

Written Testimony for HB 437 – Marine Sergeant David R Christoff
Memorial Highway

David volunteered for duty the day after the September 11, 2001 (9/11) attack on the World Trade Centers in New York City; he was motivated by the desire to protect the freedom and safety of those he loved.

On February 22, 2002 he graduated from the Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island as a Private First Class. He attended the School of Infantry at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina and was then assigned with the 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines, Bravo Company at Marine Corps Base Hawaii. David was promoted to Sergeant on October 1, 2004 and on his first deployment he served as Squad Leader in the second Battle of Fallujah code name “Operation Phantom Fury” which is considered to be the bloodiest battle of the Iraq war. After David returned from this deployment in March of 2005, he volunteered to transfer to the 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marines, Kilo Company because he felt there was still much work to be done in Iraq and he wanted to teach the younger Marines the hard lessons he had learned during his previous deployment. He served as Platoon Sergeant starting September 12, 2005 and was deployed to Haqlaniyah, Iraq on March 11, 2006. Upon returning from a foot patrol on May 22, 2006 David was killed by an improvised explosive device. He was laid to rest along with many other fallen heroes at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia. During his 5 years he had the opportunity to serve, he made a lifetime of impressions on those he served with, many of whom have relayed stories of his courage, compassion and leadership, attributes he displayed on a daily basis. David was a warrior and a true leader of men, receiving numerous citations and medals of Valor and Bravery, including two Purple Hearts and three Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medals for heroic achievement during his deployments. He was also awarded the Combat Action Ribbon, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon w/bronze star, Iraqi Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, National Defense Medal and Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon.

In order to celebrate his life and honor his memory, we (his family) have held a memorial golf tournament for the past 12 years. The Sgt David Christoff Memorial Golf Tournament’s purpose is to “Honor Our Fallen and Support Our Wounded”. The tournament has enabled us to raise approximately \$115,000 for the Marine Corps Toys for Tots program, Wounded Warrior Project, and the Semper Fi Fund.

We would like to thank State Representative Theresa Gavarone for spearheading the effort to name a portion of State Route 65 in Wood County in memory of our son David.

Respectfully submitted,

The Family of Sgt David Christoff

Amy Hogan, mother

James Hogan, step-father

Michael Hogan, brother

Lauren Hogan, sister