

BASE NEWS: Fallen Marine brave at early age



PHOTOGRAPH PROVIDED BY THE TRAVIS MANION FOUNDATION Marine 1st Lt. Travis Manion was killed in 2007, during his second deployment to Iraq.

By 4:45 a.m., Thursday, July 30, 2009

First Lt. Travis Manion was a born leader. It likely ran in the genes, because his father served for 30 years as a Marine before retiring recently. Lt. Manion's mother, Janet Manion, recalls that her son had a commanding presence at an early age.

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Iran, 6 world powers resume nuclear talks

By George Jahn - Associated Press

Iran and six world powers came to the table Monday for the first time in a year, exchanged pleasantries, but remained far apart on how deeply their talks should tackle the West's greatest concern — Iranian nuclear activities that could make atomic weapons. Published 9:18 a.m. December 6, 2010



Outlook glum for 'porous' Pakistan border

By Rowan Scarborough - The

Washington Times

The State Department has stated in a cable from Peshawar, Pakistan, that it is skeptical about eventually winning the military struggle in Pakistan's badlands, saying peace talks go nowhere and murderous militants control key towns. Published 8:35 p.m. December 5, 2010

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According to Mrs. Manion, her son displayed courage and integrity even during his childhood. In one instance, she says, she was particularly proud of him. One of his best friends as a young boy was Steve Brown, the only black male student in their school. Their town, Doylestown, Pa. was mostly white.

When the boys were about 9 years old, they went to a small pizza shop for a snack. The store owner ignored Steve, refusing to take his order. Young Travis went to the counter, ordered a slice of pizza and handed it to Steve. When the store owner asked the boy why he had done that, he responded: "Because it's the right thing to do." He then told the man he would never shop there again and he walked out.

He would demonstrate similar selflessness on the battlefield later in life.

Lt. Manion excelled in both academics and sports in high school. He was admitted to the U.S. Naval Academy and graduated in 2004. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps and was assigned to the 1st Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, based at Camp Pendleton, Calif.

In 2005, he was deployed to Iraq for his first tour of duty. He and his unit worked to secure the country for the national elections and help transition control to the Iraqis. He distinguished himself throughout the tour as a leader and as a Marine dedicated to completing the mission successfully, according to his colleagues. Eventually, he was pulled from his reconnaissance battalion to serve a second tour as an adviser to an Iraqi army battalion in Fallujah in late 2006.

Fallujah had long been a trouble spot. Terrorists, insurgents and die-hard jihadists had flocked there in 2004, eager for an opportunity to fight the Americans. This led to Operation Phantom Fury in November and December 2004; it marked an effort to clear Fallujah of insurgents after they had turned it into a major base of operations.

It is often regarded as the most intense battle of the Iraq war so far.

Despite a coalition victory, the situation in Fallujah continued to fester over the next two years. In late 2006, during the "Sunni Awakening," the Iraqi population of Anbar province turned against the al Qaeda-led insurgency. Coalition forces made a final effort to secure the city.

Lt. Manion played a major part in this effort. According to his mother, he had a passion for the overall mission of the war in Iraq and worked hard to develop a close bond with his Iraqi comrades. On missions, his peers say, he was the first man in and the last one out, and he always led from the front, taking the fight to the enemy. Throughout the early months of 2007, Lt. Manion repeatedly put himself in harm's way to protect his men and help Iraqi troops.

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