died from injuries sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his Humvee during combat operations in the vicinity of Baghdad, Iraq



Paul Beyer was born in St. Paul, Minnesota, and moved to Jamestown with his parents, brothers and sisters when he was four years old. The neighbors remarked that he was the first one of the family they met as he went up and down the block making new friends upon arrival in Jamestown.

Paul graduated from Jamestown High School in 2003 and joined the Army in March 2005. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team based at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, with the 101st Airborne Division. Paul deployed to Iraq in October, 2005.

Paul had a great love for his family, including two older brothers Dan and Jon, and he always looked out for his younger sister Leah. He also adored his nephew Lestat and Lestat thought the world of his uncle. Paul had been married to his wife Calli for 16 months. When Paul was home on leave he told his family that he took the candy he received from home and gave it to the Iraqi children, often sticking around to make sure bullies didn't steal it.

Paul enjoyed camping and fishing, rock music, movies, jokes and hanging out with his friends. His family was told by his army buddies that he was the heart and soul of their group.

The Spc. Paul A. Beyer Scholarship was started in the spring of 2007. To date, \$6,000 in scholarships has been given to graduates of Jamestown High School who are pursuing a college degree.

FAMILY REMEMBRANCES



ARMY NATIONAL GUARD CORPORAL NATHAN J. GOODIRON

Died November 23, 2006
Operation Enduring Freedom

Age 25, of Mandaree, ND; assigned to the 1st Battalion, 188th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, ND Army National Guard, Grand Forks, ND; died of injuries sustained when his unit came in contact with enemy forces using small-arms fire and rocket propelled grenades in Qarabagh, Afghanistan

Nathan was born February 23, 1981, a member of the Three Affiliated Tribes, Mandaree, North Dakota. He was given his Indian names of "Distant Thunder" and "Young Eagle" by his maternal grandmother, Cora Black Bear. Being named after the family medicine bundles means you can see and hear something big coming before it hits.

On Thanksgiving Day on November 23, 2006, while Americans at home were enjoying their traditional meals, Nate's 3rd platoon of the 188th Air Defense Artillery Regiment of the North Dakota Army National Guard was on a combat mission in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. During the mission, the unit was ambushed and all armored vehicles were hit by enemy fire. Fighting their way through the ambush, the patrol regrouped and awaited air support. According to reports, rocket propelled grenades fired by the enemy flew like bottle rockets. During the intense enemy fire, Nathan's vehicle was hit four times and resulted in his death.

Nathan was laid to rest at Mandaree, North Dakota, during a blizzard. Despite the weather, his funeral was attended by so many family and friends that two large gymnasiums provided standing room only.

His father Paul wrote three books about his son and Nathan is featured in another book called Warriors in Uniform. Nathan's view of service was summed up in his own words when he said, "Our parents defended our Country when it was their turn. Now it's our turn." The National Gold Star Mothers have also featured him in their book to represent North Dakota.

Nate lives on.

FAMILY REMEMBRANCES

ARMY NATIONAL GUARD CORPORAL CHRISTOPHER K. KLEINWACHTER

Died November 30, 2006
Operation Enduring Freedom

Age 29, of Wahpeton, ND;
assigned to the 1st Battalion,
188th Air Defense Artillery, ND
Army National Guard, Grand
Forks, ND; died of injuries
sustained when his vehicle rolled
over during combat operations in
Ghazni, Afghanistan



Christopher Kleinwachter was born December 30, 1976 and lived in Wahpeton and Grand Forks. Christopher enlisted in the North Dakota Army National Guard while still a senior in high school. After graduation from Grand Forks Central High School in 1995, he reported to basic training at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. He completed basic training and advanced individual training in 1995 and served as a power generator equipment repairer.

In December 2005, Christopher was mobilized with the 1-188th ADA SECFOR where he deployed with 152 Soldiers to Afghanistan. The unit provided around-the-clock security in support of U.S. armed forces. Christopher was killed in action in eastern Afghanistan on November 29, 2006. He was participating in military convoy operations in the Ghazni province when the vehicle in which he was riding was involved in a roll-over. Christopher was 29 years old.

