

Our Fallen Hero



LCPL. Joshua M. Bernard New Portland

Joshua Bernard was home-schooled in New Portland before enlisting in the Marine Corps in November 2006. Bernard was an active member of the youth group at his church, Crossroads Bible Church in Madison.

“He was inclined to help people if they needed it,” said Michael Grooms, a close friend. “That’s a lot of the reason why he went into the Marines, is to serve.”

“He was shy,” Grooms said, “but he loved to have fun.”

Bernard was assigned to his unit in May 2007 and was deployed to Iraq in January 2008.

Bernard earned a number of distinctions during his time as a Marine, including the Purple Heart and the National Defense Service, Afghanistan Campaign, Iraq Campaign, and Global War on Terrorism Service medals. He also earned a Sea Service Deployment Ribbon.

“Lance Cpl. Bernard gave his life helping to protect a new democracy in Afghanistan,” Gov. John Baldacci said in a statement. “His bravery and sacrifice will be remembered.”