



Bernard Deghand

June 30, 1964 - September 25, 2006

Sgt. 1st Class Bernard "Bernie" Lee Deghand, 42, of Mayetta, Kansas, was killed in action Friday, Sept. 15th, 2006 in Spira, Afghanistan. Born June 30th, 1964 in Topeka, Kansas to Raymond and Barbara (Vorhies) Deghand, Bernie was a long-time resident of Topeka, a 1982 graduate of Shawnee Height High School, and a member of Sacred Heart Church. While still in high school, he joined the US Army Delayed Entry Program in 1981, and attended Basic Combat & Advanced Individual Training at Fort Sill, Oklahoma in 1982 as a Cannon Crewmember (13B). Following his graduation, he entered the Army Reserves where he served until 1986, upon which time he transferred to the Kansas Army National Guard (KSARNG). During his time in the KSARNG, he attended numerous schools, including the Paladin Commander's Course, the Paladin Howitzer Course, Primary Leadership Development Course, Basic Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) Course, Field Artillery Platoon Sergeant's Course, and the Battle Staff NCO Course. In 1996, Bernie was awarded the additional Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) of Infantry Rifleman (11B). Bernie entered the Active Guard Reserve (AGR) program in 1997 and served as the Readiness NCO and Operations NCO for the 35th Infantry Division Headquarters in Leavenworth, Kansas. In Dec. 2002, Bernie deployed to Bosnia as part of the NATO Stabilization Forces and in Aug. 2005 he mobilized with the Division Headquarters for humanitarian relief following Hurricane Katrina. Bernie began his most recent deployment in Afghanistan in Mar. 2006, for Operation Enduring Freedom as a trainer for the Afghan Army,

teaching mechanized infantry tactics using armored personnel carriers. Bernie was very active in his children's activities, including coaching baseball and football teams and was especially proud of his daughter's high school and collegiate volleyball and track accomplishments. He enjoyed the outdoors, hunting, fishing, training and breaking horses, playing softball, volleyball, archery, fishing, golfing, and playing cards and family board games. Bernie is survived by his wife, the former Lisa (Groves) Thurber, whom he married on Apr. 29th, 2000 after many years of friendship; children, Jamie Lynn, 19, Craig Michael, 11, and Emma Grace, 1, all of the home; his parents, Raymond and Barbara Deghand of Topeka; brothers, Raymond Deghand, Jr. of Shawnee, and Tony Deghand of Tecumseh; sisters, Theresa Tetuan, Sandra Short and Cheryl Deuser, all of Topeka; and grandfather, Nathan Vorhies of Topeka; in-laws, Jim and Christine Curtis of Maple Hill and Mike and Jane Groves of Kansas City; sister-in-law, Lori Baker of Portland OR; and many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and cousins. He is preceded in death by his paternal grandparents, Albert and Connie Deghand, and maternal grandmother, Beata Vorhies. He will be greatly missed by family and many devoted friends. Upon his death, Bernie was posthumously promoted to the rank of Master Sergeant and awarded the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Bronze Star Medal and the Purple Heart Medal. His other awards and decorations include the Army Commendation Medal with 4 Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Achievement Medal with 4 Oak Leaf Clusters, the Good Conduct Medal with 2 Bronze Knots, the Army Reserve Achievement Medal with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters, the National Defense Service Medal with 1 Bronze Star, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Humanitarian Service Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with "M" device, the Non-Commissioned Officer's Professional Development Ribbon with numeral "2", the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon with numeral "2", the Army Overseas Training Ribbon with numeral "2", the NATO Medal, the Kansas Meritorious Service Ribbon, the Kansas Commendation Ribbon, the Kansas Achievement Ribbon,

the Kansas Emergency Duty Service Ribbon, and the Kansas National Guard Service Medal. Bernie will lie in state Monday, Sept. 25th, from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 333 NE Freeman Avenue in Topeka. Family will receive friends from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. A prayer service will follow at 7 p.m. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at Sacred Heart Catholic Church on Tuesday, Sept. 26th, at 11 a.m. with military burial to follow at Penwell-Gabel Cemetery (formerly Memorial Park). Memorial services are also being held in Afghanistan and Iraq by Soldiers who have served with Bernie throughout his distinguished career. Memorial contributions may be made to a memorial fund for Bernie's children, sent in care of Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Rd, Topeka KS 66614.

Tribute Wall



“ *Bernard Deghand*

January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM



“ *Dear Barb and family.
Sorry to hear of your loss, but happy for Heavens gain. We know you are especially proud of your son, and what a contribution he made to the war on terrorism, and for us all.
Since I heard of your sorrow and that of your family, I have remembered you in my prayers
God rest his soul
Warm regards and sympathy
Carol Artzer McDiarmid
180 SW Brushy Mound
Burleson Tx 76028
Classmate of 1955*

Carol Artzer McDiarmid - October 02, 2006 at 02:19 PM



“ *Our nephew, Andrew Nicks, told us about Master Sergeant Deghand. We did not know him personally. However, from the way Andy spoke of him, from an email we read by Lisa Galindo, and from what we see here we can tell what a fine human being he was. Being ex-Army I also know that they just don't promote any old soul to Master Sergeant. It takes a real leader, a real hero, to reach that level. Our prayers are with him and all he leaves behind. Flo (Nicks-Adams) and Mike Adams, Hutto, TX. USA!*

Flo & Mike Adams - September 28, 2006 at 10:50 AM

DH

“ To Barb Deghand (and the entire Deghand family): My sincerest sympathies on the loss of your son. I am a military brat and wife, and I sincerely appreciate the sacrifice Bernie made for his country and, more importantly, for his family. May God bless you all and help you to cope with your loss.

