



"When Monti ran out ... to try and save his fellow Soldier, he did it fully knowing the tremendous danger involved ... but did so anyway out of the love for a fellow Soldier and friend. Sergeant First Class Monti is the bravest and most courageous person I shall ever know, a hero in every aspect of the word." - Staff Sergeant John Hawes, 10th Mountain Division

On Thursday, 17 September, 2009 I was given the distinct honor of attending the presentation of the Congressional Medal of Honor to the family of Sergeant 1st Class (SFC) Jared Monti. The following day, I was present when SFC Monti was inducted into Pentagon's Hall of Heroes. I was present because SFC Monti was one of my Soldiers when I served as the Command Sergeant Major for the 10th Mountain Division.

On 21 June, 2006 then Staff Sergeant (SSG) Monti became the first Soldier to earn the Medal of Honor for Operation Enduring Freedom. He did so during an intense firefight in Afghanistan, when he ran through intense enemy fire while making three attempts to rescue one of his Soldiers; Private First Class (PFC) Brian J. Bradbury, who lay injured and exposed to enemy fire on an open plateau. A rocket-propelled grenade ended his third attempt, mortally wounding SSG Monti, just yards from PFC Bradbury.

SFC Monti's actions on a mountain in Afghanistan are certainly above and beyond the Army Values and the Soldier's Creed. He displayed **LOYALTY** to his fellow Soldiers by repeatedly placing his own life at risk in an attempt to save a member of his unit. SFC Monti was also fulfilling his **DUTY** to a Soldier under his leadership. PFC Bradbury was his responsibility, and SFC Monti was willing to place his own life at risk to save him.

His act of **SELFLESS SERVICE**, placing the welfare of a fellow Soldier before his own, is best summed up by former Secretary of the Army Pete Geren – "For Jared, it wasn't complicated. PFC Bradbury needed help, and he was going to help him, an act so extraordinary for the rest of us, we recognize it with the Medal of Honor, but for those who knew Jared, it was just 'Jared being Jared.'"

SFC Monti lived up to all the Army Values. His dedication and commitment to his fellow Soldiers is best summed up by an 18 September 2009 Army News Service article, "all his Soldiers knew Monti would do anything for them - he gave up his leave so they could spend Christmas with their families and once donated his kitchen table to a Soldier whose kids were eating off the floor..."

SFC Jared Monti died a hero, but he lived the life of an American Soldier. To quote Vice Chief of the Army Gen. Peter W. Chiarelli, "every Soldier ... knows and understands the Army values of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage... Sergeant First Class Monti not only knew these values, he lived them every single day. And, on that last day, he demonstrated to the young Soldiers in his patrol exactly what those values mean in a difficult and dangerous environment."

I can personally testify that SFC Monti was a Soldier's Soldier. I witnessed his dedication and professionalism and found him to be an excellent leader and an outstanding NCO. SFC Monti was a Warrior. His actions stand as a permanent reminder to his fellow Warriors of what it means to be an American Soldier.

SECURE THE HIGH GROUND!