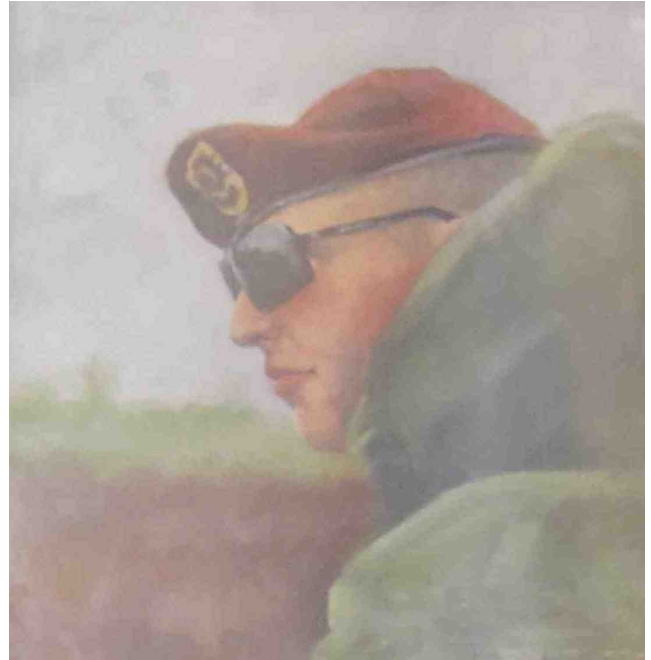


About Brian

Brian was born in DeKalb on December 19, 1972. He was in DeKalb from his 5th grade year through high school graduation in 1991, after which he served in the Army Airborne in Italy for two years.

He was a good student and was also interested in sports. In high school Brian threw discus with the track team, was in Mathletes, Chess Club, JETS (Junior Engineering Society), played drums in band and was in the marching band. He was an Illinois State Scholar, and was in National Honor Society.



While getting his degree in industrial engineering at University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign (UIUC), he auditioned for and was admitted to the Music School as a classical pianist. While at UIUC he got a pilot's license, a flight instructor's license, a commercial aircraft license, and taught flight.

Brian was an athlete, 6' 5" tall, and weighed 240 lbs. Both a weight lifter and a runner, his appearance was tall and slender, but he won a weight lifting contest in Illinois. He was security for the Olympic torch at the games in Atlanta, Georgia in 1994.

Brian practiced three principles: 1) don't hurry; 2) always put yourself in the other person's place; and 3) think before speaking or acting. On March 8, 2003, when I last saw Brian at Ft. Campbell, Kentucky, he said, "Mom, I don't want to hurt anyone." When he was called up by the Illinois National Guard he was eventually sent to Kuwait to unload helicopters.

On November 2, 2003, the Chinook 47 helicopter Brian was piloting was hit by a shoulder fired, heat seeking missile while flying over Fallujah, Iraq. The flight engineer survived the crash, and he said Brian's last words were, "Automatic rotate," which put the helicopter into emergency mode. While both pilots and fourteen others were killed, twenty of the 36 people on board survived.