

Town of Sturbridge

*Veterans Services Department
Thomas A. Chamberland, Director*

November 02, 2006

Press release: Immediate

Sturbridge: The Town of Sturbridge has announced plans to hold a memorial service for 1st Lt Joshua L. Booth USMC on Saturday, December 2nd, 2:00 p.m. at the Tantasqua Regional High School Field House. Lt Booth was killed in Iraq on October 17th, by a snipers bullet while on patrol. Raised in Sturbridge, he graduated from St Johns High School and received his College degree from the Citadel. Lt Booth is the first Sturbridge resident to die in battle, since World War II. Lt. Booth leaves behind his wife, Erica, who is seven months pregnant, his daughter Grace, and unborn son, Tristan, his sister Melissa L. De Vera, his parents Debra and Jack, and a grateful community, proud and respectful of his sacrifice for our country.

Tom Chamberland, Director of Veteran Services, is in charge of the event. In making the announcement Mr. Chamberland said "We are proud and honored that the family is encouraging the community to come together to celebrate the life of Joshua. The family is very grateful that there will be this opportunity for them to tell Joshua's story. We are anticipating a very large turnout for this memorial event. The Town is accepting donations to help make this memorial service a respectful, proud, and memorable event."

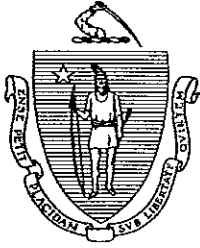
Anyone wishing to help contribute to this service is asked to contact either Tom Chamberland at tchamberland@town.sturbridge.ma.us or 508-347-3386, or Town Clerk Lorraine Murawski at lmurawski@town.sturbridge.ma.us or 508-347-2510. Contributions for printing, flowers, refreshments, as well as volunteers to assist with the memorial service are needed. A volunteer meeting is set for Wednesday, Nov 8th 7:00 p.m. at the American Legion Hall, 507 Main Street. Sturbridge.

The Town is also collecting items to be sent to the Marines of Lt Booth's unit still in Iraq. Collection boxes are set up at the Town Hall, Senior Center, Library, Tri-Community Chamber of Commerce, ReMax Professional Real Estate Office at 49 Main Street Sturbridge, Arland Tool & Die Manufacturing, the Sturbridge Curves and American Legion Post 109. Items may also be brought to the memorial service. A list of needed items is available at each collection site or online at: www.town.sturbridge.ma.us

The Town of Sturbridge has set up a Memorial Fund in Lt. Booth's name. Contributions to this fund will be used to cover the cost of the memorial service and the cost of shipping the collected items to Iraq. Any remaining contributions will be turned over to the trust that is being set up for Joshua's children. Checks should be made payable to the Town of Sturbridge and mailed or dropped off to the Town Hall, 308 Main Street Sturbridge MA 01566. Please note Booth Memorial Fund on your check.

*Town Hall, 308 Main Street
Sturbridge, MA 01566
The Town of Sturbridge is an Equal Opportunity Organization*

*Telephone (508) 347-3386 (h)
Fax (508) 347-5886*



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
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SENATOR STEPHEN M. BREWER

WORCESTER, HAMPDEN,
HAMPSHIRE AND FRANKLIN
DISTRICT

ROOM 109B

TEL. (617) 722-1540

FAX (617) 722-1078

Stephen.Brewer@massmail.state.ma.us

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PUBLIC SAFETY AND HOMELAND SECURITY, (VICE-CHAIR)

WAYS AND MEANS

ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURE

November 13, 2006

Colonel Mark F. Delaney
Massachusetts State Police
One Ashburton Place, Suite 2133
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Colonel Delaney:

I am writing to invite the Massachusetts State Police Color Guard to perform at the memorial ceremony for Second Lieutenant Joshua Booth, who was recently killed in action while serving in Iraq.

The Town of Sturbridge will be holding a ceremony on December 2, 2006 at the Tantasqua High School Field House at 2 PM in his honor. The town is expecting approximately 2500 people to attend. I strongly encourage the Massachusetts State Police to participate so that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts may appropriately express its gratitude for the sacrifice that 2nd Lt. Booth has made. I would appreciate if you would contact me directly so that I may notify the Town of Sturbridge.

Thank you for your time and attention to this very important matter.

Sincerely,

STEPHEN M. BREWER
State Senator

SMB/ab

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Article published Dec 3, 2006

Dec 3, 2006

Young Marine's determination, dedication recalled

By Craig S. Semon TELEGRAM & GAZETTE STAFF

STURBRIDGE— The "steel look of determination" of a man destined to be a Marine shone during yesterday's memorial service for 1st Lt. Joshua L. Booth

Lt. Booth, 23, of Sturbridge was killed Oct. 17 by a single sniper shot in Haditha, Iraq. He was a platoon leader in the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, Echo Company, deployed in September to Anbar Province.

On Oct. 26, Lt. Booth was buried at Longwood Cemetery in Bedford, Va. Born in Virginia, Lt. Booth was a 2001 graduate of St. John's High School in Shrewsbury, and a 2005 graduate of The Citadel military college in Charleston, S.C.

As Lt. Booth's family entered the Tantasqua Regional High School fieldhouse, Joshua's father, John E. Booth, proudly wore a straw hat with the words "The Citadel" on the front, while Joshua's mother, Debra L. Booth, wore tinted, rose-colored glasses to hide the tears. Joshua's widow, Erica Booth, carried their 18-month-old daughter, Grace, in her arms, and inside her, their unborn son, Tristan Joshua Booth.

Scott LaPlante, commanding officer of the Worcester Division Naval Sea Cadet Corps, praised Joshua as "the ultimate cadet," and said that no matter the situation, you could be guaranteed that Joshua would show up with that "steel look of determination" in his eyes.

