



Trooper Scott R. Ball  
Pennsylvania State Police  
Master Sergeant US Army National Guard

HARRISBURG: (August 28, 2007) – Tpr. Scott R. Ball of Carlisle, who was killed Aug. 27 while serving with the Pennsylvania Army National Guard in Afghanistan, was described today by State Police Commissioner Jeffrey B. Miller as “a dedicated trooper who carried out his duties with a high degree of professionalism and enthusiasm.”

Ball, 38, was killed when American and Afghan soldiers were ambushed in Kunar Province, Afghanistan, according to the Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veteran Affairs. Ball was a master sergeant in the Pennsylvania Army National Guard and was part of an embedded training team assisting the Afghan National Army.

Miller said Ball, who was assigned to Troop H, Carlisle, became the second active member of the State Police killed in military action since World War II. Tpr. Daniel R. Lightner of Hollidaysburg was killed in Iraq on Oct. 27, 2005, while serving with the Pennsylvania Army National Guard.

Ball enlisted in the State Police on Sept. 7, 1999, and graduated from the State Police Academy as a member of the 106th Cadet Class on March 25, 2000.

Ball was assigned to the Patrol Unit at Troop K, Philadelphia, following graduation. He later served at stations in Media, York and Chambersburg before joining the Carlisle station on July 6, 2002. He was a member of the State Police Motorcycle Unit and served as a field training officer who mentored new troopers.

Ball was a former active duty soldier and enlisted in the Pennsylvania National Guard in 1992. He had been on military leave from State Police since last October and had been deployed to Afghanistan since February.

“It was rare to see Tpr. Ball without a smile on his face,” Miller said. “Those who worked with him on a daily basis said he had an even temperament and took on all tasks without complaint. Tpr. Ball always was ready for a new challenge. He was devoted to serving the people of this state and this nation. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.”

Miller said Ball was a graduate of West Perry Senior High School and received an associate's degree from Harrisburg Area Community College.

Survivors include his widow, Leslie; their children, Tyler, 10, and Allie, 6; and his mother.



Trooper John J. McKenna IV  
New York State Police  
Captain U.S.M.C.

Captain John J. McKenna IV, United States Marine Corps, from Brooklyn, N.Y., was killed in action on August 16, 2006 while conducting combat operations in Fallujah, Iraq while serving as a platoon commander with Company B, 1st Battalion, 25th Marines. John was born on March 17, 1976 to John J. III and Karen McKenna of Brooklyn. He was the brother of Allyson Zehrhuhs, Clifton Park, N.Y. He attended Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic School in Brooklyn and graduated from Bishop Ford Central Catholic High School in Brooklyn. John was active in civic and athletic pursuits and earned his Eagle Scout. Additionally, he served as a lifeguard for several years in Fleischmanns, N.Y. From 1992-1993, John studied in Vienna as part of the Ronald Lauder Foundation International Exchange Program. In 1998, John earned a bachelor's degree in history from Binghamton University. In 1998, he accepted a commission in the United States Marine Corps as a second lieutenant after his successful completion of Officer's Candidate School. Upon completion of the Basic School, he was assigned to the 2nd Marine Air Wing, where he served with distinction to include tours in Uzbekistan/Afghanistan as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. John then went on to serve as part of the initial invasion force during Operation Iraqi Freedom and subsequently earned a Naval Meritorious Service Award.

Captain McKenna left active duty in 2003 to pursue selfless devotion to public service and enter into a career of with the New York State Police. He graduated from the New York State Police Academy on August 8, 2005 and was stationed in Saratoga and Clifton Park with Troop G before receiving permanent assignment to the Kingston Barracks in Troop F. In light of the ongoing war on terror, John felt compelled to continue his service to his country by joining Company F, 2nd Battalion, 25th Marines in Albany, N.Y. John successfully completed Marine Corps Infantry Officers School and was assigned as an infantry platoon commander. His military medals and awards include the Navy Marine Corps Achievement Medal; the Global War on Terror Expeditionary Medal; the Global War on Terror Service Medal; Naval Meritorious Unit Commendation; National Defense Service Medal; Combat Action Ribbon; Iraq Campaign Medal; Purple Heart; Armed Forces Reserve Medal; Sea Service Deployment Medal.

In life, John was a vibrant, thoughtful, energetic young man who loved his family and his country. A voracious reader and student of history, professionally he was the consummate Marine officer, always leading by example; he continued with that same mindset when he donned the Gray Uniform of a New York State Trooper. In his off-duty time, John loved to read, collect guns and unique hats, and spend time with his family. His passing has left many with a great sense of loss. He is a true American Patriot, son and brother who will always be loved and never be forgotten. John is survived by his father and mother, John and Karen; his sister, Allyson and husband David Zehrhuhs; and his niece and goddaughter, Michaela; his grandfather, George Chlebik; and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.



SFC Dwayne Kelly  
New Jersey State Police  
Major US Army National Guard

A New Jersey state trooper originally from Willingboro, NJ has been killed in Iraq while serving on his third tour of duty with the US Army.

Trooper Dwayne Kelley, 48, was a major in the Army. New Jersey state police sergeant Stephen Jones says police were notified Wednesday that Kelley was one of ten people killed Tuesday by a bomb in Sadr City (see related story):

"Dwayne was part of the civil affairs unit over there, so they go in and help set up governments and infrastructure after an area has been destroyed."

Jones says as a trooper, Kelley worked as a detective sergeant first class in the NJ counter-terrorism unit:

"And he spoke fluent Arabic, which made him definitely a strong asset for a number of different investigations here."

Jones says Kelley was a decorated trooper who leaves behind two children:

"Dwayne was really loved here. He was involved in a number of things that protected our citizens, including his service with that counter-terrorism unit. He had gone down to Guantanamo Bay to interview detainees there -- just very active in the whole counter-terrorism activity the state police does in Jersey."

He was a resident of South Orange, NJ. His parents still live in the South Jersey.