UCF Veterans Legacy Program

Source Packet Overview

vlp.cah.ucf.edu

Christian B. Williams

Sergeant, USMC

Short Biography

Christian B. Williams was born on November 30, 1978 in the Philippines where his father was stationed as part of his service in the US Navy. The Williams Family moved to Winter Haven, FL in 1994. Christian participated in his High school's USMC JROTC program.

He joined the Marine Corps in June 1997, training at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot (MCRD) Parris Island, SC, before serving at Camp LeJeune, NC. He left the Marines in 1999 for family reasons, but recommitted to the Marines in 2000, even taking leave in September 2001 to volunteer in NYC after the attacks on September 11. Over the course of multiple deployments, he served in Afghanistan and Iraq.

In 2005, he joined the 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, part of the 1st Marine Division. On July 29, 2006, Christian was killed in action in a bombing in Al Anbar Province, Iraq. He is buried at Bushnell National Cemetery, in Bushnell, FL.

UCF VLP has a full biography of Christian B. Williams.

Key Historical Themes & Events

- USMC History
- Global War on Terror
- Operation Enduring Freedom
- OPeration Iraqi Freedom

Personal archival documents and photos are used with the express, written permission of the family and can only be reproduced for classroom/educational use. Any other use, including reproduction, is forbidden without consent of the family. Any questions should come to UCF VLP at amelia.lyons@ucf.edu.

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Source Packet Document List

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Christian B. Williams

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WIlliams Family, 1991

The Williams Family around 1991. Christian sits on the right side of the couch, next to his baby brother and two sisters. His parents stand behind them.

Archives from the Williams family, whom we sincerely thank for their participation in the UCF VLP program in memory of Christian B. Williams.

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Christian in Uniform With Family

Christian in uniform with his father, brother and one of his sisters.

Archives from the Williams family, whom we sincerely thank for their participation in the UCF VLP program in memory of Christian B. Williams.

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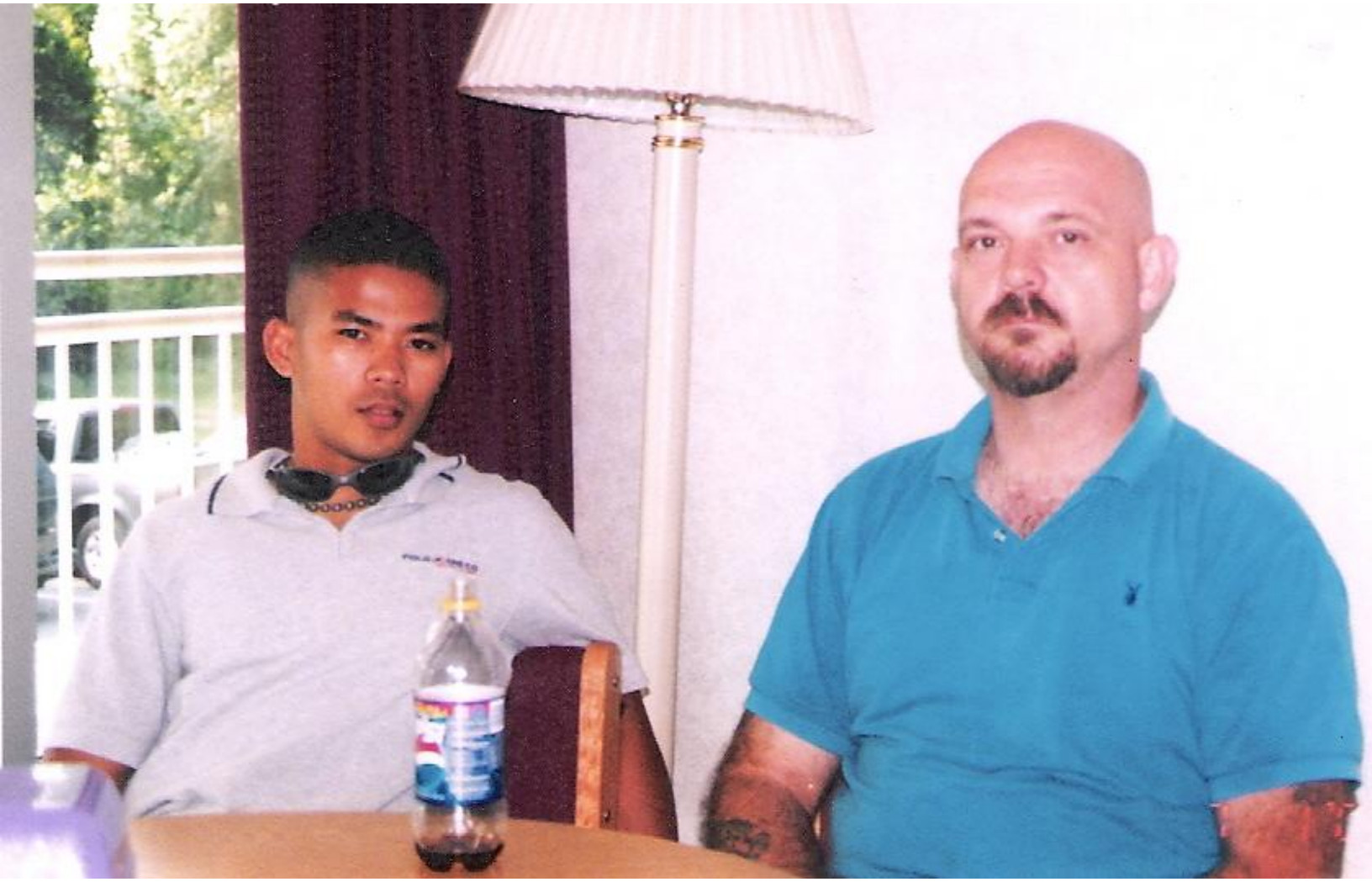
Christian with his Father



