

We Stand on the Shoulders of Giants: Honoring the Heroes of Women's Suffrage in Connecticut



Photo from the Harris & Ewing Collection Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division
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*Grace Thompson Seton (center) and
Connecticut Woman Suffrage Association members
with petition to Congress, May 1914*

Ninety years ago, the Connecticut Woman Suffrage Association (CWSA) disbanded. With the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, the right to vote was finally in the hands of women. With their main objective accomplished, CWSA leaders embraced a new goal of providing nonpartisan information and training to voters. On January 18, 1921, the Connecticut League of Women Voters was founded. The fight for suffrage was a long one, and there were countless heroes along the way. Here, we honor just a handful of the many Connecticut women who blazed the trail that led to the vote.

Isabella Beecher Hooker, born in Litchfield in 1822, founded the CWSA in 1869 after organizing the first Connecticut convention on the issue of suffrage for women. She was influenced by the famous Smith sisters of Glastonbury, who refused

to pay property taxes to a town that would not let them vote on how that money would be spent. Abigail Hadassah Smith and Julia S

mith Parker's case drew the attention of the national suffrage movement, and, in 1870, Hooker introduced in the Connecticut General Assembly a bill that would grant women the same property rights as men. She requested and advocated for the bill every year until it became law in 1877, one year before the last Smith sister would pass away. Hooker, the sister of author Harriet Beecher Stowe, died in Hartford in 1907.

In 1910, Katharine Houghton Hepburn (1878–1951) of Hartford was elected President of the CWSA. Hepburn, mother of the actress by the same name, was a fervent supporter of women's rights in areas beyond the vote, including amelioration of working conditions for women and women's access to birth control. During her presidency, she became the voice of women's rights in Connecticut, publishing a large volume of letters that responded to critics of suffrage, called for better pay and working hours for women, and exposed white slave traffic in Hartford. Under Hepburn's stewardship, the CWSA's membership grew from 300 in 1910 to 38,000 in 1917.

Grace Thompson Seton (1872–1959) of Greenwich served as Vice President and as President of the CWSA between 1910 and 1920. In 1914, she was key to organizing a suffrage parade in Hartford with upwards of 1400 participants from across the state—at the time the largest number of women to ever march on the city. Seton personally designed the banners that were carried in the parade. During the First World War, she used her suffrage connections to organize a

women's motorcade. The motorcade worked in conjunction with the Red Cross to transport food to medical tents that had been established on the French front. Hundreds of women applied to become drivers. Following the passage of the 19th Amendment, Seton became a famous adventurer and author, traveling to places like China, Egypt, and Latin America.

Josephine Bennett (1880–1961) of Hartford ran as the Citizens' Party candidate for Secretary of the State of Connecticut in 1918, two years before women would be allowed the vote. She was also one of the founding members of the Connecticut chapter of the NAACP, and an officer of the CWSA. Bennett was one of several members of the National Women's Party arrested in front of the White House on January 8, 1919, for burning President Wilson's speeches. Suffragists had been picketing there since 1917 because they felt that Wilson was dragging his feet on the 19th Amendment, which had failed before Congress several times without clear support from the President. Jailed for five days after refusing to pay a five dollar fine, Bennett, like others imprisoned during the two-year picketing campaign, continued her protest with a hunger strike. The national attention drawn by this incident added to mounting pressure in Washington, and on June 4 of that year, the amendment finally passed Congress. As the Farmer-Labor Party's U.S. Senate candidate for the November 1920 election, Bennett became one of the first women to run for national office.

Katharine Ludington (1869–1953) of Old Lyme was President of the CWSA in 1920 when women finally won the right to vote. Beginning in 1919 with the passage of the 19th Amendment, she led a public campaign through newspapers and radio to call the Connecticut General Assembly into special session for the purpose of ratification. It would take until



Clockwise from top:

*Isabella Beecher Hooker (1841)*¹

*Josephine Bennett (1917)*²

Photo by Harris & Ewing

*Katharine Houghton Hepburn (1920)*³

Photo by Bachrach

*Katharine Ludington (c. 1917)*⁴

¹ Image of Isabella Beecher Hooker courtesy of the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center, Hartford CT.

² Harris & Ewing Collection, Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division, Reproduction Number LC-DIG-hec-09618.

