



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY JROTC BATTALION
PRINCE GEORGE HIGH SCHOOL
7801 LAUREL SPRING ROAD
PRINCE GEORGE, VA 23875**

MEMORANDUM TO: PRINCE GEORGE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

8 FEB 18

Mr. Alan R. Carmichael
Mr. Donald Hunter
Mr. Floyd M. Brown Jr.
Mrs. Marlene Waymack
Mr. T. J. Webb
Mr. Percy C. Ashcraft, County Administrator

SUBJECT: Naming of the "A" Avenue traffic circle adjacent to Ft Lee, VA after Captain Jesse A. Ozbat, (U.S. Army).

Army Captain Jesse A. Ozbat was killed on May 20th, 2012, while serving in Tarin Kowt, Afghanistan. He died of wounds suffered when enemy forces attacked their unit with an improvised explosive device. He was assigned to the 168th Brigade Support Battalion, 214 Fires Brigade, Fort Sill, OK.


At Prince George High School he was a member of the Junior ROTC unit for four years and upon his graduation from Virginia State University earned his commission as a U.S. Army Officer.

The funeral service for Captain Ozbat was held at the Fort Lee Memorial Chapel on June 2nd 2012, and internment with full military honors at Blanford Cemetery in Petersburg, VA.

The death of Captain Ozbat 'stunned' this military community. The impact of his death reached many individuals and was covered extensively in the local media.

As a tribute to one of our 'local sons', I firmly believe that it is most appropriate to recognize his service and sacrifice to this nation by naming the "A" Avenue traffic circle "Ozbat Circle" in honor of this fallen soldier.

I ask on behalf of the Prince George and Fort Lee communities that the Board of Supervisors approve this recommendation and take the necessary steps to submit an official request to the appropriate state agencies for any subsequent actions.


ALVIN S. CHANDLER
LTC, US ARMY (RETIRED)
SENIOR ARMY INSTRUCTOR
PRINCE GEORGE HIGH SCHOOL

NOTE: Included is an article from the Prince George Journal following Memorial Day in 2012 reference the death of Capt. Ozbat.

» OUR OPINION

The death of Capt. Jesse Ozbat

Most Memorial Day ceremonies are an emotional, heartfelt experience as we honor those who have fallen or otherwise sacrificed in defending our nation.

But this past Memorial Day was particularly poignant for the residents of Prince George County. Just days before, a Prince George High School graduate was killed in action in Afghanistan. The turnout at the Prince George Regional Heritage Center's annual Memorial Day observance was at a record high.

Less than a week after Memorial Day, the community gathered again to honor one of their own as Army Capt. Jesse Ozbat was laid to rest. Family and friends of 28-year-old Army captain gathered at Fort Lee's Memorial Chapel to not just mourn the loss of a stellar man, but to celebrate his life and remember the qualities that made him special.

Ozbat died of injuries sustained May 20 while deployed to Afghanistan when a roadside bomb exploded. Ozbat died with 2nd Lt. Tobias C. Alexander, 30, of Lawton, Okla., in the attack. Ozbat was in his second deployment, having served a 15-month tour in Iraq beginning in 2009.

Ozbat came from a military family and was born in Cairo, Mich., on Feb. 21, 1984. Jesse's father, a retired Army first sergeant, was transferred to several duty stations while Jesse was growing up.

Aaron Ozbat described his son as having honor and integrity even before joining the Army. As a student at Prince George High School, Ozbat had decided to participate in the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps program. When he started in the program, Aaron told his son that he didn't have to participate.



OZBAT

"I told him I wore the uniform so that he wouldn't have to," Aaron said. "Jesse told me 'I want to do my part. I want to stand for freedom. I want to wear the uniform so my little brother doesn't have to.' Jesse reiterated this to me in our last conversation before he left for Afghanistan."

After graduating from Prince George High School, Jesse enrolled in Virginia State University and continued to participate in the Reserve Officer Training Corps program. He was commissioned in 2006 through the university's Trojan Warrior Battalion.

Lamont Edwards, a classmate of Jesse Ozbat's from both Prince George High School and Virginia State University, described a friend who so wanted to be a soldier. "I was excited to see that you held on to your dreams of becoming a soldier. I'm sure that now you made it to the promised land."

Edwards added that his friend also put the "soul in soldier."

Jesse's faith was something his father also described in detail, talking about how Jesse took a daily devotional his uncle had used in the Panama Canal Zone in 1941 with him when he recently deployed to Afghanistan.


The support of the area was obvious during the funeral as the Patriot Guard, an organization primarily of motorcyclists that provides honor guards for the funerals of soldiers, rode with the motorcade from the Fort Lee Memorial Chapel to Blandford Cemetery in Petersburg where Ozbat was laid to rest.

Along the route, soldiers, firefighters, police and others from the community showed their respect to Ozbat with roadside displays including American flags and signs showing support for both Ozbat and his family.

At the cemetery Ozbat received a three-volley salute and a bugler played Taps. Solemnly, seven soldiers then folded the flag that had draped his casket and presented it to Ozbat's widow, Danielle T. Ozbat. A second flag was presented to his mother, Cynthia A. Ozbat.

While Prince George County residents and the Ozbat family have suffered a terrible loss, both can be comforted with the thought that we have sacrificed one of our finest on what Abraham Lincoln described as the "altar of freedom."

We will continue to remember Capt. Jesse Ozbat, his sense of integrity and duty. And we will remember his sacrifice. His death so close to the Memorial Day holiday is a reminder of the sacrifices so many have made. And now that sacrifice has come oh so close to home.



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