

UCF's Veterans Legacy Program



VA



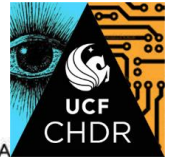
U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs
National Cemetery Administration



UCF

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

**Department
of History**



Ronald Douglas Freeman

1986 – 2011

Lance Corporal: US Marine Corps

Persian Gulf, Afghanistan

*Please note that news articles published online often exist behind paywalls and require a subscription to access digitally. We have provided links, but have not reproduced them here. Similarly, many families have created remembrance pages. Again, we have provided links, but have not reproduced any images without express written permission from the family.

“Plant City Marine Dies in Afghanistan,” *Tampa Tribune*, April 30, 2011, 8 (accessed July 6, 2023).

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/342678894/?terms=Ronald%20D.%20Freeman&match=1>

This article announces the death of Ronald Douglas Freeman, who died a few days prior to the newspaper’s publication. The brief article mentions Freeman’s rank and awards he had won for his service, and that he leaves a wife and child behind.

“Military Deaths As of 05/02/11,” *Bradenton Herald*, May 3, 2011, A2 (accessed July 6, 2023).

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/669237821/?terms=Ronald%20D.%20Freeman&match=1>

A listing of total casualties in both Iraq and Afghanistan, with specific mention of the latest deaths reported by the United States military. Ronald Douglas Freeman, who had died only days earlier, is listed along with his rank, hometown, and circumstances of his death.

George H. Newman, “Marine Recalled for Love of God, Family,” *Tampa Tribune*, May 6, 2011, 12 (accessed July 6, 2023).

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/342649257/?terms=Ronald%20D.%20Freeman&match=1>

A profile of Freeman’s life and funeral service, including details about where and when he graduated high school and when he joined the Marines. The article includes a picture of Freeman’s casket at his funeral.

---, “Plant City Community Says Goodbye to Fallen Marine,” *Tampa Tribune*, May 11, 2011, 14 (accessed July 6, 2023).

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/342648222/?terms=Ronald%20Douglas%20Freeman&match=1>

This article provides information about Freeman’s life before and during service, and about how he died while serving in the marines in Afghanistan. It mentions that he died on his daughter’s first birthday, and never got to meet his infant son, who was born four weeks before his death. The article includes pictures from Freeman’s funeral and interviews with his wife and family. The link above navigates to page one of this article.

---, "Plant City Community Says Goodbye to Fallen Marine," *Tampa Tribune*, May 11, 2011, 16 (accessed July 6, 2023).

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/342648232/?terms=Ronald%20Douglas%20Freeman&match=1>

The preceding article continues on page sixteen of the May 11, 2011 issue of the *Tampa Tribune*. The link above navigates to the continuation of this same article.

"10 Years of War: Tampa Bay Area Casualties," *St. Petersburg Times*, October 2, 2011, 89 (accessed July 6, 2023).

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/318071008/?terms=Ronald%20D.%20Freeman&match=1>

An article which lists the men and women from the Tampa Bay area who died while serving the United States in Iraq and Afghanistan. Ronald Douglas Freeman is listed along with his age, rank, death date, and the city where he was born.

"Notable Deaths of 2011," *Tampa Tribune*, December 26, 2011, 9 (accessed July 6, 2023).

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/343236978/?terms=Ronald%20D.%20Freeman&match=1>

A newspaper page which lists notable individuals in American culture and society who died in 2011. A section titled 'Local Military Deaths' lists Ronald Douglas Freeman.

Howard Altman, "Honor Local Heroes Who Gave Their Lives," *Tampa Tribune*, May 28, 2012, 14 (accessed July 6, 2023).

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/343148284/?terms=Ronald%20D.%20Freeman&match=1>

A short article that mentions how many American soldiers had died since the first troops entered Afghanistan in 2001, published for the Memorial Day holiday in 2012. The article ends with a list of names of those who died from the Tampa Bay area, including Ronald Douglas Freeman.

“U.S., Veterans’ Gravesites, ca. 1775-2019,” database, *Fold3* (fold3.com: accessed July 6, 2023), entry for Ronald Douglas Freeman.

<https://www.fold3.com/record/715780979/freeman-ronald-douglas-us-veterans-gravesites-ca1775-2019>

Above is a link to the United States Veterans’ Gravesite record for Ronald Douglas Freeman, archived in the online database *Fold3*. This source includes information like Freeman’s birthdate and death date, burial location, military rank, and conflict period.

“Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) Casualties,” database, *Fold3* (fold3.com: accessed July 6, 2023), entry for Ronald Douglas Freeman.

<https://www.fold3.com/record/630020625/ronald-douglas-freeman-operation-enduring-freedom-oef-casualties>

Above is a link to the Operation Enduring Freedom Casualties record for Ronald Douglas Freeman, archived in the online database *Fold3*. This source includes information like Freeman’s death date, casualty location, military rank, and conflict period.

“LCPL Ronald Freeman,” *Veterans Funeral Care*, 2011.

<https://veteransfuneralcare.com/obituary/LCPL-Ronald-Douglas-Freeman>.

Obituary for Ronald Douglas Freeman, which provides brief details on the marine’s early life in Plant City, Florida and his death in Afghanistan. The webpage includes a large selection of comments left by the public which remember and honor Freeman and his service.

“LCPL Ronald Douglas Freeman,” *FindAGrave*, April 29, 2011 (accessed July 6, 2023).

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/69116857/ronald-douglas-freeman>

Ronald Douglas Freeman’s page on findagrave.com includes information on his birth and death dates, and burial location. It also includes a paragraph detailing Freeman’s life, personality, and death, as well as a selection of photographs including depictions of Freeman in uniform and his national cemetery headstone. As of July 2023, twenty-nine people had left digital flowers on his page, which honor Freeman’s memory and service to his country.

“Marine Lance Cpl. Ronald D. Freeman,” *Military Times Hall of Valor*, Honor the Fallen, 2018.

<https://thefallen.militarytimes.com/marine-lance-cpl-ronald-d-freeman/6398616>

The Military Times has collected biographical information on United States Veterans who have died during their military service. This memorial page honors Ronald Douglas Freeman, and provides information about his death in Afghanistan in 2011.

Rich Shopes, “Memorial Day a Somber Time of Reflection for Father of Fallen Marine,” *Tampa Bay Times*, May 24, 2013 (accessed July 6, 2023).

<https://www.tampabay.com/news/humaninterest/memorial-day-a-somber-time-of-reflection-for-father-of-fallen-marine/2122844/>

This article, published for the Memorial Day holiday in 2013, details how the family of Ronald Douglas Freeman recognize Memorial Day two years after the marine’s death in Afghanistan. The piece includes photographs and an interview with Freeman’s father.



Ronald Freeman's Headstone in Florida National Cemetery

UCF Veterans Legacy Program, *Headstone for Ronald Freeman*, photograph, 2023, Florida National Cemetery, Bushnell, FL.