

OVN Fallen Heroes Project

Remembering the servicemembers who died in the service of their country.

U.S. Air Force Pararescuemen TSgt John W. Brown

“The Code”

It is my duty as a Pararescueman / Combat Rescue Officer to save life and to aid the injured. I will be prepared at all times to perform my assigned duties quickly and efficiently, placing these duties before personal desires and comforts. These things I do, That Others May Live.



<http://veterantributes.org/TributeDetail.php?recordID=2047>

John W. Brown

Rank, Service

Technical Sergeant E-6, U.S. Air Force

Veteran of:

U.S. Air Force 2002-2011

War on Terrorism 2002-2011

Operation Enduring Freedom, Afghanistan 2004-2011 (Multiple Deployments, KIA)

Operation Iraqi Freedom 2004-2009 (Multiple Deployments)

Tribute:

John Brown was born on November 3, 1977, in Sacramento, California. He enlisted in the U.S. Air Force on March 18, 2002, and completed basic training at Lackland AFB, Texas, in May 2002. After completing the U.S. Air Force Pararescue Pipeline, Sgt Brown served as a Pararescueman with the 38th Rescue Squadron at Moody AFB, Georgia, from October 2004 to March 2006, followed by service as a Pararescueman with the 31st Rescue Squadron at Kadena AB, Okinawa, from March 2006 to March 2009. His next assignment was as a Pararescueman and Special Tactics Team Member with the 24th Special Tactics Squadron at Pope AFB, North Carolina, from January 2009 until he was killed in action when the CH-47 Chinook helicopter he was aboard was shot down in Afghanistan on August 6, 2011. John Brown was buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

His 1st Bronze Star Medal Citation reads:

Period: 27 February 2010 to 28 June 2010 - For exceptionally meritorious achievement as a combat search and rescue team leader for a Joint Task Force in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. During this period, Sergeant Brown provided rescue coverage for numerous combat operations in hostile territory. He led his team in recovering several crew members remains and sensitive items from a crashed aircraft as well as treatment and evacuation of the wounded. Sergeant Brown coordinated casualty collection, triage, evacuation, blocking positions and communications with base operations for accountability during synchronized anti-coalition fighter and rocket attacks. Through his distinctive accomplishments, Staff Sergeant Brown reflected great credit upon himself, this command, the United States Air Force, and the United States Army.

His 2nd Bronze Star Medal Citation reads:

Period: 1 July 2011 to 6 August 2011 - For exceptionally meritorious achievement as an Assault Force Pararescueman for a Joint Task Force in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. During this period, Sergeant Brown conducted several objectives resulting in multiple enemies eliminated and detained. He led the full spectrum medical and rescue planning, ensuring the successful execution of the task force's highest priority missions. On 5 August 2011, Sergeant Brown and his team responded on a mission to eliminate or capture a high-value Taliban commander in Afghanistan. His helicopter was attacked in the target area by enemy fighters and was shot down by a rocket propelled grenade. Through his distinctive accomplishments, Technical Sergeant Brown reflected great credit upon himself, this command, the United States Air Force, and the United States Army.

Air Force Tech. Sgt. John W. Brown

<https://thefallen.militarytimes.com/air-force-tech-sgt-john-w-brown/6567928>

Died August 6, 2011 Serving During Operation Enduring Freedom

Air Force Tech. Sgt. John W. Brown, 33, of Tallahassee, Fla.; assigned to 24th Special Tactics Squadron, Pope Field, N.C.; died Aug. 6 in Tangi Valley, Wardak province, Afghanistan, of wounds suffered when the CH-47 Chinook helicopter in which he was riding was shot down.

'Rambo without the attitude'

The Associated Press

An Arkansas airman who was among the dozens of U.S. troops killed when their helicopter was shot down in Afghanistan was a hero who loved sports and loved to laugh, his mother and a friend said.

A rescue team of Navy SEALs and other troops who just helped rescue an Army Ranger unit were killed Aug. 6 when the Chinook helicopter they were on was hit and crashed about 60 miles southwest of Kabul, officials said.

Air Force Tech Sgt. John W. Brown was among those on board, his mother, Elizabeth Newlun, said by telephone. Her son was a paramedic and attended to the medical needs of those who were rescued, she said.

"I think I'm internally very upset, but at the same time, I'm so very proud of my son," Newlun said. "I want to make sure that everyone knows that he's a hero. I can fall apart later."

Newlun said her brother referred to Brown on a Facebook post as "Rambo without the attitude," but she called him a "gentle giant."

"He just loved anything physical, anything athletic," Newlun said. "If I wanted to have a conversation with him that was serious, I would have to shoot baskets with him. There's nothing athletic about me, but I realized that you have to get into other people's comfort zone to get information."

Arkansas state Rep. Jon Woods went to high school with Brown in Siloam Springs and remembered playing basketball and watching "Saturday Night Live" on the weekends. Brown graduated in 1996.

"When you think of what the ideal model of a soldier would be, he would be it," Woods said. "He could run all day. We lived down the street from each other and spent time together after school and hung out. Even if we had a long day of practice, he would put on his sneakers and run after practice."

Newlun said Brown played football and basketball in high school and went to John Brown University on a swimming scholarship. He had wanted to go into the medical field and become a nurse anesthetist but decided to join the military after seeing a video of a special tactical unit, she said.

He will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery, Newlun said. She and Woods are working on a memorial service that will be held later in Arkansas, she said. Woods was married but had no children, Newlun said.

TSgt John W. Brown was among the thirty-one service members who lost their lives in a CH-47 Chinook helicopter crash in Wardak province, Afghanistan. The Siloam Springs, Ark., native was 33, and in his ninth year of service. He was survived by his wife, Tabitha, his father, Dan, his mother, Elizabeth Newlun, and his brothers Danny and Lucas.

“At 6 feet 2 inches tall, Brown was nicknamed ‘the gentle giant.’ A former teammate of Brown’s said he was a big man, but his heart was even bigger. He said Brown had a belief in something higher and believed in a justness and goodness that would shine through. He said everyone in attendance could take away some life lessons from ‘big John Brown’ to live harder, fight stronger and live better than the common man.”

-United States Air Force website