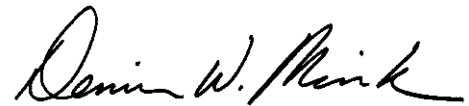
³ Photo of Mrs. Thomas (Katharine) Hepburn, courtesy of Bachrach Photographers, Philadelphia PA.

⁴ Records of the Connecticut Woman Suffrage Association, State Archives, Connecticut State Library, Hartford, RG 101, Box 13 Portrait Folder.

September of the following year before her efforts succeeded, and only after three separate votes. After 1920, Ludington held various offices in the new Connecticut League of Women Voters as well as in the national League. Her fiscal plan for Connecticut's league was so successful that the national organization also used it. The Ludington Plan was crucial to establishing a firm foundation for the national organization as well as the state organization.

Today, the Connecticut League of Women Voters continues to play an important role in politics and the voting process by encouraging informed and active participation in government. On the 90th anniversary of the founding of this important organization, we honor those women whose decades of work made its existence a reality. In order to achieve their goal, Katharine H. Hepburn, Grace Seton, Josephine Bennett, and Katharine Ludington stood upon the shoulders of earlier suffrage heroes like Isabella Beecher Hooker and the Smith sisters, who never lived to see their dream come to fruition. Today, all Connecticut women stand upon the shoulders of these suffragist heroes every time we reach for a ballot.

In recognition of this enduring legacy, I am honored to dedicate the 2011 edition of the *Connecticut State Register and Manual* to Isabella Beecher Hooker, the Smith sisters, Katharine H. Hepburn, Grace Seton, Josephine Bennett, Katharine Ludington, and the countless unnamed heroic Connecticut women who struggled to secure the right to vote for themselves and for those who came after them.



Secretary of the State
Denise W. Merrill



Helena Hill Weed (left) of Norwalk served a 3 day sentence in July 1917 at a Washington, D.C. prison for picketing in front of the White House, carrying a banner reading, "Governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed."

Below, college representatives picket the White House in February of the same year.



National Woman's Party Records
Library of Congress Manuscript Division
Reproduction Number: LC-USZ62-31799

To Know the Hearts of Champions



Photo Courtesy of UConn Athletics

2010-2011 UConn Huskies Men's Basketball Team

On Saturday March 5, 2011, with a packed house at Gampel Pavilion at UCONN, the 16th ranked Huskies men's basketball team played a closely fought contest against Notre Dame, ranked 8th in the nation. It was the regular season finale, and the UCONN men overcame a 10-point deficit in the 2nd half of the game by scoring 15 unanswered points to go up by a score of 65-60 with just 4:24 left to play in the game. Not a bad position to be in, playing against one of the better teams in the Big East Conference, which is full of the best teams in the country. But victory would not belong to the Huskies that day. Notre Dame closed out the rest of the game on a 10-2 run with ferocious defense and brilliant offensive execution.

It was a frustrating loss for the Huskies—the fourth in five games to close out the regular season. After this game, many Huskies fans in Connecticut wondered if the up-and-down season of 2010-2011 would end in the first or second round of the upcoming Big East tournament. After all, we were only 9-9 in our conference, and though our squad clearly had talent, many of the players lacked the experience that is often required to make a deep run into the NCAA's March Madness. After that loss to Notre Dame, the top ambition of many Huskies fans was, "maybe we could get far enough into the conference tournament to secure a halfway decent seed in the 'big dance.'" And then next year would be another "rebuilding year."

But as is so often revealed in the hearts of true champions, it is in moments of doubt, rather than glory, when leadership's mettle is most severely tested. All champions can win a game. But the real question is: how do we respond to our losses? What do we learn from unsatisfactory performance? Do we become better and more determined not to repeat the same mistakes? Do we dedicate ourselves to the success of all as opposed to individual success? Do we finally open our hearts and listen to the constructive criticism of our instructors, mentors, friends and family, even though those words may be painful for us to hear? Can we internalize those drills in the playbook and play the game with our teammates like an orchestra that has transcended from playing notes off a symphonic score to making music?

In the month that followed the March 5th loss to Notre Dame, we saw many things on the Huskies men's team's determined march to their third national championship. Yes, there were the five victories in five days in the Big East tournament, and the heroic last second shots by Kemba Walker—the unforgettable buzzer-beater to knock off Pittsburgh will be one of the

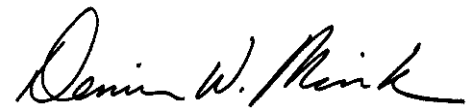
greatest college basketball highlights of all time. There was timely defense, there were thrilling overtime victories, and awe-inspiring wins.