Mr. Booth fondly recalled how his son used his "steel" six months before Sept. 11, 2001, pleading with him to let him become a Marine, despite getting a full ROTC scholarship from the Army to go to Norwich University.

"(Joshua said,) 'Dad, you've got to let me be a Marine, but I'm going to be me even more than a Marine. I want to be a combat platoon infantry commander. I want to defend our nation and I want to face our enemies,'" Mr. Booth recalled. "Once again ... I saw the steel in those blue eyes."

In the most politically charged speech of the afternoon, Robert Styles, a teacher at Tantasqua Regional Junior High School and a Marine Corps veteran of the Vietnam War, talked about what it means to be a Marine and the high cost of freedom.

"Once you earn the title of Marine, you're stuck with it for life. There are Marines on active duty, Marines who are not on active duties, but there are no ex-Marines," Mr. Styles. "We've been called a lot of things that I won't repeat for you here today, but you will never have a better friend or worse enemy than a United States Marine."

Mr. Styles also chastised politicians and the media for telling the American public that "the war was poorly planned, not planned or not going according to plan."

"Has any war even gone according to plan?" he asked.

"You and I, we owe Josh a debt that we are never, ever going to be able to pay," Mr. Styles said. "But if we are to continue to exist as a nation of free people, that awful, terrible, too high of a price is going to have to be paid. I wish with all my heart that it wasn't so. As you leave here today ... I need you to say, 'Thank you, Marine. Thank you, Lt. Booth. Thanks, Josh.'"



Alma Hart of the American Gold Star Mothers, whose son, Pfc. John D. Hart, was killed Oct. 18, 2003, in Iraq, made an impassioned plea to care for those veterans who are wounded and suffering from post-traumatic stress, before leading a procession to give a service flag to Joshua's mother.

Sen. Stephen M. Brewer, D-Barre, called Joshua a "genuine American hero" who "did not sit in the stands but fought in the field of battle." With the aid of Joe Murray, an 82-year-old Brookfield resident and veteran of the Battle of Iwo Jima, Mr. Brewer presented a flag to the family.

Melissa L. DeVera, Joshua's older sister by seven years, shared some personal reflections of how Joshua was an "amazing" little brother and "a really good dad." In addition, she told the audience that people like Joshua are fighting, as well as sacrificing their lives, for preservation of the American way of life.

"Next time you think about all the freedom that you have, please think of Josh and all the men and women like him who are risking their lives every day," she said. "Please never forget."

After the memorial service, Mr. Booth explained that his son made a decision that a lot of other men and women have made, and said that the least people can do on the home front is give the soldiers support.

"The nation as a whole, not just our military families but our nation, must come out and support the troops any way they can," Mr. Booth said. "Send them letters. Send them care packages. Call somebody who you know has a relative in the war. ... The town of Sturbridge gets it, because they knew Josh growing up."

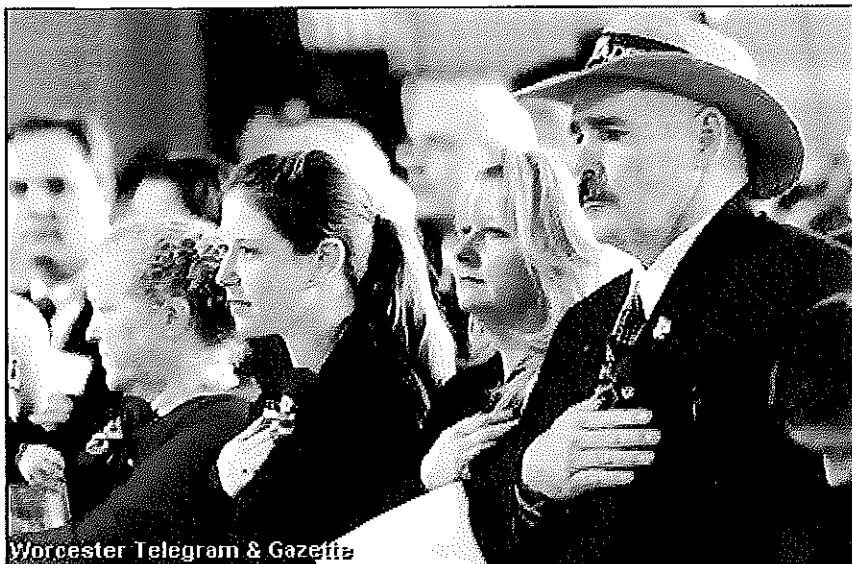
Debra L. Booth said yesterday's memorial service was something she felt deeply, and felt that her son was there in spirit.

Saying that the tribute was "10 times better" than she could have ever imagined, Mrs. Booth praised the efforts of the town of Sturbridge for doing so much for her family and especially in honor of her son.

"They have given me a gold star on the Gold Star Mothers' Monument (in the center of Sturbridge)," Mrs. Booth said. "To know that I've got a place to go and sit and think about my son, because he's buried so far away, is special, and the town did that for me. And they've been kind, and they handled our feelings with respect throughout the whole thing."

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Article published Nov 5, 2006

Nov 5, 2006

Marine's service slated Sturbridge man buried in Va.

By Craig S. Semon TELEGRAM & GAZETTE STAFF

STURBRIDGE— A memorial service for Marine 1st Lt. Joshua L. Booth is slated for 2 p.m. Dec. 2 at the Tantasqua Regional High School field house.

Lt. Booth, 23, of Sturbridge was killed Oct. 17 by a single sniper shot in Haditha, Iraq. He was a platoon leader in the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, Echo Company, deployed in September to Anbar Province. Before his deployment, he had been stationed at the Marine Corps base in Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii.

On Oct. 26, Lt. Booth was buried at Longwood Cemetery in Bedford, Va. At his graveside, he was promoted from second lieutenant to first lieutenant and was awarded the Purple Heart.

