Congressional Medal of Honor #2: CPL Jason Dunham, USMC

Description



Poster from Murdroc Online

H/T: A commenter on Littel Green Footballs of a CNN Report:

> Marine to receive Medal of Honor for Iraq heroism
>
> November 10, 2006
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> President Bush on Friday will announce that the Medal of Honor, the nationâ€™s highest military decoration, will be awarded posthumously to Marine Cpl. Jason Dunham.
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> In April 2004, Dunham was leading a patrol in an Iraqi town near the Syrian border when the patrol stopped a convoy of cars leaving the scene of an attack on a Marine convoy, according to military and media accounts of the action.
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> An occupant of one of the cars attacked Dunham and the two fought hand to hand. As they fought, Dunham yelled to fellow Marines, â€œNo, no watch his hand.â€• The attacker then dropped a grenade on which Dunham threw himself.

Dunham was critically wounded in the explosion and died eight days later at Bethesda Naval Hospital in Washington.

â€œHis was a selfless act of courage to save his fellow Marines,â€• Sgt. Maj. Daniel A. Huff of the 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, was quoted as saying in Marine Corps News that April.

â€œHe new what he was doing,â€• Lance Cpl. Jason A. Sanders, 21, of McAllester, Oklahoma, who was in Dunhamâ€™s company, was quoted as saying by Marine Corps News. â€œHe wanted to save Marinesâ€™ lives from that grenade.â€•

In various media accounts, fellow Marines told how Dunham had extended his enlistment shortly before he died so he could help his comrades.

â€œWe told him he was crazy for coming out here,â€• Lance Cpl. Mark E. Dean, 22, from Owasso, Oklahoma, said in Marine Corps News. â€œHe decided to come out here and fight with us. All he wanted was to make sure his boys made it back home.â€•

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The Scio, New York, native would have been 25 years old on Friday.

Dunhamâ€™s story was told in the book â€œThe Gift of Valor,â€• written by Wall Street Journal reporter Michael Phillips.

Dunham will be the second American to receive the Medal of Honor from service in Iraq.

Army Sgt. 1st Class Paul Ray Smith was the other, honored for action near Baghdad International Airport in April 2003, in which he killed as many as 50 enemy combatants while helping wounded comrades to safety. Smith was the only U.S. soldier killed in the battle.

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