FAMILY REMEMBRANCES



ARMY RESERVE MAJOR ALAN R. JOHNSON

Died January 26, 2007

Operation Iraqi Freedom

Age 44, of Yakima, WA; assigned to 402nd Civil Affairs Battalion, Tonawanda, NY; died in Balad, Iraq, of wounds sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his Humvee in Muqdadadiyah, Iraq, the same day

Alan R. Johnson started his 23-year military career assigned to the 141st Engineer Combat Battalion in Jamestown, North Dakota. As a newly appointed Second Lieutenant, he moved to Yakima, Wash. in 1987 where he served in the Washington Army National Guard. After advancing through leadership positions within the Army National Guard, Major Johnson transferred to the U.S. Army Reserve in 2003, continuing his career in the military as a chemical officer with the 476th Chemical Battalion based at Seattle, Washington. Johnson transferred to the 402nd Civil Affairs Battalion in Tonawanda, New York, and in April 2006 he was mobilized and deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Major Johnson was employed by the Yakima County Department of Corrections. His civilian education included a Bachelor's of Science degree in Workforce Education from Southern Illinois University.

Major Johnson's contributions to the department and the community he loved were immense. His leadership, professionalism and guidance were evident in all facets of his life. Major Johnson had a strong religious faith and lived for his family and his country. He gave his life in service for the country he loved. As a husband to Victoria, he was a leader, supporter, protector and best friend – he was a knight in shining armor. As a father to his daughter Megan, he mirrored the image of God in his ability to love unconditionally. He positively affected the lives of many and his influence and loss will continue to be felt for years to come. All who knew him respected him. He is loved and he is deeply missed by his family and friends.

FAMILY REMEMBRANCES

ARMY SERGEANT JASON A. SCHUMANN

Died May 19, 2007
Operation Iraqi Freedom

Age 23, of Hawley, MN; assigned to the 3rd Squadron, 89th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, Fort Polk, LA; died in Diwaniyah, Iraq, of wounds sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle



Jason was a Cavalry Scout based out of Fort Polk, Louisiana. He was in command of 12 Soldiers who were his sole concern. He volunteered for his second mission and was killed by an improvised explosive device May 19, 2007 at Ad Diwaniyah, Iraq. He joined the Army at age 17 and completed his basic training following graduating from Hawley High School in 2002. In 2004, he married Laura Endrotti of England, Colo. and in 2005 his son Joe was born. His mother currently resides in Fargo, N.D.

For many years, Jason wanted to be a doctor. He wanted to help people and was always kind and tolerant. He was the most polite person you would ever want to meet. He was soft-soften, but a soft-spoken young man who could not stand any discrimination against those who practice Islam. He loved his baby, he loved to write historical novellas, sail, go grouse hunting, read and play video games. He was stubborn, but thoughtful, and was someone who should have lived in another time.

When he was in Iraq the first time, he watched his friend die in an ambush. It really bothered him and he struggled with his friend's death. Jason said many profound things in his short life, but perhaps it was most true when he wondered after his friend's death "How do you fight an enemy whose greatest weapon is the hate they have for you in their heart?"

He did not know how to fight that hate. He is our angel.

FAMILY REMEMBRANCES



ARMY STAFF SERGEANT DAVID C. KUEHL

Died May 22, 2007
Operation Iraqi Freedom

Age 27, of Wahpeton, ND; assigned to 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division (Stryker Brigade Combat Team), Fort Lewis, WA; died in Taji, Iraq, of wounds sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his unit

David graduated from Wahpeton High School in 1999 and immediately entered the Army upon graduation. David was assigned to the 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team of the 2nd Infantry Division based at Fort Lewis, Washington. He was on his second tour in Iraq and lost his life on May 22, 2007 when a roadside bomb detonated near his unit in Taji, Iraq. He was 27.