The lieutenant was also awarded the National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

Veterans Agent Thomas A. Chamberland said he expects 2,500 people to show up to pay respects to Lt. Booth.

"The town has really lost one of its sons," Mr. Chamberland said. "I think that given the supreme, the ultimate sacrifice that he has paid in service of our country, defending our freedom, it is worthy of us putting forward our best efforts in remembering Josh and, really, in celebrating his life and his commitment to service to our country.

"We'll be telling Josh's story of his commitment to the Marine Corps and his love of being in the military and serving our country. Clearly, his interest in being in the military and serving goes way back when he was a youngster."

Mr. Chamberland said photos from Lt. Booth's life will be projected on a large screen at the service, and guest speakers will give testimonials.

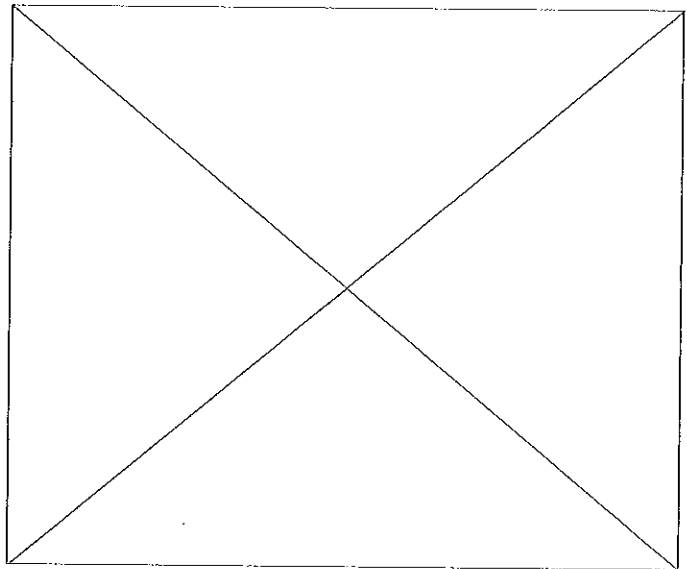
Lt. Booth was born in Virginia and lived in Sturbridge most of his life. He leaves his wife, Erica, and a daughter, Grace, both of Kaneohe Bay; an unborn son, Tristan Joshua Booth; his parents, John E. and Debra L. Booth of Sturbridge; and a sister, Melissa L. DeVera of Fredericksburg, Va.

He was a 2001 graduate of St. John's High School in Shrewsbury.

Lt. Booth is the first Sturbridge resident to die in battle since World War II.

The town is accepting donations for printing, flowers and refreshments for the memorial service. Volunteers are also needed. A meeting for volunteers will be held at 7 p.m. Wednesday at the American Legion Hall, 507 Main St.

Anyone who wants to help may contact Tom Chamberland at tchamberland@town.sturbridge.ma.us or (508) 347-3386, or Town Clerk Lorraine Murawski at lmurawski@town.sturbridge.ma.us or (508) 347-2510.



The town is also collecting items to be sent to the Marines in Lt. Booth's unit in Iraq. Collection boxes have been set up at Town Hall, the Senior Center, the library, the Tri-Community Chamber of Commerce, ReMax Professional Real Estate, Arland Tool & Die Manufacturing, the Sturbridge Curves and American Legion Post 109.

Items may also be brought to the memorial service. A list of needed items is available at each collection site and online at

Sturbridge has set up a memorial fund in the name of Lt. Booth. Contributions will pay for the memorial service and for shipping the collected items to Iraq. Any remaining contributions will be turned over to a trust that is being set up for the lieutenant's children. Checks should be made payable to the Town of Sturbridge and mailed or dropped off at Sturbridge Town Hall, 308 Main St., Sturbridge, MA 01566. "Booth Memorial Fund" should be written on the checks.

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May 29, 2007

Burgess School salutes its own hometown hero

by SEAN REID
NEWS STAFF WRITER

STURBRIDGE —Burgess Elementary School was awash with red, white and blue Friday, as pupils, parents and teachers paid tribute to all fallen soldiers — but also to one of their own.

Long before U.S. Marine 1st Lt. Joshua L. Booth made the ultimate sacrifice serving his country, he spent five years as a pupil at Burgess Elementary School.

Booth, 23, was killed in action Oct. 17 while serving in Hadithah, Iraq. He was buried Oct. 26 in Bedford, Va., his family's home state. The Booths moved to town when their son was 7.

Those in attendance made sure Booth's name will never be forgotten.

State Sen. Stephen M. Brewer, D-Barre, requested the pupils take the time to thank a veteran during the extended weekend.

"When we think of heroes, we think of that pitcher for the Red Sox, Daisuke or that Patriot named Brady," he said. "But the real heroes are the ones who serve our country. The highest honor to show them is to be respectful. When you see a veteran this weekend, look them in the eye and say, 'thank you.' That is the best thing we can do for our veterans."

The school also formally recognized the tree fourth-graders planted on Arbor Day, April 27. The Service Berry tree, donated by National Grid, was planted outside the classroom where Booth was a fourth-grader.

Also called a Shad tree, the Service Berry tree is a medium-sized tree that flowers in the spring, has red berries and leaves turn red-orange in the fall.

Susan Littleton, who taught Booth in the fourth grade, said the tree outside her old classroom is a way to honor the town's first fallen soldier since World War II.

"He was a loyal friend, a true team member and a student that made



Shawn Kelley photo
Debra L. and John "Jack" E. Booth raise a flag in memory of their son, Marine 1st Lt. Joshua L. Booth, during ceremonies at Burgess School Friday. (click for larger version)

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Burgess very proud," said Littleton, now the literary coordinator at the elementary school. "This is a fitting tribute to a wonderful young man."

