



MISSOURI SENATE
JEFFERSON CITY

Ryan McKenna
22nd Senate District

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Sen. Ryan McKenna Honors “Unsung Heroes” from 22nd District

JEFFERSON CITY – Sen. Ryan McKenna, D-Crystal City, recognized two of Missouri’s unsung heroes yesterday (1-14).

Twelve individuals or groups were chosen this year by a panel of judges to appear in the Missouri Unsung Hero Calendar produced by the Missouri Senate. Sen. McKenna recognized both of the heroes on the Senate floor.

When Private First Class Andy Habsieger, a Festus native, first tried to join the military, he was not allowed because of childhood migraines. He remained dedicated to joining, and wrote letters to his congressman and military officials. He joined the Army in February 2007, and was deployed to Iraq the following October. On March 23, 2008, Habsieger, 22, was killed in Iraq by an improvised explosive device. The Habsieger family attended the event and was presented with a plaque and an American flag.

When Army Staff Sgt. Brandon Wallace returned home from his first tour in the Army, he began training to be a police officer in Crystal City. Half-way through his training at the police academy in St. Charles, he was reactivated from the Individual Ready Reserve for deployment to Iraq. He received special permission to complete the police training before leaving for Iraq. On April 14, 2007, at the age of 27, Sergeant Wallace was killed by a roadside bomb in Fallujah. He was the first Jefferson County resident to die on active duty in Iraq.

“Both of these young men gave their lives to serve their country and defend freedom,” said Sen. McKenna. “I just want to make sure their families know that we deeply appreciate their sacrifice and that their sons will not be forgotten.”



***Sen. McKenna with Brenda and Michael Habsieger,
parents of Andy Habsieger, on the Senate floor.***

For a high resolution jpeg of the image above, contact sreed@senate.mo.gov or call 573-751-3824.

Audio and broadcast quality video clips of the event are available online at <http://www.senate.mo.gov/05info/press-room/video.html>.

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Senator Ryan McKenna