

Portland soldier killed in Iraq

by Bend_Weekly_News_Sources

PFC Brett Walton was struck by an IED April 9

A Portland born-and-raised soldier, PFC Brett Walton, died in Baghdad, Iraq on Monday – less than one month following his deployment, the Public Affairs Office of the Oregon Military Department (OMD) announced.

PFC Brett Walton PFC Walton was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division out of Ft. Carson, Colorado, and was recently promoted to Private First Class.

According to the OMD, Walton was conducting combat operations when the HUMM WV (high mobility multi-purpose vehicle) he was driving was struck by an improvised explosive device (IED) about 6 p.m. Born in Portland, 37-year old Walton was a graduate of Grant High School in the same city. He entered the U.S. Army on Sept. 13, 2006 and was deployed to Iraq on March 10, 2007. Walton told his family when he signed up that, "I want to do something to be part of the solution, to make a difference to the people of Iraq." Prior to

his enlistment into the U.S. Army, Walton was a resident of Portland, Ore. He is survived by his wife Lindsay, five-year-old daughter Sydney of Sherwood, Ore., father Phillip Walton of Portland, mother Cassandra Phillips of Tigard, sisters Cheryl and Kathleen, and brother John. A memorial service is being planned at the Solid Rock Church located at 10500 SW Nimbus, Building T in Tigard, Ore. with internment at Willamette National Cemetery. Cards and letters should be sent to the Walton Family in care of the Public Affairs Office, Oregon National Guard at P.O. Box 14350, Salem, Ore. 97309-5047. In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that donations be sent in Memory of Private First Class Brett A. Walton to Shepherd's Door, at 13207 NE Halsey, Portland, Ore. 97230. This is a branch of the Portland Rescue Mission which works with homeless families consisting of a unmarried mother with two or three small children, many of whom have experienced violence and most lack work skills, access to child care or access to jobs necessary to support their families. The focus of Shepherd's Door is to break the generational cycle of homelessness and to provide a way to generational healing. All of the women in the program and many of the children have experienced childhood abuse or trauma. By providing a long-term program individualized to each woman and child's needs, families are able to grow and break the cycle of generational trauma. A savings account has been established in Walton's daughter Sydney's name as a means to provide for higher education. Donations may be sent to Sydney Walton Savings at the Rivermark Credit Union, 4875 SW Griffith Drive, Beaverton, Ore. 97005.

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