Christian with his father.

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High School JROTC Ball Photo

WIlliams and another JROTC student in dress blues at the 1996 Polk County JROTC Ball.

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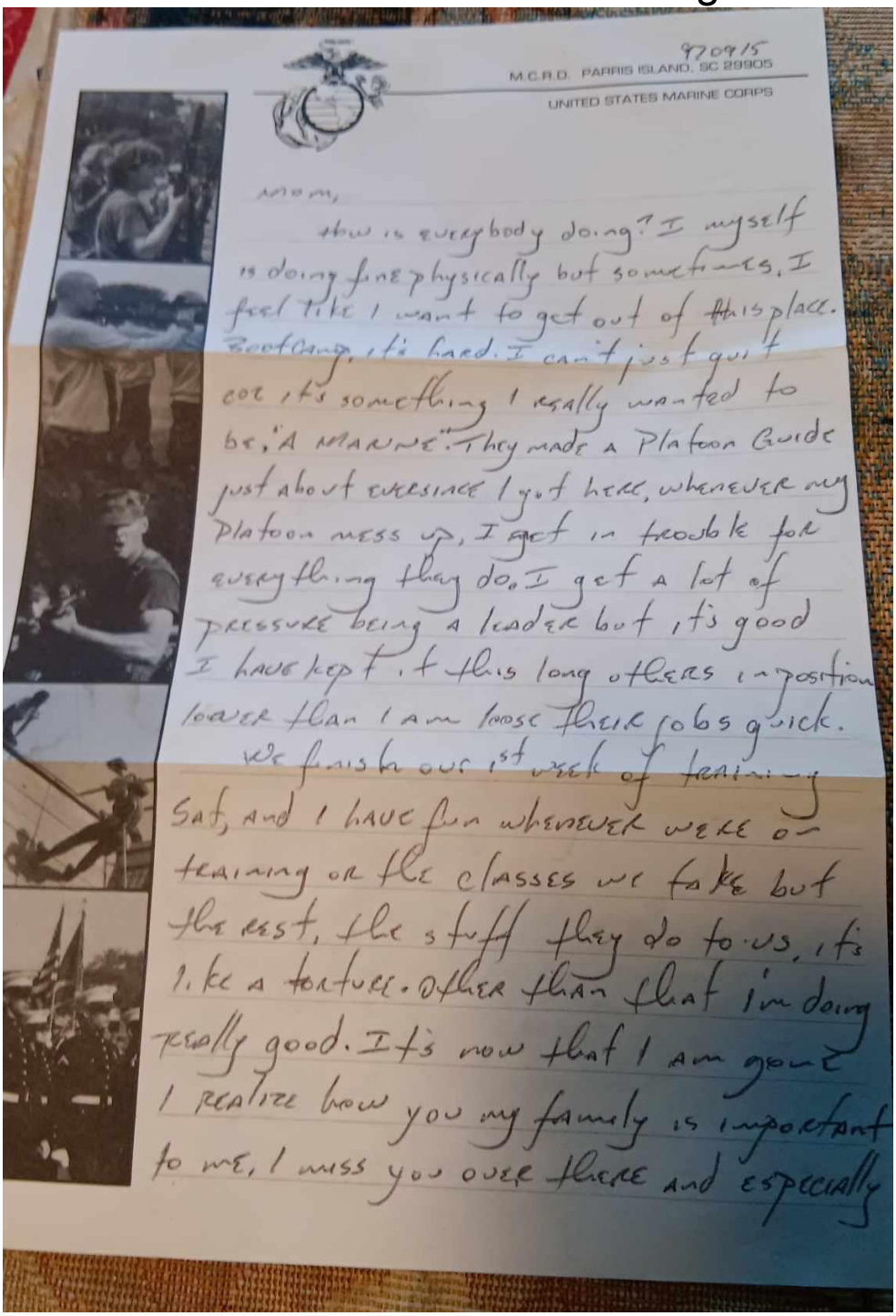
Letter From Recruit Training



