



In Memory of

Kyle E. Morrison

Class of 2003

4 December 1984 - 1 May 2004

Kyle Morrison Kyle E. Morrison, age 19, of Eau Claire died suddenly on Saturday due to a car accident in Windsor, New Jersey.

Kyle was born on December 4, 1984, to Mike and Joline (Parsonneault) Morrison. Kyle was a 2003 graduate of Memorial High School. After graduation, Kyle enlisted in the Marine Corps and was a member of Special Forces 3rd FAST Company (Fleet , Anti Terrorism Security Team) in Yorktown, Va. He was proud to serve his country and truly valued the support of his military family. Kyle was loved by his family and will be greatly missed.

He is survived by his parents, Joline and Mike; sister, Lauren; grandmothers, Alma Freeman of Tucson, Ariz., and Mary Morrison of Ocean Park, Wash.; aunts and uncles, Judy (John) Swanson, Donna (Bob) Ellis, Tom (Ellen) Parsonneault, Larry (Sal) Morrison and Marie (Rick) Bramlett; best 1 friend, Zak Marshall; many cousins and friends. He was preceded in death by his grandfathers, Ernest Parsonneault and Bud Morrison.

The last year of PFC. Kyle Morrison's life was the toughest. It may have been best, his parents say. Morrison, 19, was pursuing his childhood dream of serving in the U.S. Marines. Morrison, who died Saturday in a traffic accident, left of boot camp last June after graduating from Memorial High School.

"He thought being in the Marines was very difficult, but he was very proud of what he was doing," said his mother, Joline Morrison.

His parents saw profound changes in their son, who had faltered academically in high school. Joining the Marines cured Kyle's teenaged slouch, said his father, Mike Morrison. It also instilled in him maturity, respect for authority and an intense camaraderie with his fellow Marines, his father said.

"I can't begin to express how proud we were of our son this past year" he said Monday from the family's home south of Eau Claire. While the Morrisons contemplated the dangers Kyle could face if sent into combat, nothing prepared them for a middle-of-the-night knock on the door Saturday.

They were told Kyle had died in a crash early Saturday morning on the New Jersey Turnpike. He and two Marine friends, one of whom was from New Jersey, were on leave from their base in Virginia. According to the Morrison family and reports in New Jersey newspapers, the Marines' Jeep Wrangler collided with a minivan. Both vehicles rolled over, and the three Marines were thrown from the vehicle.

Morrison was pronounced dead at the scene. The driver, Jordan Roman, 20, of Elizabeth, N.J., lost a leg. Witnesses said he might have fallen asleep while driving. The other passenger, Matthew Ebbert, 21, of Glendale, Ariz., suffered spinal injuries.

None of the Marines were wearing seat belts. "In spite of all that training, they're still just kids and they think they're going to live for- ever," Mike Morrison said.

While the Morrisons were worried about the possibility Kyle could go to Iraq, the young Marine wasn't, even though at least two men he'd trained with already had died there. "He actually felt guilty that ; he was still here" Mike Morrison said.

Kyle and his best friend, Zak Marshall-Potter, decided to join the Marines when they were sixth-graders at South Middle School. The boys were inseparable growing up and often walked the six miles between each other's houses, said Veronica Marshall-Potter, Zak's mother. She described Kyle as a polite, well-mannered young man.

Marshall-Potter entered basic training a month before Kyle, but the two recently were reunited while training in Virginia as part of a Fleet Anti- Terrorism Security Team. FAST members are trained to secure installations like U.S. embassies and undergo training such as rappelling from helicopters, house-to-house fighting and evacuation, the Morrisons said.

Kyle Morrison is survived by his parents, both professors in the Management Information Systems program at UW-Eau Claire, and his sister Lauren, a 17-year-old Memorial High School junior.