

The 5K Race and Fitness Walk and SSGT Javier Ortiz



The following is a short biographic statement about Javier Ortiz.

He participated in the first Puerto Rican Festival 5K Race in August of 2010. One month later he was deployed to Afghanistan and in November 2010, Javier was killed in action while leading his platoon of soldiers as a US Marine Staff Sergeant in Afghanistan.

Javier actually represents all of the fallen soldiers who have paid the ultimate sacrifice defending our Freedom.

Javier also brings to light the contribution of Latino Soldiers who have defended America in all of its worldwide conflicts for many years.

SSGT Javier Ortiz Biography

Javier Ortiz was born in Cayey, Puerto Rico on September 7, 1984. At the age of 7, he along with his family moved to Rochester, NY. His parents Gloria Rivera and Orlando Ortiz along with older brother Orlando Ortiz and younger sister Glory Ortiz had resided in Rochester throughout this time. Javier attended Monroe Middle School and later went to Edison Technical High School where he received his High School diploma. While at Edison Tech, he was involved in the JROTC program and began to have a passion for military.

Upon graduating from High School, he enrolled in the early entry program in the US Marine. He entered boot camp summer of 2001 and from there began a life filled with joy as he so proudly served as a Marine. In 2003 he went on his first tour to Iraq during the initial entry into Iraq. He later was stationed in Japan for 1 year and returned to North Carolina where he was stationed since. Javier went on to complete a tour in Afghanistan and another in Iraq.

During this time, Javier began a family in North Carolina with wife Veronica Ortiz Rivera and his 3 children, Alyssa (7), Andrew (6), and Anthony (4). He loved his family very much and really took time out to spend time with his family the last few years. His wife and children still remain in North Carolina.

On September 3, 2010 Javier was sent on his second tour to Afghanistan and fourth total in his 9 years as a Marine. He had achieved a rank of Staff Sergeant and was a Platoon Leader. On November 16, 2010 an IED roadside bomb while on foot patrol in an Afghanistan province killed Javier.

Javier was brought home to Rochester where he was well received by the community. He was eventually laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery. It was his wish to be buried here. Javier was 26 years old.