



NEWS RELEASE

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Vilseck mourns loss of Stryker Soldier

Vilseck, Germany (Sept, 24, 2007) – More than 100 members of the Grafenwöhr and Vilseck communities filled Vilseck Chapel Monday to honor and say goodbye to Spc. Aaron James Walker.

Walker was from Harker Heights, Texas, and was characterized by most as a fun-loving man with deep spiritual convictions. The son of pastors Darrel and Ann Walker, AJ was the one other Soldiers turned to when they needed spiritual guidance or just a good laugh according to his NCOs. According to one of his fellow Soldiers, Walker was the one others would seek out when times were tough.

Walker, 23, died Sept. 18 in Baghdad, Iraq, of wounds suffered when insurgents attacked his unit with small arms fire during combat operations. He was a motorman assigned to Ghost rider Company, 3rd Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, 1st Armored Division.

“AJ was the kinda guy that would always make you laugh,” said Spc. Austin Roden a good friend of Walkers.

The 21 year-old Ft. Worth native recalls his fellow Texan as having a contagious chuckle. “One time we were in the field,” said Roden, “He got in such a giggle fit that didn’t stop for about half an hour.”

Roden explained that Walker was wearing all of his field gear at the time, which is quite heavy.

“He made us laugh harder because he fell over giggling and then couldn’t stand back up for about 20 minutes,” Roden said.

Roden joined the unit at the same time as Walker. The two spent a lot of their spare time together playing video games, watching movies and talking.

“He was such a strong Christian, and had such deep beliefs that he had ‘Real men love Jesus,’ tattooed on his back. He was a deeply spiritual guy,” Walker said.

“He didn’t smoke or drink and at any social function he was always in are little circle of guys. He had a really huge heart.”

Walker is survived by his wife Amber, his mother Ann, father Darryl, brother, Alex and sister Andee.

Amber and AJ were married in July of 2006 before he moved to Germany and Amber remained in Texas where she is studying nursing. The last time the couple were together was to celebrate their one-year anniversary. Despite being separated for so long the couple remained dedicated in their love.

“We never got to live together as husband and wife,” Amber said, “but the times we were together were amazing.”