Denise (Wade) Humphrey - September 28, 2006 at 08:27 AM

SB

“ I am retired as Co A 2/137th IN as the former 1st Sergeant I had the pleasure of serving in the 2nd Battalion with Bernie and he was an exemplary soldier. Please accept my expression of sympathy and know that Bernie served his nation in an exemplary manner always be proud of him as all other soldiers were. Take Care and You and Your family are in My wife Linda's and my prayers. God Bless you and your family.

sfc(ret) Terry Bush - September 27, 2006 at 04:19 PM

JB

“ To John & Theresa, Tetuan boys, and the entire Deghand family. We are thankful for our military men & women who risk their lives to make ours safer and to protect our freedom. Bernie is at home with the Lord and his memory will live forever in your hearts. Your family has our sincere sympathy.

Joe & Cheryl Burkhart - September 26, 2006 at 06:15 PM

LM

“ My heart goes out to your family for losing such a great husband, dad, and soldier. He will be remembered by all and his spirit will remain in our hearts as he continues to shower his love upon his loved ones.

May Gods love and blessings be upon you.

Sincerely,

Lisa

Lisa M. Martin - September 26, 2006 at 11:56 AM

SB

“ We are so sorry to hear of Bernie. We knew him from the Holton Armory and threw our friend Wade. Bernie was a super guy. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Steve and Twila Browning - September 26, 2006 at 09:59 AM

BB

“ Barbara, Ray & family,
We are keeping all of you in our thoughts and prayers.
Your son Bernie made the supreme sacrifice for all of us, and you can be very proud of the difference he has made in many people's lives.

Bernie and Sherry - Manhattan.

Bernie & Sherry Butler - September 26, 2006 at 09:49 AM

KV

“ Bernie was a great guy. I he was an honorable man that all Americans should look up to! He will be missed. If you need anything at all please don't hesitate to call.

kris vanzandt - September 25, 2006 at 07:13 PM

KM

“ Michelle,

It has been a long time but when I read of Bernie's passing it took me back to Mrs. Parker's class at SHS, remembering all the stories you would have to tell about your mom & Bernie, and I remember when I met them at Barb's 1st wedding I could tell the bond that you all shared. Time has gone so fast, it is hard to believe that Jami is a 19 y/o woman now. That is unbelievable.

No one will ever figure out why stuff like this happens, but we must believe it was god's will. I know you, your family and Bernie's family are very proud of him as he did sacrifice everything for our country & freedom. There are not enough words to express what that means to everyone who will read his obituary, rather they knew him or not. Always keep him and your memories in your heart & he will always be close by.

I hope you are doing well, and I will look forward to seeing you at our 20th HS Reunion next year.

*Love & Friendship Always,
Kelli (Gruber) Munsell*

Kelli Munsell - September 23, 2006 at 08:43 PM

MK

“Bernie, I just wanted to let you know even though you weren't my biological father I always knew you loved me just like I was. My real father wasn't really around during my teenage years and I am just so grateful that you were there to take his place I always thought of you as my father. I will do everything I can to make sure Jami grows up to be the wonderful woman you would want her to be. Jami is so much like you in many ways I am so proud of her and I know you were too. I know you are in a better place now but it is just going to be so hard to imagine life without you. I hate that my youngest daughter and son will never know their grandpa Bernie as Emilee did. I will miss you so much and I am so very proud of you. I love you!!! And I also wanted to say how sorry I am to Lisa, Jami, Emma, Craig and the entire Deghand Family for their loss... I love you all!!

Love,

Michelle

Michelle Kern - September 23, 2006 at 01:34 PM

SA

“Bernie was the most persistent person I have ever known in my life. He was persistent in his love for his family, especially his children, daughters Jami and Emma and stepchildren Michelle and Craig. He was persistent in his everyday life and always achieved his goals. He was also persistent in his career as a soldier, until he made the ultimate sacrifice. Bernie was solid as a rock in so many ways, and he will be deeply missed by all. I am sure that Bernie was right with God and now although still persistent, he is also perfect, in heaven. May all who loved him take comfort in knowing that he is in a better place.

Sally - September 23, 2006 at 01:31 PM

BB

“ Ray, and the entire Deghand family.
I am so sorry for the loss of Bernie, a brother, a husband, a son and a father. I pray that God will be with you and comfort you at this difficult time. God bless you all.

An old classmate,
Beth (Foster) Blumreich

Beth Blumreich - September 22, 2006 at 03:27 PM



“ Bernard Deghand

September 20, 2006 at 07:22 PM

PS

“ Dear Lisa, Craig, Jami and Emma,

You do not know me at all, but I read about Bernie's death and I wanted to tell you how much I respect the sacrifice you have ALL made. Because of his selflessness, others will have the opportunity to enjoy freedom and self-determination. I cannot imagine the scope of your loss, but I will pray for all of you. I believe with all my heart that Bernie is in heaven, safe, peaceful, joyful and watching over you. Take care and God bless you all.

Patti Van Slyke - September 20, 2006 at 12:55 PM

KO

“ Lisa and Family, I am so sorry about Bernie! He was a great man and always brought laughter to a room. If there is anything that I can help you with please let me know I am happy to help. You are all in my thoughts and prayers, and Bernie will be greatly missed by all.

Kela and Juan Ortiz - September 20, 2006 at 09:31 AM