



Sgt. Charles Edward Wyckoff Jr.

Sgt. Wyckoff Jr. was born in Chula Vista, CA and graduated from Chula Vista High School. He was killed in Afghanistan on June 6, 2007 while serving with the 1st. Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment (PRI), 4th Brigade Combat Team (BCT), 82nd Airborne Division. His unit was based at Fort Bragg North Carolina.



82d Airborne



While attending Chula Vista High School he participated in track and was a highly successful runner. Prior to high school, Charles attended Harborside Elementary, Chula Vista Junior High, graduating from Chula Vista High in 1996. He attended San Francisco State University then transferred to Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Arizona. He graduated from college with a bachelor's degree in Aeronautical Science. Following college, Sgt. Wyckoff joined the U.S. Army.

In January of 2007, Sgt. Wyckoff was transferred to Afghanistan. While on patrol in the Helmand province he and his squad encountered insurgents. The insurgents were firing at the squad from behind a wall. Sgt. Wyckoff left his squad in place, ran across a field and crept around one end of the wall protecting the insurgents. He saw a Taliban fighter with a rifle just a few feet away and another one standing about 30 feet away holding a rocket-propelled grenade launcher aimed at his squad. Sgt. Wyckoff made the decision to take out the insurgent with the grenade launcher to protect his squad and then turned his weapon on the insurgent with the rifle. The insurgent fired at Sgt. Wyckoff at the same time the Sgt. fired at him. They were both killed. Sgt. Wyckoff's heroic actions to save his squad earned him a posthumous Distinguished Service Cross, the U.S. Army's second-highest award for valor. Sgt. Wyckoff was laid to rest in the

Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia. He served his country with honor and distinction and was buried with full military honors.

Sgt. Wyckoff's wife Erika and his two stepchildren (Joshua and Alexandra) were living in Ft. Bragg North Carolina at the time of his death. Erika said that he was a "Soldier's Soldier" who saved the lives of his men and in a way saved mine. He didn't think twice about doing his job. He is survived by his mother Sylvia Wyckoff, father Edward C. Wyckoff, and his sister Alina Perez who lives in San Ysidro, California.

Sgt. Wyckoff's awards include the Distinguished Service Cross, Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart Medal, Army good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the NATO Medal the Army Service Ribbon, the Combat Infantry Badge, the Parachutist's Badge and the Expert Weapons Qualification Badge with type weapon bar.

