

Congressman Pence [delivered the following tribute](#) in the House to Sergeant Jeremy McQueary:

**Madame Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the life of a fallen American hero, Marine Sergeant Jeremy McQueary of Columbus, Indiana.**

**Sgt. McQueary served multiple tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, and he gave his life in service to a grateful nation on Thursday, February 18th while serving with the 2nd Combat Engineer Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force in Helmand Province, Afghanistan.**

**Sgt. McQueary enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in January 2002 after graduating from Columbus East High School. According to his mother, Jeremy always had an interest in becoming a Marine and continuing the proud tradition of service in his family by donning the uniform of our nation.**

**Though Sgt. McQueary did not speak often of his experiences overseas, his dedication and bravery were quite evident by his actions and decorations. In June of 2008, he survived a roadside bombing attack and volunteered to continue serving in Iraq. His awards include a Combat Action Ribbon and Purple Heart, among others.**

**Sgt. McQueary was a compassionate man who cared especially for children. A father himself, Sgt. McQueary expressed a desire to work with children in Iraq and Afghanistan.**

**Our condolences go out to Jeremy's wife Rae and young son Hadley, as well as his mother and stepfather, Deborah and David Kleinschmidt, and sister Rebecca.**

**We will never be able to pay the debt of honor owed to Sergeant Jeremy McQueary and his family. Heroes like him are our nation's most cherished citizens without whom freedom and democracy would not be possible. His passing is a profound loss for his**

**family, this community and this nation.**

The funeral for Sgt. McQueary will take place [this Sunday](#) , according to *The Columbus Republic* :

*A memorial service for fallen U.S. Marine Sgt. Jeremy R. McQueary will be Sunday at the Seasons Lodge in Nashville.*

*The service will start at 3:30 p.m. with a minister officiating and a formal military presentation.*

*A reception will follow.*

*The ceremony will have a celebratory atmosphere, said McQueary's wife, Rae. "It'll be a memorial of life," she said. "At this point in his life, at 27, a funeral's just not right. He'd want a party, the most fun you can have." The service and ceremony are open to the public, and Rae McQueary asked anyone who wants to honor her husband to attend. Bond-Mitchell Funeral Home in Nashville is handling the arrangements. Flowers or donations to the family should be made in care of the funeral home, RR 3 Box 77-A, Nashville, IN 47448.*