David left behind his wife Amy and two children, Kiley and Messa, his parents Keith and Laura of Wahpeton and two sisters, Shawna Chenowith and Wendy Kuehl, Wahpeton.

FAMILY REMEMBRANCES

ARMY STAFF SERGEANT ANDREW P. NELSON

Died August 29, 2007
Operation Iraqi Freedom

Age 22, of Moorhead, MN.; assigned to the 1st Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, NC; died in Muqadadiyah, Iraq, of wounds sustained when insurgents attacked his unit



Andrew was born April 27, 1985, in Fargo, North Dakota, to Daniel and Suzanne (Pribula) Nelson. He attended St. Anthony's/Sullivan Middle Schools and Shanley High School in Fargo, graduating in 2003. At Shanley, Andrew was captain of the cross country team and participated in football, track, and choir.

Andrew held numerous youth leadership positions in Boy Scout Troop 644. He learned at an early age the importance of delegating responsibilities and working together to accomplish goals. He also modeled respect for leadership. His smiling, calm, all-American character created friendships among his young peers.

Andrew loved sports and never tired of being busy. He enjoyed fishing with his father and later learned to see the fish from a different angle, as a scuba diver.

He joined the military in his senior year of high school and joined his father and grandfather in serving our nation. He received his basic, infantry, and airborne training at Fort Benning, Georgia, before being assigned to Company A, 1st Battalion, 73rd Cavalry, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Andrew was promoted to Staff Sergeant on August 16, 2007. He was serving his third tour of duty in Iraq. He also served one tour in Afghanistan.

God blessed our family with this exceptional man through his service to us and the nation. May he rest in peace. "Stand Down"

FAMILY REMEMBRANCES



ARMY PRIVATE FIRST CLASS JONATHAN C. YANNEY

Died August 18, 2009
Operation Enduring Freedom

Age 20, of Litchfield, MN;
assigned to the 1st Battalion, 17th
Infantry Regiment, 5th Stryker
Brigade Combat Team, 2nd
Infantry Division, Fort Lewis, WA;
died in Argandab, Afghanistan,
of wounds sustained when an
improvised explosive device
detonated near his unit

Jonathan Yanney, formerly of Hettinger, North Dakota, was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 17th Infantry Regiment, 5th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division at Fort Lewis, Wash. He died at the age of 20 on Aug. 18, 2009, in Argandab, Afghanistan, of wounds sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his unit. Jonathan was on his way to help another unit under fire.

He was described "extremely driven" by his former high school principal, Marcella Swatosh.

"We knew that he wanted to go into something where he could help people," Swatosh said. "He was always very focused on wanting to help people, and it sounds like that's what he was doing."

Jonathan's baseball coach, Kevin Drake, remembers his upstanding character. "Very respectful, always, 'Yes sir, Mr. Drake.' ... As far as the respectful part, you could see the military in him."

Jonathan was good to his younger brother Joshua. He would spend time with him playing video games and talking on the phone. He loved animals and was always trying to rescue something, like his dog Buddy. He wanted to be a veterinarian after he got out of the Army. He loved the Army and his friends. He loved spending time with them eating pizza and going on runs. He was very outgoing with a big smile, always willing to help someone.

FAMILY REMEMBRANCES

ARMY RESERVE CAPTAIN JOHN P. GAFFANEY

Died November 5, 2009
Operation Enduring Freedom

Age 56, of San Diego, CA;
assigned to 113th Combat
Stress Control Unit, Garden
Grove, CA; died from small-
arms fire during an act of
terrorism at Fort Hood, TX



John P. Gaffaney had a passion for helping people. His biggest inspirations were his family, friends and the military. Born in Williston, North Dakota, in 1953, he grew up with small-town values.

In 1973, he joined the Navy after a short stint in college. He continued his college studies, eventually earning a nursing degree and a Master's degree in psychology. He served more than 23 years: four years in the Navy and almost 20 years in the Army National Guard, where he served as a tank commander and earned the rank of major, until he retired in 1999. In his civilian job, John was a supervisor for the county of San Diego's adult protective services, where he helped vulnerable, elderly people facing neglect and abuse.

