

“If Not Me, then Who...”



Travis Manion

Travis Manion was born November 19th, 1980 in Camp Lejeune, NC. A Marine family, the Manions moved often during Travis' first 10 years until settling in Doylestown, PA. Travis attended Linden elementary school, Holicong middle school, and La Salle College high school.

Travis' strong leadership qualities became very apparent in his high school years. At La Salle, Travis lettered in wrestling, football and lacrosse, was a member of five Catholic League Championship Teams and was named to all league teams in all three sports. He also received 1st Team All-Catholic honors six times for both Wrestling and Lacrosse and earned All-American honors in wrestling. Although he excelled both on the athletic fields and in the classroom, Travis was best known as a motivating and popular figure to his classmates. It was for these traits that Travis was awarded the Hal Selvey, Jr. Memorial Award for Unselfish Dedication and Leadership by the Philadelphia Wrestling Association in 1999. In 1999,



Travis graduated from La Salle College High School and was accepted at the United States Naval Academy.

As at La Salle, Travis excelled in the classroom and in sports at the Naval Academy, and by 2004 was a preseason national top 20 wrestler. His strong character continued to shine, leading to his selection as the winner of the 2003 Weems Award for Leadership and Dedication presented by the Naval Academy Wrestling Association. Travis graduated from the Academy in 2004.

At the end of his college career Travis chose to become a Marine Corps officer. His basic officer training was in Quantico, Virginia where he finished in the top of his class and was awarded a regular commission in the United States Marine Corps. After completing his military occupational school Travis was assigned to the 1st Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force Camp in Pendleton, CA.

It wasn't long after arriving to his first duty station that Travis and his unit were sent to Iraq for his first tour. During their tour, the 1st Recon Marines were part of many critical events including support of the 2005 election, uncovering weapons caches throughout the region and assisting with other Iraqi transition missions.

In September of 2006, Travis was moved from 1st Recon to train with 10 other Marines who would be attached to an Iraq Army Battalion. Travis deployed back to Iraq with his team on December 26th 2006 for his second tour in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He and his fellow Marines worked diligently to change the outcome in Fallujah, building a brotherhood with the Iraqi Army units and setting the example with strong leadership and a passion for their mission. Aggressively taking the fight to

the enemy on multiple missions, Travis and his Marines fought bravely to change the tide in this critical battle ground. As a result of their incredible efforts, Al Anbar Province is now recognized as one of the more significant successes of the surge in Iraq.

During a patrol mission on Sunday, April 29, 2007, Travis was killed by enemy sniper fire in the Al Anbar Province of Iraq while fighting courageously to defend against an enemy ambush. With the legacy of strong character and leadership he left behind, Travis' spirit remains in Iraq and in the hearts



of all who honor freedom and service. His fellow service members continue to work diligently to establish a foundation of freedom in Iraq. As a true testament to how much Travis is admired, the Iraqi's have named their headquarters in honor of him, Combat Outpost (COP) Manion, which is one of only two outposts in Iraq named after Americans. For his bravery and heroic actions, Travis was posthumously awarded the Silver Star and the Bronze Star with Valor in December of 2008.

Like so many that have done so much to defend our country and it's freedoms, Travis had a life's passion for service to others and for making a difference in this world. When Travis was asked why he had to go back to Iraq for his second tour he said simply "If not me then who..." these words have inspired many to step forward in service. In his spirit, the Travis Manion Foundation was established to carry forward his mission of Service Above Self, Leadership from the Front and the Courage to Enter the Arena. The mission of this non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization is to assist the wounded Veterans and the families of Fallen Heroes. We will continue the service to community and country exemplified by these Fallen Heroes and Veterans. In the spirit of the Fallen, we will foster strength of mind and body to create a generation of future leaders.

The Foundation programs include Fellowships that support our wounded warriors in their efforts to re-integrate back into the community. Working with our Veterans to help them transition back into society through challenges that provide meaningful contributions to their communities and their country. Also, this year, in partnership with the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS), the second Good Grief Seminar will be held in Philadelphia on 24 July. The only Seminar of this type in the Philadelphia area, last year close to 200 family members of our Fallen attended the event to support the healing process. Finally, the Foundation directly

supports Service Projects in the community (one such project, Freedom Square, will be unveiled this fall), Leadership awards, Scholarships and Education Funds.



Helping those in need was something that came very easily for Travis. He represents a generation of patriots that were inspired after 9/11 to step forward in service to their country. As a group, they believed in something bigger than themselves and in everything they did they wanted to make a positive impact. In keeping Travis' spirit and the spirits of all of his Fallen brothers' alive the Travis Manion Foundation continues the mission of service for these selfless heroes.

Please visit the Foundation website at www.TravisManion.com to learn more about how you can be a part of this legacy of service.

TRAVIS MANION FOUNDATION

Service Above Self • Leadership From the Front • Courage to Enter the Arena



TEAM TRAVIS
USMC

"If not me, then who..."

www.TravisManion.com