

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to present our written testimony on behalf of Senate Bill 114.

LCpl James Kimple (Freer) was born in Logan, Ohio, and was raised in Fairfield County. He attended Bloom Carroll High School. At 16 years old, James decided he wanted to join the Marine Corps to serve his country. James resided in Carroll until he went to Parris Island, South Carolina for boot camp. He made some of his best friends in boot camp and during his short time with CLB 1.

Upon completion of boot camp, he met his and Amber's son, Drake, for the 1st time at just a week old. He and Amber married on July 20, 2005, before he went on to attend MCT training. After he completed MOS school for Maintenance Management Specialist, he received orders to Camp Pendleton, CA. He was deployed to Iraq in early August 2006 for his 1st deployment.

Not long after returning home, he and Amber welcomed their second child, daughter Maleah. During their time at Camp Pendleton, they reminded residents of Ohio. They kept close ties to Fairfield County as his mother Cate Kimple (deceased), brothers Jovid and Parker Kimple, and son Dominic still resided in Carroll. After James' first deployment, Amber and their children resided in Amanda, Ohio during deployments to be close to family and friends. James loved serving in the Marines and he did that with pride.

During his 2nd deployment, he was assigned to Combat Logistics Battalion 1, Combat Logistics Regiment 1, I Marine Logistics Group, 1 Marine Expeditionary Force. On May 2, 2008, near Karma, Iraq, LCpl James. F. Kimple, at 21 years old, was KIA by a roadside bomb that exploded, hitting the Humvee he was gunning in. During his last conversation with his wife Amber, he said, "We are headed out on patrol; I promise I will call you and the kids when we get back." The call Amber and his children received, however, was the call of him being reported as Missing in Action. Several hours later, we were notified that he and 4 others had been killed, which made it the deadliest month in a 9-month span in Anbar Province.

His wife, children, and family held his funeral on May 11, 2008, in the Bloom Carroll Middle School gymnasium. Over 500 people joined us in celebrating his life. During the procession, which was led by over 70 patriot guard riders to the Greenfield Cemetery where we laid him to rest with full military honors, more people lined High St. in Carroll and part of 33 to pay their respects. Being from a small town and a great county, James' death affected the whole county and it was the community who came out to support him and our family. He is the hometown hero of Carroll to this day.

Fairfield County has always been our home; the support and love we received from everyone in Fairfield County and the State of Ohio was amazing. We could not thank everyone enough for all their support then and even now 16 years later. His memory continues to be honored. His life was tragically cut short and for this, his wife and 3 children would like to request that the portion of US 33 between Coonpath Rd NW and Pickerington Rd NW be named "Lance Corporal James. F. Kimple Memorial Highway.

Thank you.



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

SECURITY COMPANY
COMBAT LOGISTICS BATTALION-1
1ST MARINE LOGISTICS GROUP
UNIT 42385
FPO AP 96426-2385

IN REPLY REFER TO:

3040

CO

5 May 08

Mrs. Amber Kimple
309 School Street
Amanda, OH 43102

Dear Mrs. Kimple:

On behalf of Security Company, I wish to convey our deepest sympathy upon the death of your husband, Lance Corporal James F. Kimple.

Without a doubt, as the Gunner for his team, James had lot more responsibility than many other Marines. He maintained his weapons in immaculate condition. He knew his weapon capabilities inside out. He had the eyes for detecting and finding suspicious threats on the road. The fact that he did all of this in a dynamic and kinetic combat environment, driving through unfavorable weather and terrain is remarkable. But that was your Marine.

James spoke very much about you and the kids. He always carried pictures of the family in his wallet. He made it a point to tell the Marines that he missed you and the kids and most importantly, how much he loved his wife. All of us here got to know you very well through James. James was an awesome husband, father, and a Marine.

Before your husband was taken away from us, he had become such an integral member of our team and such a close and trusted friend to his buddies in 3rd platoon, 2nd section. As it was explained to me by many of the Marines at this command, he was always looking out for his buddies like his own brother. James always took personal interest in the Marines' lives. He knew when his buddies were mad or happy. No matter what the circumstance, he always brought jolt of energy and smile to his team with his jokes. Even when James was having a bad day, he quickly found ways to be positive. Whether it was personal or a work related problem, James was there for each Marine. Many Marines at this command ran to James and relied on him so much for support and advice during this deployment.

Marines remember him with respect and admiration and he will be missed by all. With the loss of your husband, the Marines are already feeling that absence.

I hope that time and warm memories will help lessen the burden of your sorrow, and that you may draw some measure of comfort knowing that others care and share in your loss.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pollard D. Ham".

Pollard D. Ham
Captain, USMC



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

COMBAT LOGISTICS BATTALION-1
1ST MARINE LOGISTICS GROUP
UNIT 42385
FPO AP 96426-2385

HEREBY REFER TO

3040

CO

5 May 08

Mrs. Amber Kimple
309 School Street
Amanda, OH 43102

Dear Mrs. Kimple:

The premature death of your husband, Lance Corporal James Fredrick Kimple, U. S. Marine Corps, on 2 May 2008 in the Al Anbar Province of Iraq, is a source of sorrow to me and to his many friends in this battalion. Please accept our deepest sympathy in your bereavement.

James was killed when his vehicle was struck by an improvised explosive device while he was conducting a security patrol in support of a vehicle recovery mission. James was the gunner for the security team leader of the recovery mission. His team was tasked to provide security while the recovery team attempted to repair or tow a damaged vehicle. He and his fellow Marines took pride in the fact that their efforts were always in direct support of other Marines in need. You should know that James took great pride in being a Marine and he embodied our Core Values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment. He was a consummate professional and a big reason why CLB-1 is successfully supporting combat operations in our area of responsibility.

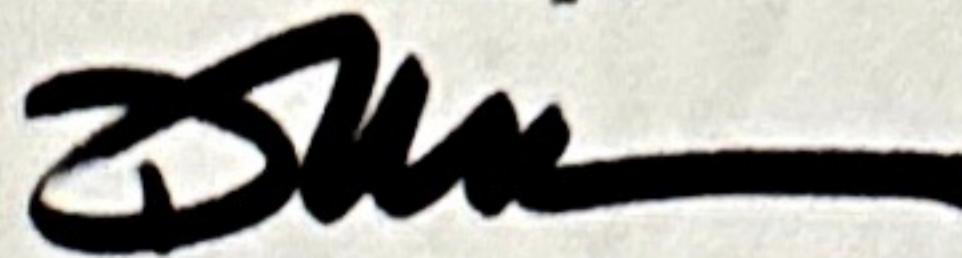
James was a key member of his company. He was respected by all for his courage and the manner in which he performed his gunner duties. He exemplified the ethos that every Marine is a rifleman. He was always smiling and his confidence enhanced his teams' effectiveness. James was a Marine that I personally admired and respected for his courage and steadfast determination. He believed with all his heart what he was doing made a difference. I know I speak for all the Marines of the battalion when I tell you how much he will be missed. While no one can ever replace James, know that the Marines are doing their best to carry on his legacy of excellence.

A Memorial Service will be conducted at 0900 on May 10, 2008, at the Chapel of Hope on Camp Fallujah in order to honor those we have lost. We will digitally record the service and ensure that photographs are taken of this solemn event. I will personally ensure that you receive a copy of the video footage and photographs.

I have had all of James' personal belongings collected, inventoried, and placed in safekeeping. These will be shipped to you in the very near future.

If there is anything that I may do for you, please do not hesitate to contact me at (318)340-550.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Nathanson', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

David Nathanson,
Lieutenant Colonel, USMC