After the 9/11 terrorist attacks, he waged a three-year campaign to rejoin the military as a psychiatric nurse. In 2003, he joined the Army Reserve and was assigned to the 2nd Brigade, 113th Combat Stress Control Unit in Garden Grove, California. He continued his dedication to his civilian job and his military career for the next three years until his unit was alerted to deploy to Iraq in 2009. On November 5, 2009, at Fort Hood, Texas, John (age 56), along with 11 other soldiers and one civilian, were killed by a terrorist attack while processing to deploy. Thirty soldiers also were injured during the attack. John was awarded the Soldier's Medal for trying to stop the assailant and eventually all the soldiers were awarded the Purple Heart.

John was an avid San Diego Padres fan and loved collecting baseball memorabilia. He also had restored a 1965 Mustang right down to the fuzzy dice hanging from the rear-view mirror. He left behind Christine, his wife of 33 years, and a son, Matthew. He will forever be our hero.

FAMILY REMEMBRANCES



ARMY SPECIALIST KEENAN A. COOPER

Died July 5, 2010
Operation Enduring Freedom

Age 19, of Wahpeton, ND; assigned to the 4th Squadron, 73rd Armor Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, NC; died in Yakuta, Afghanistan, of injuries sustained when insurgents attacked his unit using an improvised explosive device

Keenan Alexander Cooper was born in Morden, Manitoba, Canada. He was the oldest son of Dave and Heather (Doerkson) Cooper and big brother to Dawson, Twyla, Gabby and Carly. He and his family moved to Wahpeton, North Dakota, in 1993 where Keenan attended school. In high school, he was active in FFA and was an honor student. He enjoyed the sciences and reading war novels. Keenan worked many different jobs including paper delivery, serving customers at Java 'n Juice and detailing cars at Vision Ford. He enjoyed driving new mustangs and "shop talk" about cars.

Faith played an important role in Keenan's life. He attended youth groups and Bible camps and considered his walk of faith an important part of his journey toward becoming a man. He met April Travis, his eventual fiancée, through mutual friends who attended Cooperstown Bible Camp.

Keenan's attitude toward his duties as a Soldier was not to criticize or complain, but to acknowledge his role unassumingly.

He will be remembered for his integrity, upright character and incredible sense of responsibility. He was a man of his word and a man of few words. His actions conveyed honor and his smile imparted optimism and a zeal for life. The highlight of his life was the love of his life, April Travis. They were to be married on October 23.

On July 5, 2010, Spc. Keenan Alexander Cooper was killed in combat while serving his country in Yakuta, Afghanistan. He served with A Troop, 4th Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, United States Army, based at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

FAMILY REMEMBRANCES

ARMY NATIONAL GUARD SERGEANT 1ST CLASS DARREN M. LINDE

Died December 3, 2012
Operation Enduring Freedom

Age 41, of Devils Lake, ND;
assigned to 818th Engineer
Company (Sapper), ND Army
National Guard, Williston, ND;
died in southern Afghanistan
of wounds sustained by an
improvised explosive device



Darren Michael Linde, of Devils Lake, North Dakota, died December 3, 2012, in Lashkar Gah, Afghanistan.

Darren was born May 12, 1971, at Fort Wainwright, Alaska, to Dwight Linde and Deborah (Dashner) Buxbaum. He graduated from Sidney High School in 1989, later attending Montana State University, University of North Dakota and University of Mary.

Linde enlisted in the North Dakota National Guard in 1990. He served in the U.S. Army and Montana National Guard before returning to the North Dakota National Guard in 2006. In 1995, he was stationed at Fort Lewis, Washington, where he fell in love with Adrienne and her daughters, Celina, Kayla and Alexis. Darren and Adrienne married in August 1997, and had a son, Eric. Their family made their home in Devils Lake.

