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# 1st Lt. Travis Manion Battled To The End

By J. BONASIA, INVESTOR'S BUSINESS DAILY

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On one foray in March 2007, a bomb hammered Manion's vehicle. Dazed from the attack, he checked for other explosive devices and caught the attacker.

Manion was in the thick of firefights the following weeks. His squad swept in with a response when a suicide car bomb hit a Marine barracks in Fallujah on March 28, 2007, recalls Eric Greitens, a Navy SEAL reservist who worked with Manion in Iraq.

Now Greitens runs a nonprofit, MissionContinues.org, that helps disabled veterans work with charities and civic groups. The Mission Continues effort is partly funded by the Travis Manion Foundation.

Manion's family launched the foundation to channel its pride and grief. Through TravisManion.com, it supports families of fallen soldiers and helps wounded vets adjust to civilian life.

The Iraqi soldiers who served under Manion were so inspired by his leadership and sacrifice, they named a post north of Fallujah after him: Combat Outpost Manion.

"What made Travis so special was he not only had the respect of his own Marines, but he also earned the trust and respect of the Iraqi soldiers he was working with," said Greitens. "Travis really did an extraordinary job every single day."

## His Stand

Through it all, Manion maintained an unwavering loyalty to the cause of Iraqi independence and self-rule, says mother Janet. She backed that commitment while worrying about his safety.

"As a family, we all knew Travis had a passion for his mission and he believed in the Iraqi people and their freedom," she said. "He felt he had a job to do, and he was going to do it."


Manion's family got deserved satisfaction on June 30 when U.S. forces handed control of Iraq's urban areas to the country's army, signaling a formal drawdown of the American military presence there — the main goal for Travis all along.

"We felt much pride in what Travis did and pride for all those men and women whose efforts are a real testament to freedom for the Iraqi people," Janet Manion said.

## Manion's Keys

- Gave up his life to save his comrades, earning the Silver Star, Bronze Star with Valor and the Purple Heart.

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• "If not me, then who?"

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Thank you to the Manion family, and praying that God will give comfort and ease the suffering you are going through at the death of Travis.

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