970915
M.C.R.D. PARRIS ISLAND, SC 29905
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

Mom,

How is everybody doing? I myself is doing fine physically but sometimes, I feel like I want to get out of ~~this~~ place. Bootcamp, it's hard. I can't just quit cos it's something I really wanted to be, "A MARINE". They made a Platoon Guide just about everysince I got here, whenever my platoon mess up, I get in trouble for everything they do. I get a lot of pressure being a leader but, it's good I have kept it this long others in position lower than I am loose their jobs quick. We finish our 1st week of training Sat, and I have fun whenever we're on training or the classes we take but the rest, the stuff they do to us, it's like a torture. Other than that I'm doing really good. It's now that I am gone I realize how you my family is important to me, I miss you over there and especially

The first letter Williams sent to his mother while training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, SC. He described some of the challenges he faced during recruit training, including a leadership role in his platoon

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Letter From Recruit Training (Transcript)

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A transcript of the first letter Williams sent to his mother while training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, SC. He described some of the challenges he faced during recruit training, including a leadership role in his platoon.

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Training Camp Photo

WIlliams' recruit training graduation photo.

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Williams in Dress Blues

Williams wearing his dress blues for a Marine Corps ceremony, liley a Marine Corps Birthday Ball. The chevrons on his shoulder indicate he held the rank of sergeant.

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MOPP Suit Photo

Williams and three other Marines wearing Mission Oriented Protective Posture (MOPP) suits to defend against chemical weapons.

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LAV Photo

Williams wearing flak jacket, helmet, and MOPP suit while manning a machine gun on a vehicle with a Tube launched, Optically tracked, Wire-guided (TOW) anti-tank missile launcher beside him.

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Photo With 3rd LAR

Williams (bottom left) posing with 4 other Marines from the 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance (LAR) Battalion in Iraq during their 2006 deployment.

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3rd LAR Commemoration Collage

A collection of photos commemorating the 3rd LAR Marines killed in action, including Williams, during the unit's 2006 deployment to Iraq.

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Transcription excerpt from an article in the *Orlando Sentinel,* 2007

Florida's Fallen

By Orlando Sentinel |
Published January 1, 2007 at 12:00 a.m. | Updated October 23, 2018 at 8:15 a.m.

The calendar moves into a new year, leaving more than 800 U.S. troops killed in Iraq in 2006.

The deaths of two soldiers, including one from St. Petersburg, announced Sunday by them Pentagon, raised the number of US military deaths in Iraq to at least 3,000 – 128 of them from Florida – since the war began in March 2003,
According to an Associated Press count.

Twenty-four from Florida have died in Afghanistan.

Dead From Iraq War

Marine Sgt. Christian B. WIlliams, 27, of Winter Haven, killed July 29, 2006

On January 1, 2007, the *Orlando Sentinel* published an article listing US military personnel who died in Iraq and Afghanistan before 2007. Williams appeared under the Iraq War dead as killed in action on July 29, 2006.

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Transcription of *The Ledger, 2006*

Marine who Died in Iraq Bombing Buried at Florida National Cemetery

Diane Lacey Allen, the Ledger

Published 12:01 a.m. ET Aug. 8, 2006 | **Updated 5:54 a.m. ET Aug. 8, 2006**

Maria Elisa Williams saluted as two Marines pulled the American flag from her son's platinum casket Monday afternoon, gently tilting the stars and stripes above the rows of granite tombstones.

With white gloves they made two folds and eight carefully formed triangles. Then Lt. Col. Kent Ralston continued the precision ritual and offered the mother of 27-year old Sgt. Christian Bautista Williams the government's parting gift to the family of a fallen Marine.

Mrs. WIlliams took the folded flag, flipped it toward her heart and held tight.

On July 29, her son and three other Marines were killed by a suicide bomber in Al Anbar province in Iraq…

Mourners had followed the Patriot Guard Riders on a 21U2-hour, police-escorted processional that left Winter Haven and wound through Polk City and Sumter County before arriving at the Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell.

On August 8, 2006, *The Ledger* described Williams' funeral and burial ceremony at the Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell, FL. It mentioned Williams' cause of death due to a suicide bombing on July 29, 2006.

Archives from the Williams family, whom we sincerely thank for their participation in the UCF VLP program in memory of Christian B. Williams.

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Photo With Headstone

Williams' sister with her son (Christian's Nephew) laying flowers and a flag at Williams' headstone at Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell, FL.

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Parents at UCF VLP Field Trip

Williams' parents receive the UCF VLP bio of their son from Marine Corps Veteran James Stoddard as part of the 2024 Edgewater High School USMC field trip. Mrs. Williams spoke about her son's life and legacy. We see a photo of Williams leaned against his headstone at Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell, FL.

UCF VLP Archives.

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Headstone

Sgt. Christian William's headstone located section 402, site 53, at Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell, FL.

UCF VLP Archives

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