Selectman William A. Emrich, as well as a Burgess instructor, awarded Booth's parents, John "Jack" E. Booth and Debra L. Booth, a plaque with their son's picture on it. The school will have the same plaque hanging in one of its hallways.

The school also dedicated the book, "America's Presidents," to Booth, as he was a lover of history, according to his parents.

Resident Robert J. Briere was Booth's bus driver. He recalled the time Booth dressed as Robert E. Lee, waiting for the bus to pick him up.

"I used to carry this blonde-haired and blue-eyed boy," he said. "But I'll always remember him as a southern soldier with a white beard as Robert E. Lee. That's the memory of Josh I'll always carry with me."

John Booth said the school's Memorial Day program was one that his son would be proud of.

"The kids did just a wonderful job," he said. "It was just fantastic."

Debra Booth said she knew her son was destined to become a Marine, as it was his lifelong dream.

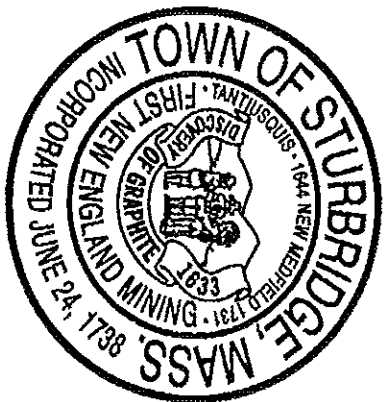
"If he had to do it all over again, I know he would," she said. "It's so nice what these kids did here today. They just did a wonderful job."

News Staff Writer Sean Reid may be reached at (508) 909-4135, or by e-mail at sreid@stonebridgepress.com.

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"Freedom is not Free"

This Bridge Dedicated to

1st Lt. Joshua L. Booth USMC

Who was killed in Iraq on October 17th, 2006,
Who as a child enjoyed fishing the Quinebaug River
from this bridge,
Who is now honored by a grateful community

xxxxxx xth, 2007

To Honor A Sturbridge Marine

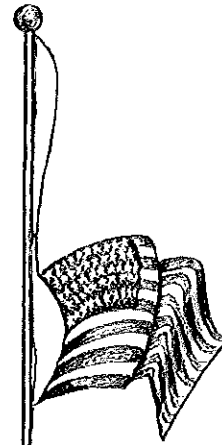
MEMORIAL SERVICE

You are invited to attend a memorial service honoring U.S. Marine Corps 1st Lt. Joshua L. Booth at 2 P.M. tomorrow at the Tantasqua Regional High School Field House. Please consider car pooling.

Welcome are donations of nonperishable supplies for delivery to the 3rd Platoon, Echo Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, which 1st Lt. Booth led. Checks to cover shipping costs should be made payable to Town of Sturbridge, noting Booth Memorial Fund.

1st Lt. Booth's combat death, the first of a son of Sturbridge since World War II, came by a sniper's shot, in Iraq.

Please observe protocol by flying the American flag at half-staff from sunrise to sunset tomorrow.



Selectmen
Arnold P. Wilson, Chairman
William A. Emrich
Edward P. Goodwin
Steven G. Halterman
Harold J. White



Veterans Agent
Thomas A. Chamberland
Town Clerk
Lorraine Murawski
Town Administrator
James J. Malloy

Good afternoon everyone, my name is Thomas Chamberland and I am the director of Veteran services for the Town of Sturbridge and your master of ceremonies for today's memorial service.

"I do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to regulations and the Uniform Code of Military Justice. So help me God."

Those who have had the honor to speak these words and to take this oath belong to a special patriotic fellowship. It is an oath of service that bonds them with the veterans of our past wars and those who will serve in conflict to come.

It is the Oath that Joshua Booth took upon his enlistment in the United States Marine Corps.

And it is because he took this oath that we are here today.

The Family has given us guidance to have this memorial service be about telling Joshua's story. Through friends, family, and our community when you leave here today you will not only know Joshua, but also have a greater understanding of the true meaning of sacrifice and service to your country, and those symbols veterans across our great country hold dear in their hearts.

I would kindly like to ask all of you to observe proper respect during this service.

Please turn off or silence your cell phones now.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

*To Honor
1st Lt. Joshua L. Booth U.S.M.C.
3^d Platoon Leader
Echo Company, 2^d Battalion
3^d Marine Regiment*

(Photo of Josh)

**Tantasqua Regional High School
2 p.m.; December 2, 2006**

JOSHUA LOREN BOOTH
MAY 20, 1983 – OCTOBER 17, 2006

First Lt. Joshua Loren Booth was born May 20, 1983, in Virginia Beach, son of John Edwin "Jack" Booth and Debra Lynne Guell Booth of Sturbridge, Mass. The family moved to Sturbridge in 1990. Josh attended Burgess Elementary School, Tantasqua Jr. High School, and was a 2001 graduate of St. John's High School in Shrewsbury, Mass., where he was on the soccer, football, wrestling and track teams. In 2005 he graduated from The Citadel Military College of South Carolina in Charleston, S.C., where he earned a degree in criminal justice and was a high-scoring member of the pistol team. He was commissioned a second lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps in May of 2005. He then attended TBS, followed by Infantry Officer School in Quantico and was subsequently stationed at the Marine Corps Base in Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii. He was 3rd Platoon leader in Echo Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, which was deployed to the Al Anbar Province, Iraq in September of 2006. He died Tuesday, Oct. 17, 2006, of combat injuries received while on active duty in Haditha. He was commissioned a first lieutenant posthumously.