For many of the thousands of Husky faithful in Connecticut, the most amazing thing we saw as this team churned its way through the NCAA tournament was a group of young people—who were talented but sometimes unsure of themselves—grow into men before our very eyes. Manhood is about making priorities and deciding who you are going to be. If you want to get somewhere in life you have to give something. The more you want to accomplish, the more you have to give. And these men made a decision – to take responsibility for their own actions, rise to the next level, dig deep within themselves, listen to each other, give themselves to their brothers in arms, and most importantly—to never give up.

That is probably why, even though our remarkable men’s coach Jim Calhoun has produced two previous national champion teams, he said he was never prouder of any team he had coached in his lifetime. This team was not expected to dominate its way to the Final Four. On the contrary, they scraped their way to finish the regular season at 21-9. When, after the loss to Notre Dame, the UCONN Huskies won 11 straight games, they did it not with sheer physical prowess or newly introduced ball skills, but with the grit and determination that can only come from inside the heart and soul.

Through their victory, the UCONN Huskies Men’s Basketball Team reminded us all that our circumstances do not dictate what kind of people we are. Our destiny is in our own hands, even in the darkest of times when hope is not easy to find. No matter how steep the challenges we face, the 2010-2011 Huskies showed us that we can truly achieve greatness if we all work together, focus on a singular goal, and awaken that sense of determination that lies within all of our hearts. This championship team—at its essence—did what any of us must do if we want to succeed. They worked harder and played better than any other team in the nation.

Congratulations Huskies! We are proud of you and we thank you for showing us all how to win again.



Denise W. Merrill
Secretary of the State



Photo Courtesy of the White House

*President Barack Obama with the UConn Huskies
at the White House, May 16, 2011*

In Memory of

Steven J. DeLuzio

Gebrah P. Noonan

David R. Fahey, Jr.

Dae Han Park

Frank E. Adamski, III

Raymond G. Estelle, II

Richard C. Emmons, III

*Service members from Connecticut lost in
Afghanistan and Iraq,
June 2010 – May 2011*



Army Sergeant Steven J. DeLuzio

Army Sergeant Steven J. DeLuzio, of South Glastonbury, died August 22, 2010 from wounds sustained when insurgents attacked his patrol with small arms and rocket propelled grenade fire near Paktiya, Afghanistan. He was 25 years old.

Sgt. DeLuzio, a member of the Vermont Army National Guard, was an infantryman assigned to Company A, 3rd Battalion, 172nd Infantry, 86th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Mountain), based in Jericho, Vt.

DeLuzio graduated from Glastonbury High School in 2003, where he served as co-captain of that year's state champion ice hockey team. He attended Hofstra University in New York and Norwich University in Vermont, from where he enlisted in the Vermont Army National Guard in October 2004.

Sgt. DeLuzio was deployed to Ramadi, Iraq in January 2006 as part of Task Force Saber, and was awarded the Iraq Campaign Medal, the Combat Infantryman Badge and the Army Commendation Medal while deployed to Iraq.

Upon return to the U.S., he completed the Warrior Leadership Course in 2009 and Combat Life Saver Training in 2010. He graduated in January 2009 from the University of Hartford with a degree in accounting, and was working in that field when he volunteered for deployment to Afghanistan in March 2010.

In recognition of his service and his ultimate sacrifice in Afghanistan, Sgt. DeLuzio was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, the NATO Ribbon, the Combat Infantryman Badge and the Army Good Conduct Medal.

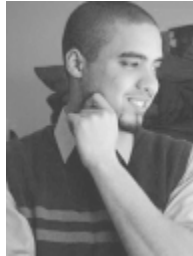
Writing in *The Green Mountain Guard*, Major General Michael Dubie, Adjutant General of the State of Vermont, said DeLuzio "embodied all the qualities that make American Soldiers respected and beloved" throughout the world.

On November 23, 2010, in recognition of Sgt. DeLuzio's loyalty and commitment to his country, a building at Bagram Airfield in Afghanistan was named in his memory. In 2011, the Vermont Legislature honored him with a joint memorial resolution.

Army Sergeant Steven J. DeLuzio was laid to rest with full military honors in his hometown of Glastonbury. Survivors include his parents, his brother, who serves with the Connecticut National Guard, and his fiancée.

