

*MEMORIAL SERVICE*

*To Honor*

*1st Lt. Joshua L. Booth U.S.M.C.*

*3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon Leader*

*Echo Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion*

*3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Regiment*



**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 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon leader in Echo Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:dbooth@gza.com).

### **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.”*



**Dedicated to the memory of Joshua Booth**  
Attended Tantasqua Jr. High School 1995-1997  
Graduated from St. John's High School 2001  
Died while serving with the Marine Corps in Iraq 2006

**May 25, 2007**

**Memorial Day Ceremony**

*Brimfield – Brookfield – Holland – Sturbridge – Wales*

**Tantasqua Regional Junior High School**

Presented by the eighth grade class  
of  
Tantasqua Regional Junior High School



## **PROGRAM**



**Wind Ensemble- “Semper Liberi (We Will Always Be Free)” by Robert W. Smith  
(Veterans march into the gymnasium)**

**Welcome and Pledge of Allegiance**

- **Daniel Durgin, Superintendent**

**Recognition of Service in the Armed Forces (Veterans, please stand if you wish)**

- **Theodore Friend, Principal**

**Air Force  
Marines**

**Army  
Navy**

**Coast Guard  
National Guard**

**Band Selection- “American Heroes- A Salute to the Armed Forces”**

**Arranged by Carl Strommen**

- **Narration by Theodore Friend, Principal**
- **Lucy Colwell-Snyder, Band Director**

**Dedication of program and presentation of plant in memory of Joshua Booth**

- **Michael Lucas**

**Choral Selection- “We Are America” by Kirby Shaw**

- **Performed by the Select Chorus**
- **Christine Costello, Choral Director**

**Readings- Patriotic Prose and Poetry**

- **Introduction by Robert Wellspring, Vice Principal**

**Band Selection- “Ballad and Dance” by Jahn timer Vinson**

**“Landing in the Face of the Enemy” – Thoughts on “My War”**

- **Robert Mac-Williams**

**“Yankee Doodle Dandy” -Trumpet solo played by Mr. Mac-Williams**

**Guest Speakers**

**“Amazing Grace” -Played by Conor Fabrycki, Ryan Fabrycki, Jeff Hastings, and  
Brandon Aquadro**

**“Gettysburg Address”**

- Recited by Robert Briere**

**“Taps” Played by William Jones & Dhruv Srinivasachar**

**Conclusion and Band Selection– “America the Beautiful” arranged by James Swearingen  
“On the Wings of an Eagle” by Douglas Wagner**