



Specialist 4 John M LaBossiere, US Army National Guard

April 13, 1983 - November 1, 2009

John Michael LaBossiere was born on April 13, 1983 in Everett, Washington. He had an early desire to be a fireman and one day as a three year old, he was mad because the real fire truck zoomed past him on the nearby busy street without stopping to pick him up. By age five John changed his focus to becoming an Army Man, and wanted the “real Army gear” for his birthday. John made his own fishing flies and was always up for a fishing trip. His main interest in sports was soccer, which he played well for twelve years, along with being a soccer referee as a teenager.

As a 2001 High School graduate, John was greatly impacted by the events of September 11, as were so many others. On a fishing trip with his dad the next day, when asked what was going to happen next, he stated that he would “join up” if he had to. A few months later John enlisted in the U.S Marine Corps, with an anticipated MOS of Combat Engineer. Corporal LaBossiere deployed from Camp Lejeune, NC at the front of the 2003 invasion of Iraq. Soon after his safe return, he married and had a daughter Aubryn. John deployed again and in 2005 returned safely, so it seemed.

Like so many others before him, John carried emotional scars of war and tried to hide them. After moving back to Everett, WA with his wife and daughter, John struggled with stress, anger and alcoholism. Nevertheless, his family grew with a new son, Ash, in 2007.

John joined the Washington Army National Guard and trained to be a Humvee mounted .50 caliber machine gunner, deploying again to Iraq in 2008. While in mid-deployment, his wife gave birth to their third child, Alexander. John briefly returned to visit before having to re-deploy to finish his one year tour.

John’s third tour was too much and the war at home may have been worse. While attempting to finally obtain stress counselling the waiting period was too long. At the age of 26, John went home to the place where this is no pain or fear. John had given his heart to Jesus when he was 8, and though he struggled as all people do, his faith was shared with his friends and comrades. Those who knew John knew he was a complex, funny, intelligent, believer in Christ. He is missed by his parents, his brother, his children, his friends, his fellow Marines and “Army Men”.

Semper Fidelis John. There had better be some good fishing in Heaven!