Information and photograph courtesy of: The Vermont National Guard, Public Affairs and U.S. Army, Task Force Wolverine Public Affairs Office.

Additional information sources: The Green Mountain Guard, the Vermont Legislature (Concurrent House Resolution 2, 2011), Glastonbury High School, the University of Hartford, and The Day.



Army Private First Class Gebrah P. Noonan

Army Private First Class Gebrah P. Noonan of Watertown died September 24, 2010 from injuries suffered while serving his country in Fallujah, Iraq. He was 26 years old.

Pfc. Noonan was supporting Operation New Dawn and was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, based at Fort Stewart, Ga.

A 2002 graduate of Watertown High School, Noonan attended Manhattanville College and Fordham University before enlisting in the Army in October 2009. He trained as an infantryman at Fort Benning and hoped to later attend Ranger School. He was deployed to Iraq in July 2010 and was lost before achieving that dream.

Pfc. Noonan was remembered by friends during a memorial service at Camp Ramadi, Iraq for his engaging personality, sense of humor, and quick-willingness to always help a fellow soldier in need. Lt. Col. Jeffrey Shoemaker, Commander of the 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, noted Noonan's "honorable, noble, selfless, [and] dedicated" patriotism.

In a tree dedication ceremony in his honor at the Warriors Walk at Fort Stewart, Ga., his home base, Pfc. Noonan was further remembered for his love of reading, music and the Yankees, as well as for his keen interest in politics.

During funeral services in Connecticut, family and friends remembered Noonan as "a brilliant, funny, charismatic and open-minded" man of independent spirit who loved to make others happy; and as a man who loved learning and planned to study law after completion of his military service, the *Republican American* reported.

Army Private First Class Gebrah P. Noonan was laid to rest with full military honors at Greenwood Union Cemetery in Rye, N.Y. and was posthumously awarded four medals, including the Bronze Star.

Survivors include his parents, brothers, sister and stepbrothers.

Photograph courtesy of the Noonan Family.

Information courtesy of: U.S. Army, 4th AAB, 3rd Infantry Division Public Affairs, and USD-C Public Affairs

Additional information sources: The Republican American, FoxCT, The Hartford Courant



Army Specialist David R. Fahey, Jr.

Army Specialist David R. Fahey, Jr., of Norwalk, died February 28, 2011 in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan, of wounds suffered when insurgents attacked his unit using an improvised explosive device. He was 23 years old.

Spc. Fahey was assigned to the 170th Military Police Company, 504th Military Police Battalion, 42nd Military Police Brigade, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.

Fahey attended grade school in Norwalk before moving to Yorktown Heights, N.Y. In 2006 he graduated from New Hope Academy in Danbury. He enlisted in the Army in 2007, and was assigned to Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. for training.

After completing Military Police studies, Spc. Fahey served for a year in Korea before being assigned to the 42nd Military Police Brigade at then-Fort Lewis in Washington in 2009. In June 2010, he was deployed to Afghanistan.

Quoted in the *Northwest Guardian*, Fahey's platoon sergeant remembered him during a memorial service held in Kandahar, Afghanistan, for his strong yet gentle heart, and for his commitment to excellence. "No matter what he was tasked with, David took pride in getting the job done," said Sgt. 1st Class Billy Hood. His fellow soldiers remembered Fahey for his easygoing nature and his cheerful ability to lift their spirits in difficult times.

In a statement from his family, Fahey was remembered for his quick wit, his integrity, his service to others, and his love of sports, cars, and the Yankees.

Spc. Fahey's awards and decorations include the Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Korea Defense Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon, the NATO Medal and the Drivers and Mechanics Badge. He was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart and the Combat Action Badge.

Army Specialist David R. Fahey, Jr. hoped to become a police officer after serving with the military. He was laid to rest with full military honors at Rose Hills Memorial Park Cemetery in Putnam Valley, N.Y.

Survivors include his aunt and uncle, who are also his adoptive parents, and six brothers and sisters.

Information and photograph courtesy of: Joint Base Lewis-McChord Public Affairs Office and the Fahey Family through JBLM Public Affairs.

Additional information sources: The Northwest Guardian and The News Times.



Army Sergeant First Class Dae Han Park

Army Sergeant First Class Dae Han Park, who grew up in Watertown, died March 12, 2011, after his vehicle was struck by an improvised explosive device in the vicinity of Kajran, Daykundi, Afghanistan. He was 36 years old.

