

Submitter: Richard Carrar  
On Behalf Of: SCR213  
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules  
Measure: SCR213

It was an honor serving with SPC Ken Leisten. Kenny worked for me for a year and a half prior to deploying to Iraq. Kenny may have been young, but inside that young body was a very mature old Soldier. Kenny was hard working, dedicated to the mission, he never complained, and always wore a smile no matter how good or bad things were. He came to work prior to sun up, and left work after sun down. I would literally have to get on Kenny to get out of the office, and to get personal time for himself. He put others first, and himself second. Kenny was the

Kenny had a very difficult childhood, and as he got older he could of easily strayed down the wrong path, but instead he chose the Oregon Army National Guard. He worked on Camp Rilea in Warrenton, Oregon Monday through Friday, and drilled once a month, and two weeks out of the year with 1/162 Infantry. While at Camp Rilea he worked for the Maintenance Section, Recruiting, and Logistics. He had many skill sets that helped support the operations at Camp Rilea and make us a premier training site.

Kenny learned that 2/162 Infantry Battalion was deploying to Iraq, and because he missed the deployment with 1/162 Infantry Battalion he felt obligated to deploy and do his part. Kenny attempted to deploy as a logistician, which was his assigned job. 2/162 Infantry had know Logistic slots available for deployment, as they were all filled. I mentioned to him that they were in need of Infantry Soldiers, and that Camp Rilea was certified to put on an 11B Infantry School in order to fill slots for 2/162 Infantry deployment. Without hesitation Kenny said Chief can you help get me enrolled for 11B school. He said, I don't care what job I have to do I got to go on this deployment. Kenny got into the Infantry School, and graduated with high honors. After graduating Kenny and the 2/162 Infantry Battalion were off to their mobilization station, and then Iraq. Kenny would call me and my wife every Sunday to let us know he was doing fine, that he needed nothing, and that his patrol missions he went on were successful. He called one Saturday to let me know, that he wouldn't be calling at his normal time Sunday because his unit had a special patrol to go on at that time, and that he would call after the mission was complete. That Saturday night was the last time I spoke to Kenny, because that Sunday he went on the mission the vehicle he was in was blown up by an IED.

It would be a crying shame if SRC213 didn't make it to the senate floor and isn't passed. Kenny sacrificed his life for Country and State. He volunteered for a deployment, when he could have easily stayed home in Oregon. He was what every leader wants as a soldier. Kenny, would have gone far in the Oregon National

Guard, he was headed in the right direction m, and he would have made one hell of a leader one day. If it wasn't for that one Sunday afternoons mission he went out on and didn't make it back alive.

Oregon lost a Soldier, and those at Camp Rilea lost a Soldier, a friend, and a brother. I myself lost a Soldier, an employee, a true friend, and also Kenny was just like a son to me. He spent time with me and my family, we went to water parks, basketball games, and much more. Kenny had plans after the deployment he wanted to further his education and also get into computers. Kenny is missed, and will always be missed.

He deserves to be recognized and honored for his service to country. As I stated earlier it would be a disservice if SRC213 didn't make it to the floor and be passed.

Richard Carrar (Ret CW3)  
Oregon Army National Guard