Josh was a devoted husband and father; a loving son, brother, and uncle, and a proud officer who loved his country and was devoted to his Marines. He leaves his wife, Erica Rust Booth, a daughter, Grace Mackenna Booth, and an unborn son, Tristan Joshua Booth. In addition to his wife, children and parents, 1st Lt. Booth is survived by his sister, Melissa Long DeVera and her husband, Michael, of Fredericksburg; grandparents, Loren James Hanson Guell of Independence, Ohio, and James Edwin "Ed" Booth of Virginia Beach and Bedford; uncles and aunts, retired Col. USMC William Fitzpatrick "Rick" Booth, and his wife, Karen, of Fredericksburg, Blackburn Jordan Booth and his wife, Linda, of Virginia Beach, Robert Blackburn Booth of Greensboro, N.C., David Hanson Guell of St. Cloud, Fla., and Amelia Grace Guell of Independence; nieces and nephews, Nicholas Kyle, Noelle Debra, and Isabella Lauren DeVera, all of Fredericksburg; and cousins, 2nd Lt. William Fitzpatrick Booth Jr., USAF, Thomas Paul Booth of Fredericksburg and Edwin Stuart Booth of Norfolk. His grandmothers, Betty Rogers Guell and Peggy Gentry Booth, preceded him in death.

"Josh loved his country and he believed that we are only here because of people that did what he did. He was committed. He wasn't changing anything."

Jack Booth

"Joshua had a strong sense that he was going to be giving his life for his country. A Marine believes that their name is written in a book on a certain day. Unfortunately, that was his day. We love him. We're proud of him. He supported what he did, so we supported what he did."

Debra Booth

"To the world, he was a soldier. To his family, he was the world."

Sen. Stephen M. Brewer, D-Barre.

Mrs. Booth is spearheading a collection drive for care packages to be sent to the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment in Iraq. Packages can be sent to GZA GeoEnvironmental Inc., 1 Edgewater Drive, Norwood, MA 02062. For more information, send an e-mail to her at dbooth@gza.com.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

**To Honor
1st LT. JOSHUA L. BOOTH U.S.M.C.
3rd Platoon Leader
Echo Company, 2nd Battalion
3rd Marine Regiment**

Master of Ceremonies, Thomas A. Chamberland

Prelude. Photographs of the life of 1st Lt. Joshua L. Booth

**Musical Selection. *For Good*
Tantasqua High School Choraleers**

**Call to Order. Thomas A. Chamberland,
Director Veterans' Services, Town of Sturbridge**

PLEASE STAND

**Entrance. Family of 1st Lt. Joshua L. Booth
Escorted by the Quaboag Highlanders Pipe and Drum Unit,
Members of the Marine Corps League**

**Presentation of Colors. American flags of local and participating organizations
Led by the Sturbridge Patriot Fife and Drum Unit,
Honor Guard Massachusetts State Police,
Marine Corps League Honor Guard**

***The National Anthem.* Led by the Tantasqua High School Choraleers,
St. John's High School Chorus**

***Pledge of Allegiance.* Led by Ms. Lorraine Murawski,
Sturbridge Town Clerk**

**Invocation. Rev. Robert Jackson,
Sturbridge Federated Church**

PLEASE BE SEATED

**Welcome. Mr. Arnold Wilson,
Chair, Sturbridge Board of Selectmen**

Tributes:

- Ms. Susan Littleton, Teacher, Burgess Elementary School**
- Mr. Robert Styles, Teacher, Tantasqua Regional Junior High School**
- Mr. Michael W. Welch, Headmaster, St. John's High School**
- Ms. Jennifer Connors, Gracie's Godmother**

Presentation. The Worcester Division (CL 144) Naval Sea Cadet Corps

**Musical Selection. *An American Tribute*
St. John's High School Chorus**

Tribute:

Madeline Rakip, Classmate, The Citadel; Introduced by John "Jack" Booth

Reflection.....**Rev. Mary Gustafson,
Rector, Holy Trinity Church, Southbridge**

Musical Selection.....*Sing Me to Heaven*
Tantasqua High School Choraleers

Tributes:
**The Honorable Richard Neal, United States House of Representatives
Mr. Thomas Kelley, Secretary, Massachusetts Department of Veterans Services
Lt Col. Robert J. Picknally, Military Officers Association of America
Mr. Todd Smola, Representative, Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

Musical Selection.....*MLK*
Tantasqua High School Choraleers

Video Selection

Tribute:
Mr. Steve Brewer, Senator, Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Musical Selection.....*Marines' Hymn*
**St. John's High School Chorus
(Marines will stand)**

Presentation.....**American Legion Post 109**

Musical Selection.....*Amazing Grace*
Quaboag Highlanders Pipe and Drum Unit

Family Response:
**Mrs. Melissa L. DeVera, sister
Mr. Nicholas De Vera, nephew**

Benediction.....**Rev. Dean McIssac,
Quaboag Valley Baptist Church, Brookfield**

PLEASE STAND

Marine Corps League Ritual.....**State Commandant Richard Gore
Firing Detail and Taps
Presentation of the Eagle, Globe, and Anchor**

Musical Selection.....*Marines' Hymn*
Quaboag Highlanders Pipe and Drum Unit

God Bless America.....**Led by the Tantasqua High School Choraleers,
St. John's High School Chorus**

Departure.....**Family of 1st Lt. Joshua L. Booth
Escorted by the Quaboag Highlanders Pipe and Drum Unit**

Retire the Colors.....**Led by the Sturbridge Patriot Fife and Drum Unit,
Honor Guard Massachusetts State Police,
Marine Corps League Honor Guard**

Assembly Dismissal

Thank you for your participation

Eagle, Globe, and Anchor

The Marine Corps emblem is the Eagle, Globe, and Anchor or EGA. Adopted in its present form in 1868, it derives partially from ornaments worn by the Continental Marines and the British Royal Marines, and is usually topped with a ribbon reading "Semper Fidelis". The eagle stands for a proud country, the globe signifies global service, and the fouled anchor signifies maritime traditions. The eagle is a crested eagle found worldwide, not the bald eagle that appears in other American symbols and is native to North America only. The eagle is standing on the western hemisphere and is holding a scroll with the Marine Corps motto, Semper Fidelis, on it. It is inscribed with gold letters, "Department of the Navy, United States Marine Corps".