A Special Forces communications sergeant, Park was assigned to Charlie Company, 3rd Battalion, 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne), Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.

Park graduated from Watertown High School in 1992 and attended the University of Connecticut. In 1998, he enlisted in the Army as an infantryman and was assigned to Fort Campbell, Ky. A man who welcomed challenges, Park earned the Ranger Tab in 2000 and participated in the Best Ranger Competition in 2002. In 2003 he was deployed to Iraq as a Rifle Squad Leader.

Upon return from Iraq, Park was assigned to the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, La., and in 2005 volunteered for Special Forces training which he completed in 2006. The Green Beret then completed numerous worldwide missions including serving in Bangladesh, Iraq, the Philippines, Cambodia, and India, before being deployed to Afghanistan in 2011.

Speaking to *The Olympian* newspaper, Major Matt Gregory of the 1st Special Forces Group remembered Park as a devoted husband and father and “a consummate professional....Everything he did was to improve himself so he could improve others.”

In addition to Ranger School and Special Forces Qualification, Sgt. 1st Class Park’s extensive military education included the Army Airborne School; Warrior Leadership Course; Basic Non-Commissioned Officers Course; Advanced Leader Course; Air Assault School; Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape Course; Jumpmaster Course; and Special Operations Target Interdiction Course.

Park’s many awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Army Commendation Medal (with oak leaf cluster), Army Achievement Medal (with oak leaf cluster), Army Good Conduct Medal (4th award), National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terror Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terror Service Medal, Overseas Service Ribbon (2nd award), Non-commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon (3rd award), Army Service Ribbon, Special Forces Tab, Ranger Tab, Combat Infantryman’s Badge, Expert Infantryman’s Badge, Parachutist’s Badge, and the Air Assault Badge.

Army Sergeant First Class Dae Han Park was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart.

Survivors include his wife and daughters in Washington state, and his parents, sister and brother in Connecticut.

Information and photograph courtesy of: U.S. Army Special Operations Command Public Affairs.

Additional information sources: The Olympian, Greenwich Time, and NBC Connecticut News.



Army Staff Sergeant Frank E. Adamski, III

Army Staff Sergeant Frank E. Adamski, III, of Plainfield, died March 29, 2011 of wounds suffered when enemy forces attacked his unit with small arms fire during combat operations in Kunar Province, Afghanistan. He was 26 years old.

Staff Sgt. Adamski was an infantryman, assigned to Charlie Company, 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Fort Campbell, Ky.

Born in New York, Adamski moved to Connecticut during childhood and graduated from Plainfield High School in 2002, where he participated in football and track. He enlisted in the Army in March 2005 and trained at Fort Benning, Ga. Subsequently, he served in Germany and in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Upon his return to the U.S., Adamski was stationed at Fort Benning. After reenlisting in 2009, he was assigned to Fort Campbell, and was deployed to Afghanistan in the spring of 2010.

An infantry squad leader, Staff Sgt. Adamski was remembered by his commander and colleagues during a memorial service held in Afghanistan as a happy and upbeat person, as a mentor, and as a man who always put others before himself. Sgt. Joshua Frappier said, “He was a person you could look up to and turn to for any problems,” and Lt. Col. Joel B. Vowell, Task Force No Slack commander, praised Adamski’s leadership: “He demanded that he not only share the risks, but [he] led his men through all of them.”

Staff Sgt. Adamski’s awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the Purple Heart, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon, the NATO Medal, the Parachutist Badge, the Air Assault Badge, and the Combat Infantryman Badge.

Army Staff Sgt. Frank E. Adamski, III was laid to rest with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia.

Survivors include his wife and daughter in Tennessee, his parents and his sister.

*Information and photograph courtesy of: U.S. Army, Fort Campbell Public Affairs Office, and U.S. Army, Task Force Bastogne Public Affairs
Additional information source: The Day.*



Air Force Major Raymond G. Estelle, II

Air Force Major Raymond G. Estelle, II, a New Haven native, died April 27, 2011 at Kabul International Airport in Afghanistan, of wounds suffered from gunfire when he and seven other airmen and a civilian trainer were attacked by an Afghan pilot. He was 40 years old.

Maj. Estelle was a cyberspace operations officer assigned to Headquarters Air Combat Command at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Va. He had been deployed to Afghanistan with the 838th Air Expeditionary Advisory Group, and was serving on a NATO International Security Assistance Force team helping to train the Afghan Air Force.

