



DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20340-5100



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The Honorable Patrick Toomey
c/o: Military Legislative Assistant
United States Senate
502 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Toomey:

On November 7, 2013, the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) will honor Sergeant Sherwood R. Baker, Pennsylvania Army National Guard, into the DIA Patriots Memorial in a ceremony at DIA Headquarters on Joint-Base Bolling Anacostia. The Patriots Memorial currently honors 21 individuals who died in service to the United States and commemorates their exceptional sacrifice in support of DIA's mission. The memorial is conspicuously located at the center of our main lobby, serving as a continuous reminder of the selflessness, dedication, and courage exhibited by the honorees and their families.

Sergeant Sherwood R. Baker, assigned to Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 109th Field Artillery, was killed in action on April 26, 2004, in Baghdad, Iraq during Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. During this period, he served as a member of the security detail for the Iraq Survey Group (ISG) mobile collection team that was conducting a critical field inspection in an anti-coalition forces area. Under dangerous environmental conditions, Sergeant Baker and his squad mate, Sergeant Lawrence A. Roukey, provided protective security for ISG personnel charged with inspecting a suspected chemical, biological and nuclear weapons facility. Both soldiers lost their lives when a massive explosion occurred at the facility being inspected.

Sergeant Baker was born on October 5, 1973 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He graduated from Roman Catholic High School in 1991 and from King's College in 1995. Renowned for his sense of duty and community-mindedness, he joined the Pennsylvania Army National Guard as a Fire Support Specialist in 1997. In his civilian life, he worked as a caseworker for the mentally disabled and enjoyed entertaining patrons, family and friends as a disc jockey. Sergeant Baker is the recipient of the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart. He is the first Pennsylvania National Guardsman to be killed in combat since 1945.

Along with Sergeant First Class Wisdom and Sergeant Clary, two other soldiers, Sergeant Sherwood R. Baker, Pennsylvania Army National Guard and Sergeant Lawrence A. Roukey, U.S. Army Reserve will be honored and remembered as they are included in the Patriot Memorial.

If you have any questions or are interested in visiting DIA's Patriots Memorial, please contact Ms. Christina McDonnell in DIA's Congressional Relations Division at (202) 231-0843.

Sincerely,

James Kaplan
Chief, Congressional Relations Division