Everyone who knew Darren remembers him smiling and laughing, with a great attitude and always a story to share.

Darren deployed to Iraq with the 164th Engineer Battalion in 2007. Since 2009, he served as an instructor at Camp Grafton. In April 2012, Darren deployed to Afghanistan with the 818th Engineer Company. He received numerous awards during his military service, including the Iraq and Afghanistan Campaign Medals, the Combat Action Badge, the North Dakota Legion of Merit, the Purple Heart, and the Bronze Star, among others.

Darren is survived by his wife, Adrienne; his daughters, Celina (Levi) Marshall, Alexis and Kayla (Tom) Propp; his son, Eric; his step-brother, Jared Davidson; his father, Dwight (Lana) Linde; his mother, Debbie (Dashner) Buxbaum; two sisters, Darcie (Bryan) Conquergood and Amanda (Kevin) Skogen; grandparents, Garfield and Madeline Linde; and granddaughter, Ava Propp.

FAMILY REMEMBRANCES



ARMY NATIONAL GUARD SPECIALIST TYLER J. ORGAARD

Died December 3, 2012
Operation Enduring Freedom

Age 20, of Bismarck, ND;
assigned to 818th Engineer
Company (Sapper), ND Army
National Guard, Williston, ND;
died in southern Afghanistan
of wounds sustained by an
improvised explosive device

Tyler was born August 10, 1992, in Bismarck, North Dakota. He was a son to Jesse and Josie and a brother to Kristy Orgaard. Ever since he was born, Tyler's energy brought a smile to the face of those who knew him. He was strong, fair, and always stood up for the underdog.

Tyler attended Century High School and became friends with all who knew him. He participated in sports, but his main passion was music. He learned to play music when he was little and often played with his father, also a musician. Music formed a strong bond between father and son. Another of Tyler's passions was Mixed Martial Arts (MMA), and he extended this to teaching children how to compete in this sport. Tyler finished his MMA career at 2-0. Tyler was a fighter both in the gym and in life. He never settled for second best. This trait made him a great person and Soldier.

Tyler deployed with the 818th Engineer Company less than a year after he completed basic training and AIT, but his youth did not affect his skill. He was the best RG driver in his platoon and became an expert on critical pieces of equipment. His attitude boosted every Soldier he deployed with.

Tyler's death brought much sorrow for many, but also served to form bonds and new relationships. He touched the lives of many, and sharing stories about him brings happiness to those who hear them. Tyler may be gone, but he keeps on giving. He's always there for his family, friends and his brother Soldiers. North Dakota gained a guardian angel who will never turn his back, no matter who needs his help.



FLORAL AND FLAG REGULATIONS

Fresh flowers may be placed on the Memorial at any time. During the Christmas season, fresh wreaths are permitted to be placed on the Memorial beginning December 15 and will be removed by caretakers by January 15 each year. Permanent plantings will not be permitted at the Memorial other than in specific instances approved by the Memorial Board. Commemorative items of any other nature are not permitted on the Memorial at any time.

The flag will be displayed each day of the year on the Memorial flag pole. The flag will also be flown at half-staff as directed by the President of the United States, the Governor of North Dakota, or the Adjutant General of North Dakota for appropriate recognition of fallen military service or Department of Defense personnel. The flag will not be draped on any part of the Memorial at any time.

ORIGIN OF MATERIALS USED IN THE MEMORIAL

The fieldstone used in building the North Dakota Memorial to the Fallen in the Global War on Terrorism dates back to the founding of Bismarck. The stone formed the foundation of the Yegan family home, a building first constructed in 1872 and later moved following a fire. Eventually the house and foundation were removed and the stone was stored for decades until it was donated for construction of the Memorial. Just as the fieldstone served as a foundation for families in Bismarck's early days, it will continue to serve as a foundation for families, friends and the community as we reflect on the lives of our fallen heroes.

The flagstone used in the Memorial originally was part of the plaza on the west side of North Dakota Heritage Center on the state Capitol grounds.



We Will Never Forget

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