

# Our Fallen Hero



## SGT Kevin Balduf Richmond

Sgt. Kevin Balduf, 27, of Nashville, Tenn., died while supporting combat operations in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. Balduf's wife, Amy, is a Richmond native and still lives there, as does her parents. "He was a Marine's Marine, gung ho," Al Sutherland said of his son-in-law. "But he was somebody who didn't brag about himself. 'I did my job,' that's all he'd say. He was humble." The former Amy Sutherland graduated from Richmond High School in 2003. The couple were married in Maine in 2006 at Sugarloaf. Sutherland said the family appreciated everything the community has done for them.

"Just say their prayers, that's all we'd ask," he said. "Pray for our granddaughters and our daughter and, obviously, for Kevin."

Balduf was a radio operator assigned to the 8th Communications Battalion, II Marine Expeditionary Force, out of Camp Lejeune, N.C. Sutherland said Balduf was in his second stint in Afghanistan. He said his son-in-law earned the Bronze Star in his first deployment in the wartorn country "for putting himself in harm's way to call in an air strike to protect his fellow Marines."