

Wednesday, April 03, 2013

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To Whom It May Concern:

I was six years old when my brother, Adam Joseph Buyes was born. I waited patiently for nine months to meet him and finally become a big sister. When I held him for the first time I instantly knew what it felt like to love someone unconditionally. He was perfect and I couldn't have been happier. When he was five years old we were playing in the yard and he began chasing me so fast that I got a little spooked and closed a fence right on his forehead which eventually led to a scar. A scar he wore for the rest of his life. I couldn't have felt worse, but he forgave me and thus began the 16 year span of jokes on how I scared my brother. We spent so much time laughing at the dinner table, playing yard games and finding ways to prank other siblings, but by the time he graduated high school he was his very own person. I was always proud of him and became even more proud when he became a United States Marine. Talk about having pride for your country! He was excited to train hard, and master the skills it would take to fight for the freedoms this country is based on. He knew the risks and was willing to lay down his life if necessary. When I was told that he was killed in action I didn't think the pain I felt would ever subside. The memories of his 21 years in my life began flooding my head causing even more excruciating aches in my heart. The pain I felt was immeasurable. Nothing will bring him back or completely take away the pain, but the memories, photographs and uplifting stories of Adam are what help me to move forward each day. There are small things around the community that remind me to stay proud of the men and women who gave their lives for this country. It prevents me from getting lost in grief. I like to see military stickers, highways signs, and memorial bracelets. Those are all small reminders of how proud I was when my brother joined the USMC. For a moment, my heart feels peace and is able to smile. Changing the language in the current bill would allow me to obtain a Gold Star license plate, which would be very special to me. It will be a constant reminder that I am not alone and that I am not the only person living with the pain of losing a loved one in a war. I firmly believe it should be extended to more than one person in a family. The myriad of benefits from the extension, whether they are big or small, shouldn't be ignored. Please take the short glimpse into my life as an example of how grateful other family members would be to have the same option.

Thank you,



Rachel Buyes

The only Sister of USMC Cpl Adam J. Buyes - KIA 11/26/2011 - Helmand Province, Afghanistan