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Oct. 4, 2010

Brothers in Arms, Side-by-Side at Arlington

Good Friends at the Naval Academy and Both Killed in Combat, Travis Manion and Brendan Looney Now Lie in Rest Together

By David Martin

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Brothers In Arms Buried Together

Travis Manion and Brendan Looney were roommates at the naval academy and became as close as brothers. One became a Marine stationed in Iraq, the other, a Navy Seal in Afghanistan. Both have died and were laid to rest side-by-side in Arlington's National Cemetery. David Martin reports.



Brendan Looney, left, and Travis Manion, right.
(CBS)

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(CBS) Travis Manion and Brendan Looney were roommates at the Naval Academy, close as brothers. One became a Marine and went to Iraq, the other a Navy Seal in Afghanistan. On Monday they were reunited, side-by-side in Arlington National cemetery, reports CBS News correspondent David Martin.

"That's what kinda gets me by is knowing that they're going to be together," said Looney's wife, Amy.

The grief is still raw for Amy, and for Looney's mother Maureen. It's been less than two weeks since his body came home from Afghanistan, where he was killed in a helicopter crash.

Travis Manion Foundation

"After we got the call and everything, actually Mrs. Manion was the first person I called because she was like Brendan's other mom," said Maureen.

"And she just said, 'Janet,' and I said, 'Maureen,' and she started crying and I said, 'Brendan,' and she said, 'yes,'" said Janet Manion, Travis' mother.

Travis Manion's parents have been living with their grief for more than three years. He was shot by a sniper in Iraq in 2007. Six months later, Brendan was still overcome talking about what Travis meant to him.

"I was lucky enough to room with Travis at the Naval Academy for two years," said Brendan in October 2007. "In a very short time he became another brother to me. He was a great friend. I'll never forget him and I miss him."

Travis had been laid to rest in the family cemetery near Philadelphia, but when Brendan died both families instantly knew what had to be done.

"That was the first thing out of my mouth, without even thinking," said Amy. "That they had to be together."

"I'll be at peace knowing that he's with his brother, together," said Janet. "I know that's where he wants to be."

On Friday Travis was moved to Arlington. Both families were there, the two mothers holding tight to each other. Monday they gathered again, to bury Brendan right next to Travis.

"They're together now," said Maureen. "We've got two angels looking out after us."

Travis' father, himself a former Marine, spoke their epitaph.

"First Lieutenant Travis Manion, USMC, Lieutenant Brendan Looney, United States Navy. Warriors for freedom, brothers forever," said Travis' father Tom.



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ADD A COMMENT

by goirish1974 October 5, 2010 9:16 AM EDT

I saw this story on the news last night and it brought tears to my eyes. RIP Travis and Brendan.

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by ProsperityBeginsIn2012 October 5, 2010 12:06 AM EDT

I was watching this story yesterday while waiting for my flight in Denver and the guy next to me commented that the world is better off with two less war mongers. Now, I'm totally regretting that I didn't introduce his face to my fist.....a few days in jail is worth it.

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by goirish1974 October 5, 2010 11:00 AM EDT

That guy was a real jerk. He obviously doesn't have a loved one serving in the military.



by lakecosteI October 4, 2010 10:58 PM EDT

These two "brothers" are inspiring. My blessings to their families. America is so grateful and honored to have been loved by them. They are in my heart.

Reply to this comment



by airforceaggie October 4, 2010 10:20 PM EDT

RIP, young men. Such a tragic story to read.

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