The EGA is worn on the Cover of Marines and also on the their uniforms. Normally, during the ritual an EGA is placed on the chest of the deceased veteran at the wake. All active duty Marines who are killed in action or deceased are buried in their uniforms that have the EGA. In the case of Josh, who has already been buried and his family has been presented flags, the parents and widow will be presented with an EGA Cap Ornament as a symbol of the Corps after the ritual.

The rifle, helmet and boots represent a fallen soldier killed or missing in action. The helmet signifies the fallen soldier; the inverted rifle represents a break in the action to pay tribute; and the boots represent the final march into battle.

Gold Star Mothers

Shortly after World War I the Gold Star Mothers Club was formed in the United States to provide support for mothers that lost sons or daughters in the war. The name came from the custom of families of servicemen hanging a banner called a Service Flag in the window of their homes. The Service Flag had a star for each family member in the military. Living servicemen were represented by a Blue Star, and those who had lost their lives were represented by a gold star. Gold Star Mothers are often politically and socially active. Today, membership in the Gold Star Mothers is open to any American woman who has lost a son or daughter in service to the United States.

Sturbridge honors its Gold Star Mothers from WWII in a memorial located in front of the Center School Building, across from Town Hall. Gold Star Mothers Day is celebrated on the last Sunday in September.

IN APPRECIATION

On behalf of our entire family, we wish to express our sincere gratitude for your many kindnesses in thought and deed, and for your attendance at the service. We also want to specifically extend a big "thank you" to those many individuals who donated time and effort to make this celebration of Josh's life so very special.

THE BOOTH FAMILY

OATH OF ENLISTMENT

The oath that one takes upon enlistment is:

*“I do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to regulations and the Uniform Code of Military Justice.
So help me God.”*

[suggest graphic of Eagle, Globe and Anchor; please use the one for officers (as opposed to the one for enlisted men)]

MEMORIAL SERVICE

To Honor

1ST LT. JOSHUA L. BOOTH U.S.M.C.

3RD Platoon Leader

Echo Company, 2ND Battalion

3RD Marine Regiment

Master of Ceremonies, Thomas A. Chamberland

Prelude. Still Here

Musical Selection. *For Good*

Tantasqua High School Choraleers

During this the MCL sets out fallen soldier items

Call to Order. Thomas A. Chamberland,

Director Veterans' Services, Town of Sturbridge

PLEASE STAND

Entrance. Family of 1ST Lt. Joshua L. Booth

Escorted by the Quaboag Highlanders Pipe and Drum Unit,

Members of the Marine Corps League

Presentation of Colors. American flags of local and participating organizations

Led by the Sturbridge Patriot Fife and Drum Unit,

Honor Guard Massachusetts State Police,

Marine Corps League Honor Guard

Hand salute when colors enter, order post,

***The National Anthem.* Led by the St. John's High School Chorus**

Order Too

Musical Selection. *Marines' Hymn* St. John's High School Chorus

Order hand salute

***Pledge of Allegiance* Led by Ms. Lorraine Murawski, Sturbridge Town**

Clerk

Order Too

Invocation. Rev. Robert Jackson, Sturbridge Federated Church

PLEASE BE SEATED

Welcome.....Mr. Arnold Wilson,
Chair, Sturbridge Board of Selectmen

Tributes:

Ms. Susan Littleton, Teacher, Burgess Elementary School
Mr. Jerry Styles, Teacher, Tantasqua Regional Junior High School
Mr. Ladd Lavallee/Jerry Stanisz, Wrestling Coaches, St John's
Mr. Michael W. Welch, Headmaster, St. John's High School
Ms. Jennifer Connors, Gracie's Godmother

Presentation.....The Worcester Division (CL 144) Naval Sea
Cadet Corps

Musical Selection..... *An American Tribute*
St. John's High School Chorus

Tribute:

Madeline Rakip, Classmate, The Citadel; Introduced by John "Jack" Booth
— 2nd Lt *TIN NUQUON*

Reflection.....Rev. Mary Gustafson,
Rector, Holy Trinity Church, Southbridge

Musical Selection..... *Sing Me to Heaven*
Tantasqua High School Choraleers

Tributes:

The Honorable Richard Neal, United States House of Representatives
Mr. Thomas Kelley, Secretary, Massachusetts Department of Veterans
Services
Lt Col. Robert J. Picknally, Military Officers Association of America
Mr. Todd Smola, Representative, Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Musical Selection..... *MLK*
Tantasqua High School Choraleers

Presentation..... American Legion Post 109
Thomas A. Chamberland, Commander

Mrs Alma Hart, Gold star Mother, Mrs Rose Annese & _____ Blue
Star Mother, Ms Tara Flannery Adjutant Post 109, Sr Vice Comnd Bruce Lindsay , Post 109

Tribute:

Mr. Steve Brewer, Senator, Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**Video Selection. Photographs Joshua L. Booth
as prepared by Lorraine Murawski and Bob Belanger**

**Musical Selection. *Amazing Grace*
Quaboag Highlanders Pipe and Drum Unit**

Family Response:

Mrs. Melissa L. DeVera, sister

Mr. Nicholas De Vera, nephew

**Benediction. Rev. Dean McIssac,
Quaboag Valley Baptist Church, Brookfield**

PLEASE STAND

**Marine Corps League Ritual. State Commandant Richard Gore
Firing Detail and Taps
Presentation of the Eagle, Globe, and Anchor**

