

# VETERANS LEGACY PROGRAM GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM VETERANS LESSON PLAN PRESENTATION

Sergeant Christian B. Williams  
United States Marine Corps



**U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs**  
National Cemetery  
Administration



**Department  
of History**

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA



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# **VETERANS LEGACY PROGRAM STUDY**

**Sgt Christian B. Williams**

**United States Marine Corps**



# **SERGEANT CHRISTIAN B. WILLIAMS**

**USMC**

**NOV 30TH, 1978 – JULY 29TH,  
2006**

# AGENDA

Early Life

Military Service

Attack on July 29, 2006

Post-Attack

Legacy

References



Christian ca. 2005

# EARLY LIFE

- Born to in the Philippines
- Father retired from the US Navy
- 1994 family moved to Winter Haven, Fl
- 1997 Graduated from Lake Region High School
  - Member of the Marine Corps JROTC program
    - Rifle, PT, and Drill Teams
- Record setting high school weightlifter
  - Accepted to the National Junior Championship
    - Potential to secure a spot in the Olympics
- Joined MC Delayed Entry Program while in HS
  - Allowing him to enlist at 17 with parental permission



MCJROTC Ball, 96/97

# MILITARY SERVICE

- Christian began Marine Corps Recruit Training in the summer of 1997
  - Stationed at Camp Lejeune
- Left active duty in late 1999
  - Returned home
  - Enrolled in Polk County Community College
- Returned to Corps in 2000
  - Served a tour in Okinawa
  - Back to Camp Lejeune
  - Deployed with 22<sup>nd</sup> Marine Expeditionary Unit
  - Deployed to Iraq for start of Operation Iraqi Freedom



Christian with his father and younger siblings, ca. 2000

# MILITARY SERVICE

- Christian departed the Corps a second time in 2005
  - Returned home and worked at a local company
  - He did not feel at home in civilian life
- Enlisted a third time in early 2006
  - Joined 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon, D Company, 3<sup>rd</sup> Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division in Twentynine Palms, CA
- Deployed to Al Anbar Province, Iraq in April 2006



Christian and Marines from 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon in Iraq



# **MILITARY SERVICE – Light Armored Reconnaissance**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> LAR operated the Light Armored Vehicle – 25 (LAV-25)
- The LAV-25
  - All terrain & all weather
  - Speed, maneuverability, and firepower
  - Multifunctional role
    - Security, command & control, recon, and assault
  - Operates on land and in water
  - Carry communications equipment
  - Weapons platform
  - Night capabilities

# ATTACK ON July 29, 2006

- A vehicle approached their checkpoint near Rawah, driver refused to stop when ordered, Marines opened fire to stop him, they stopped vehicle, and the vehicle exploded
- The explosion took the lives of
  - Sgt Christian B. Williams
  - Cpl Baucus
  - LCpl Butterfield
  - LCpl Jason Hanson
- It injured
  - Cpl Adam A. Galvez
  - LCpl Joseph T. Hand



Memorial Photos of Fallen 3<sup>rd</sup> LAR  
Marines from the 2006 Deployment

# LEGACY

- Christian's family was notified of his death and his remains began the journey home
  - His remains arrived in Tampa days later
- His funeral Mass was held at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Winter Haven
- Christian is interred at Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell
  - Christian rests with his fellow Veterans in Section 402, Site 53



Christian's sister and nephew visit his headstone

# REFERENCES

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All photographs curtesy of the Williams family.