



Sergeant David W. Wallace, III

Sergeant David W. Wallace, III (locally known as “Walleye”) enlisted in the Marine Corps on September 23, 2002 and served faithfully until he was killed in action January 27, 2009 on Route 515, Now Zad District, Afghanistan.

In September 2004 to April 2005, Sgt. Wallace deployed to Iraq being based at Abu Grahیب. Sgt. Wallace showed his propensity toward heroic acts during a riot at the prison when he pushed a fellow Marine to safety, risking himself during the attack.

Sgt Wallace deployed with a Marine Expeditionary Unit April 2007 to September 2007. In November 2008 he again deployed to Afghanistan as a Combat Engineer from 2nd platoon, Alpha Company, 2d Combat Engineer Battalion and was attached to 3d Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment for a combat deployment to Afghanistan. During Operation Gateway II, Sergeant Wallace conducted dismounted operations along Route 515 in Farah Province and in the town of Now Zad, Helmand Province. As a part of that deployment he ensured the readiness of the platoon’s heavy equipment, supported both vehicle and foot mobil patrols in support of Weapons Company, India Company, and Lima Company of 3d Battalion 8th Marines, and led his squad in Heavy Equipment operations, maintenance, generator and electrical support.

In the citation awarded with the Bronze Star it states, “....Sergeant David Wallace assured deliberate clearance and improvement of more than 50 kilometers of Route 515 in Now Zad District, Afghanistan, providing critical mobility support for combat patrols. On January 27, during a dismounted patrol in Now Zad District, his mine detector malfunctioned. Sgt. Wallace chose to stay in front and provide security and assistance to combat engineer Trevor Johnson. Sgts. Wallace and Johnson had located and marked 5 IEDs. On the 6th IED, Sgt. Wallace and Sgt. Johnson were killed instantly when it detonated. Due to the courageous actions, Sgt Wallace saved the lives of literally dozens of his fellow Marines that day...”

According to Lieutenant Colonel Kirk Cordova, with whom Sgt Wallace served, “.....he was an outstanding combat engineer who had an infectious personality which allowed him to easily make friends. He took great interest in developing his fellow Marines and enjoyed working with them at any opportunity. He was a loving husband, father and son who would do anything for his family. His ability to always cheer up those around him is sorely missed by all....”

His mother, Carol Wallace McKay, says his nickname was "Garfield" due to his fondness of snack food. It is the laughter at remembered fond stories and the pictures of him that help his family cope with the loss of Sgt. David W. Wallace III.

David's surviving family include his wife Erica, stepson Landon, daughter Brookelyn of Jacksonville, NC; his mother Carol Wallace McKay of Sharpsville; his brother Navy LPO Steven Wallace, Groton, CT; and his grandparents Jack & Ann Sandstrom, Hermitage. His father, David Wallace, Jr. is deceased.