**Musical Selection. *Marines' Hymn*
Quaboag Highlanders Pipe and Drum Unit**

***God Bless America.* led by the Tantasqua High School Choraleers,
St. John's High School Chorus**

**Departure. Family of 1st Lt. Joshua L. Booth
Escorted by the Quaboag Highlanders Pipe and Drum Unit**

**Retire the Colors. Led by the Sturbridge Patriot Fife and Drum Unit,
Honor Guard Massachusetts State Police,
Marine Corps League Honor Guard**

Order, color guard retire the colors, hand salute, too, as appropriate

Assembly Dismissal

Veterans' Services

Mass.Gov

November 20, 2006

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Thomas G. Kelley - Secretary of Veterans Services

Veterans

Search

Thomas G. Kelley was born and raised in Boston. After graduating from Boston College High, he attended the College of the Holy Cross, graduating in 1960. Secretary Kelley entered Navy Officer Candidate School and spent the next thirty years as a Surface Warfare Officer, with several tours in Destroyers and staff duty in Washington, Japan, and Korea. He retired from the Navy in 1990, worked for the Defense Department as a civilian for a short time before returning to Boston.

He was sworn in as Commissioner of the Department of Veterans' Services in April 1999 and as Secretary in August 2003.

Secretary Kelley is a Vietnam veteran and a recipient of the Medal of Honor and the Purple Heart.

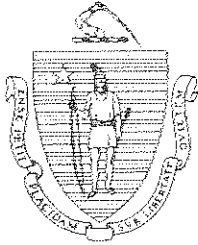
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COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS SENATE
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1083

SENATOR STEPHEN M. BREWER

WORCESTER, HAMPDEN,
HAMPSHIRE AND FRANKLIN
DISTRICT
ROOM 108B
TEL. (617) 722-1540
FAX (617) 722-1078

Stephen.Brewer@massmail.state.ma.us

COMMITTEES:

BILLS IN THIRD READING, (CHAIR)
VETERANS AND FEDERAL AFFAIRS, (CHAIR)
PUBLIC SAFETY AND HOMELAND SECURITY, (VICE-CHAIR)

WAYS AND MEANS
ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURE

November 13, 2006

Mr. Tom Chamberlain
Veterans Services Officer
308 Main Street
Sturbridge, MA 01566

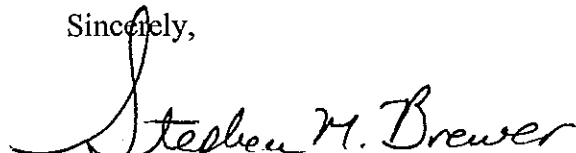
Dear Mr. Chamberlain:

I am writing relative to the memorial ceremony for Second Lieutenant Joshua Booth on December 2, 2006.

I wish to inform you that I have contacted Colonel Mark Delaney, Superintendent for the Massachusetts State Police, to invite the Massachusetts State Police Color Guard to perform at the ceremony (see enclosed). I have asked that he contact me directly and I will notify you with his response.

It is a pleasure to serve the Town of Sturbridge in the matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me should I be of further assistance.

Sincerely,


STEPHEN M. BREWER
State Senator

SMB/ab
Enclosure



Town of Sturbridge

James J. Malloy, Town Administrator

Email: jmalloy@town.sturbridge.ma.us

December 7, 2006

LCDR Michael Campbell, NSCC
Director NSCC Region 1-2
9 Pond Road
Canton, CT 06019

RE: Lt. Booth Memorial

Dear Mr. Campbell:

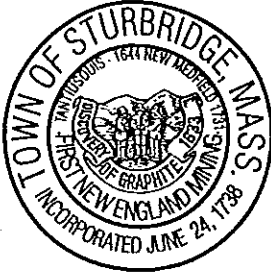
On behalf of the Town of Sturbridge, please accept this letter as a personal thank you for your participation in the memorial service for Lt. Booth. Sturbridge had not had a resident killed in action since World War II and as our Veteran's Agent worked to develop an appropriate program to honor Lt. Booth, your assistance in developing and participating in the program were very much appreciated.

Again, thank you for your assistance, it was very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

James J. Malloy
Town Administrator

Cc: Tom Chamberland, Sturbridge Veteran's Agent



Town of Sturbridge

James J. Malloy, Town Administrator
Email: jmalloy@town.sturbridge.ma.us

December 7, 2006

LCDR Gerard Lamoureux USNR
Commanding Officer Navy Operational Support Center
640 Plantation Street
Worcester, MA 01605

RE: Lt. Booth Memorial

Dear Mr. Lamoureux:

On behalf of the Town of Sturbridge, please accept this letter as a personal thank you for your participation in the memorial service for Lt. Booth. Sturbridge had not had a resident killed in action since World War II and as our Veteran's Agent worked to develop an appropriate program to honor Lt. Booth, your assistance in developing and participating in the program were very much appreciated.

Again, thank you for your assistance, it was very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

James J. Malloy
Town Administrator

Cc: Tom Chamberland, Sturbridge Veteran's Agent



Town of Sturbridge

James J. Malloy, Town Administrator
Email: jmalloy@town.sturbridge.ma.us

December 7, 2006

LCDR George Dimock, NSCC
Director, NSCC Region 1-4
727 North Underwood Street
Fall River, MA 02720


RE: Lt. Booth Memorial

Dear Mr. Dimock:

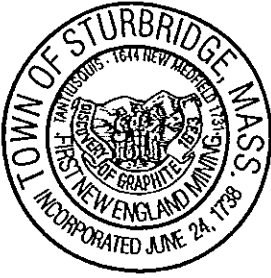
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Again, thank you for your assistance, it was very much appreciated.