Maj. Estelle was a nearly twenty-year veteran of the Air Force. He enlisted in 1991, serving as a ground equipment technician and rising to the rank of senior airman before earning an officer's commission in 1998 through the Reserve Officers Training Corps at the University of New Mexico.

Estelle then served as a military communications officer at McDill Air Force Base in Florida from 1999 to 2001, before later serving with U.S. Central Command, according to the *St. Petersburg Times*.

Maj. Estelle served on multiple overseas tours during his long career, loved flying, and was on his second deployment to Afghanistan at the time of his death according to family members who spoke with NBC 30 Connecticut News and WTNH News.

Maj. Estelle's awards and decorations include the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster, the Joint Service Achievement Medal, and the Air Force Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster.

At a memorial service in his honor at Langley Air Force Base, Maj. Estelle was eulogized as an extraordinary airman and team member by Tom Entwistle, director of Air Combat Command's Directorate of Analyses, Lessons Learned and Air Force Smart Operations 21.

At Maj. Estelle's funeral service in Florida, friends, family members, and fellow airmen remembered him for his deep faith, his love of family, his joyous smile, his commitment to teaching and mentoring, and his willingness to shoulder the burdens of others, reported the *St. Petersburg Times*.

Major Raymond G. Estelle, II was laid to rest with full military honors at Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell, Fla.

Survivors include his wife, Air Force Major N'Keiba Estelle, and their two children, of Yorktown, Va., his daughter, and his mother in Connecticut.

Photograph courtesy of the Estelle Family.

Information courtesy of U.S. Air Force, Air Combat Command and The Congressional Record (House, May 3, 2011).

Additional information source: The St. Petersburg Times.



Army Specialist Richard C. Emmons, III

Army Specialist Richard C. Emmons, III, of North Granby, died May 31, 2011 of injuries suffered while serving in Logar Province, Afghanistan. He was driving the lead vehicle when enemy forces attacked his convoy with a rocket propelled grenade. He was 22 years old.

Specialist Emmons was a signal support systems specialist with the 2nd Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, based at Fort Polk, La.

Emmons was born in Delaware and lived in New Jersey before moving to Connecticut, where he graduated from Granby Memorial High School in 2006 and from the Porter and Chester Institute in 2009. In September 2009 he enlisted in the army, and trained at Fort Jackson, S.C. and Fort Gordon, Ga. He was stationed at Fort Polk in May 2010 and was deployed with his unit to Afghanistan in October of that year.

At a memorial service held in his honor in Afghanistan and reported by *Stars and Stripes*, Emmons was remembered by his fellow soldiers as “the funny bone” of his platoon: a man able to bring good humor to any situation and to see the best in everything. “Richard was an outstanding soldier and a great man,” said U.S. Army Captain Bixler C. Benson, commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment. “He joined the Army because he wanted to be a Soldier, fully knowing that he would deploy and support the global war on terrorism. That action in itself speaks volumes to his character.”

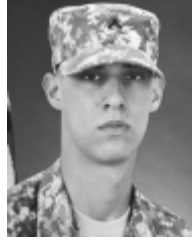
Emmons’ awards and decorations include the Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon, the NATO Medal, and the Combat Action Badge. He was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart.

Army Specialist Richard C. Emmons, III was buried with full military honors at Lawnside Cemetery in Pilesgrove, N.J.

Survivors include his mother, step-father, brother and sister.

Information and photograph courtesy of: U.S. Army, Fort Drum, Public Affairs and U.S. Army, Task Force Patriot Public Affairs

Additional information sources: Stars and Stripes and The News of Cumberland County.



Army Private First Class Eric D. Soufrine

Army Private First Class Eric D. Soufrine, of Woodbridge, died June 14, 2011 in Shewan District, Farah Province, Afghanistan, when insurgents attacked his patrol with an improvised explosive device. He was 20 years old.

Pfc. Soufrine was assigned to Battery B, 4th Battalion, 42nd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, based at Fort Carson, Colo.

A 2009 graduate of Amity Regional High School in Woodbridge, Soufrine joined the Army in May 2010, attended basic training at Fort Benning, Ga., and completed Advanced Individual Training as a Fire Support Specialist at Fort Sill, Okla. He was assigned to Fort Carson in September 2010 and deployed to Afghanistan in December of that year.

