



**SEAN M. FLANNERY
1981-2010
BIOGRAPHY**

Sean M. Flannery was a 1999 graduate of Wyomissing Area High School who was killed in action in Kandahar, Afghanistan on November 22, 2010 while serving with the 101st Airborne Division in the US Army.

Sean grew up in Wyomissing and began playing soccer at an early age. He was coached by his dad, Michael Flannery, and volunteered to play goalie when no one else wanted to take that position. He continued as goalie through high school; playing on both the school team and travel teams. Sean was very athletic and also played baseball, was a kicker on the football team and threw the javelin on the track team. As a senior Sean was co-captain of the soccer team and he took this leadership position very seriously. He had learned early on, from his Dad, that when you commit to something, you follow through and stay with it until the task is completed. This is a value that Sean believed in until the day he died.

Following high school he attended Shippensburg University where he maintained good grades and played lacrosse for two seasons. He graduated in December 2003 with a degree in Business. After college, Sean returned home with his mind made up to join the Army. There was absolutely no uncertainty about his decision and he spent the next six months studying and training in the gym so he would be prepared for the fitness test and be able to meet the academic requirements.

In July of 2004 Sean enlisted and completed basic training at Ft. Benning, GA. He then went through Airborne School and became qualified as a paratrooper. He was then assigned to the Army's 82nd Airborne Division at Ft. Bragg, NC. His leadership abilities were quickly recognized and within 18 months he was promoted to Sergeant. Sean was devoted to the soldiers he commanded and was committed to helping them to be their best.

While he was with the 82nd Airborne, Sean served one tour of duty in Afghanistan and two tours in Iraq. While on his second tour in Iraq he was awarded the Bronze Star for exemplary leadership skills. In early 2009 Sean began training with Special Forces. After some careful thought he decided to change his career path and left Special Forces training with the hope of getting into its civil affairs division where he felt his experience could be better utilized. It was at this time that he was assigned to the Army's famous 101st Division (the "Screaming Eagles") at Fort Campbell, KY. He was promoted to Staff Sergeant and deployed to Afghanistan in June 2010. Five months later Sean was killed. He died of injuries sustained from an IED explosion while administering first aid to an Afghan National Army soldier who had been injured.

Sean was tall, fit, handsome and always concerned about looking presentable. He was polite, easy going and devoted to his family and his friends. He had a dry sense of humor and loved to laugh. The essence of Sean was leadership, dedication and of course, soccer.



Awards and Badges received by Sean M. Flannery

- Air Assault Badge
- Parachutist Badge
- Expert Infantryman Badge
- Combat Infantryman Badge
- NATO Medal
- Overseas Service Ribbon
- Army Service Ribbon
- NCO Professional Development Ribbon
- Global War on Terrorism Medal
- Iraq Campaign Medal
- Afghanistan Campaign Medal
- National Defense Service Medal
- Army Good Conduct Medal
- Army Achievement Medal
- Army Commendation Medal with Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster
- Purple Heart
- Bronze Star with Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster
- Ukrainian Parachutist Badge