Sincerely,


James J. Malloy
Town Administrator

Cc: Tom Chamberland, Sturbridge Veteran's Agent



Town of Sturbridge

James J. Malloy, Town Administrator
Email: jmalloy@town.sturbridge.ma.us

December 7, 2006

Robert DeLong
288 Pleasant Street
Southbridge, MA 01550

RE: Lt. Booth Memorial

Dear Mr. DeLong:

On behalf of the Town of Sturbridge, please accept this letter as a personal thank you for your participation in the memorial service for Lt. Booth. Sturbridge had not had a resident killed in action since World War II and as our Veteran's Agent worked to develop an appropriate program to honor Lt. Booth, your assistance in developing and participating in the program were very much appreciated.

Again, thank you for your assistance, it was very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

James J. Malloy
Town Administrator

Cc: Tom Chamberland, Sturbridge Veteran's Agent



Town of Sturbridge

James J. Malloy, Town Administrator
Email: jmalloy@town.sturbridge.ma.us

December 7, 2006

Kenneth Julien
11 Fiske Hill Road
Sturbridge, MA 01566

RE: Lt. Booth Memorial

Dear Ken:

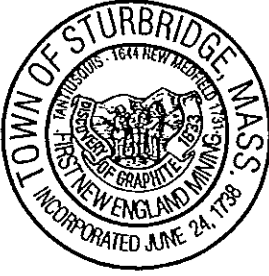
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Again, thank you for your assistance, it was very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

James J. Malloy
Town Administrator

Cc: Tom Chamberland, Sturbridge Veteran's Agent



Town of Sturbridge

James J. Malloy, Town Administrator
Email: jmalloy@town.sturbridge.ma.us

December 7, 2006

Sebastiano Cipro
P.O. Box 336
Southbridge, MA 01550

RE: Lt. Booth Memorial

Dear Mr. Cipro:

On behalf of the Town of Sturbridge, please accept this letter as a personal thank you for your participation in the memorial service for Lt. Booth. Sturbridge had not had a resident killed in action since World War II and as our Veteran's Agent worked to develop an appropriate program to honor Lt. Booth, your assistance in developing and participating in the program were very much appreciated.

Again, thank you for your assistance, it was very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

James J. Malloy
Town Administrator

Cc: Tom Chamberland, Sturbridge Veteran's Agent



Town of Sturbridge

James J. Malloy, Town Administrator
Email: jmalloy@town.sturbridge.ma.us

December 7, 2006

David Olsen
P.O. Box 793
Ware, MA 01082

RE: Lt. Booth Memorial

Dear Mr. Olsen:

On behalf of the Town of Sturbridge, please accept this letter as a personal thank you for your participation in the memorial service for Lt. Booth. Sturbridge had not had a resident killed in action since World War II and as our Veteran's Agent worked to develop an appropriate program to honor Lt. Booth, your assistance in developing and participating in the program were very much appreciated.

Again, thank you for your assistance, it was very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

James J. Malloy
Town Administrator

Cc: Tom Chamberland, Sturbridge Veteran's Agent



Town of Sturbridge

James J. Malloy, Town Administrator
Email: jmalloy@town.sturbridge.ma.us

December 7, 2006

John Rice
188 Colburn Avenue
Worcester, MA 01604

RE: Lt. Booth Memorial

Dear Mr. Rice:

On behalf of the Town of Sturbridge, please accept this letter as a personal thank you for your participation in the memorial service for Lt. Booth. Sturbridge had not had a resident killed in action since World War II and as our Veteran's Agent worked to develop an appropriate program to honor Lt. Booth, your assistance in developing and participating in the program were very much appreciated.

Again, thank you for your assistance, it was very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

James J. Malloy
Town Administrator

Cc: Tom Chamberland, Sturbridge Veteran's Agent



Town of Sturbridge

James J. Malloy, Town Administrator
Email: jmalloy@town.sturbridge.ma.us

December 7, 2006

Robert White
20 Williams Street
Lowell, MA 01852


RE: Lt. Booth Memorial

Dear Mr. White:

On behalf of the Town of Sturbridge, please accept this letter as a personal thank you for your participation in the memorial service for Lt. Booth. Sturbridge had not had a resident killed in action since World War II and as our Veteran's Agent worked to develop an appropriate program to honor Lt. Booth, your assistance in developing and participating in the program were very much appreciated.

Again, thank you for your assistance, it was very much appreciated.

Sincerely,



James J. Malloy
Town Administrator

Cc: Tom Chamberland, Sturbridge Veteran's Agent



Town of Sturbridge

James J. Malloy, Town Administrator

Email: jmalloy@town.sturbridge.ma.us

December 7, 2006

Richard Gore
57 Katherine Avenue
Danielson, CT 06239

RE: Lt. Booth Memorial

Dear Mr. Gore:

On behalf of the Town of Sturbridge, please accept this letter as a personal thank you for your participation in the memorial service for Lt. Booth. Sturbridge had not had a resident killed in action since World War II and as our Veteran's Agent worked to develop an appropriate program to honor Lt. Booth, your assistance in developing and participating in the program were very much appreciated.

Again, thank you for your assistance, it was very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

James J. Malloy
Town Administrator


Cc: Tom Chamberland, Sturbridge Veteran's Agent



Town of Sturbridge

James J. Malloy, Town Administrator
Email: jmalloy@town.sturbridge.ma.us

MEMORANDUM

TO: ✓ Tom Chamberland, Veteran's Agent
Lorraine Murawski, Town Clerk
FROM: Jim Malloy, Town Administrator 
DATE: December 4, 2006
RE: Joshua Booth Memorial
CC: Board of Selectmen

I want to take this opportunity to recognize the effort both of you put forth in developing the memorial program for Joshua Booth this past Saturday. I believe you both did an outstanding job in showing the Booth family that the community cared about their loss and shared in their grief. It was a fitting tribute that I am sure made everyone that attended think hard about the sacrifices that are being made all over the country by similar families and communities.

On behalf of the Board of Selectmen and myself, I just wanted to let you know that your efforts reflected the best of what our community is about.

Thank you.