At a memorial service held in Afghanistan, commanders and fellow soldiers remembered Soufrine for his infectious enthusiasm to learn and perform at his best, his willing ear for those in need, and his remarkable ability to brighten the mood of others. “[Pfc.] Soufrine was everything a commander could ask for in a soldier: professional, dedicated and selfless,” said Battery B commander Cameron L. Trudell.

At Fort Carson and New Haven services, military members, family and friends remembered Soufrine, as a popular, patriotic, 6’5” tall, “gentle giant” who volunteered in nursing homes and loved hunting, sports and the outdoors. Lt. Colonel Craig Berryman, 4th Battalion Commander, said Soufrine “was a tremendously bright and energetic young man with a great sense of humor,” reported KXRM-TV News. Rabbi Herbert Brockman, quoted in the *New Haven Register*, eulogized Soufrine as “a reminder how heroes are regular people who do extraordinary things.”

Pfc. Soufrine’s awards and decorations include the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the NATO Service Medal and the Combat Action Badge.

Army Private First Class Eric D. Soufrine was laid to rest with full military honors at Mishkan Israel Cemetery in New Haven.

Survivors include his parents, his brother and his sister, who also serves in the Army.

Information and photograph courtesy of: U.S. Army, Fort Carson Media Relations; Fort Carson Mountaineer; 1st Brigade, 4th Infantry Division Official Facebook page (Raider Public Affairs Office).

Additional information sources: The Gazette (Colorado Springs), KXRM-TV News, The New Haven Register, The Connecticut Post

In Memory of

John A. Chapman

Phillip A. Jordan

Kemaphoom Ahn Chanawongse

Wilfredo Perez, Jr.

Richard Selden Eaton, Jr.

David Travis Friedrich

Anthony D'Agostino

Phillip R. Albert

Jeffrey Braun

Eric Thomas Paliwoda

Benjamin Gilman

Tyanna Avery-Felder

Felix Delgreco

Nathan B. Bruckenthal

Melissa Hobart

Jacob D. Martir

*Service members from Connecticut lost in
Afghanistan and Iraq,
March 2002 – September 2004**

* *Biographical sketches for the service members listed above were published in the 2004 edition of the Connecticut State Register and Manual.*

In Memory of

William Brennan

Kevin J. Dempsey

Joseph Michael Nolan

Michael J. McMahon

Henry E. Irizarry

Robert Hoyt

Thomas E. Vitagliano

Lawrence R. Philippon

John T. Schmidt, III

Christopher Hoskins

Steve Reich

David Coullard

*Service members from Connecticut lost in
Afghanistan and Iraq,
October 2004 – October 2005**

* *Biographical sketches for the service members listed above were published in the 2005 edition of the Connecticut State Register and Manual.*

In Memory of

Brian S. Letendre

Stephen Bixler

Jordan C. Pierson

Philip A. Johnson

Nicholas A. Madaras

*Service members from Connecticut lost in
Afghanistan and Iraq,
November 2005 – September 2006**

* *Biographical sketches for the service members listed above were published in the 2006 Edition of the Connecticut State Register and Manual.*

In Memory of

Jason Hamill

Joseph E. Phaneuf, II

Richard L. Ford

Stephen K. Richardson

Keith Heidtman

*Service members from Connecticut lost in
Afghanistan and Iraq,
November 2006 – May 2007**

* *Biographical sketches for the service members listed above were published in the 2007 Edition of the Connecticut State Register and Manual.*

In Memory of

Andre Craig, Jr.

Jason D. Lewis

Jason Lantieri

*Service members from Connecticut lost in
Afghanistan and Iraq,
June 2007 – April 2008**

* *Biographical sketches for the service members listed above were published in the 2008 edition of the Connecticut State Register and Manual.*

In Memory of

Christian S. Cotner

Thomas J. Brown

*Service members from Connecticut lost in
Afghanistan and Iraq,
May 2008 – May 2009**

* *Biographical sketches for the service members listed above were published in the 2009 edition of the Connecticut State Register and Manual*

In Memory of

Edward C. Kramer

Benjamin A. Sklaver

Xhacob LaTorre

Ronald J. Spino

Tyler O. Griffin

Edwin Rivera

*Service members from Connecticut lost in
Afghanistan and Iraq,
June 2009 – May 2010**

* *Biographical sketches for the service members listed above were published in the 2010 edition of the Connecticut State Register and Manual*