

Report on Services and Funeral for:
SSGT Kenneth Keith McAninch
“A” Company, 1/506th Infantry, 101st Airborne Division

Logansport Indiana: Logansport, Indiana is located along the banks of the Wabash River in north central Indiana. With a population of 19,000 people, its primary business is farming and is surrounded by endless corn fields; a city where tractor and farm equipment dealerships compete with auto dealerships. High School basketball reigns supreme in the culture of the city.

Overview: Gundrum Funeral Home, with Mr. Kris Smith in charge of overall coordination, served as the central point of contact and their support was caring and above reproach. The Indiana National Guard provided the escort and Honor Guard. They attended to their duty in a totally professional manner. The active duty soldiers that attended from Fort Campbell were equally professional and represented the 1st Battalion well.

Visitation (28 October 2010): In coordination with Kris Smith we were advised that it would be best that the 506th veterans from the 506th Association present the battle flag and pins during visitation. In coordination with the veterans of “A” Company, Mike Rogers (VN – 1970) committed to being present for the visitation. We met at the First Assembly of God Church at 1645 that day. The Church is one of the largest churches in the city and is modern in construction. This is not the family church, which would not have been able to handle the number of people attending. American flags visible in any direction one chose to look and the Indiana Patriot Guard stood at the entrance and would later provide escort on their motorcycles. As the crowd visiting the family was rather large Mike and I were advised by the Gundrum staff that it would be best to wait



for a break in the visitors so that we could do the presentation properly. This gave us some time to visit and it soon became clear that there was not going to be a break in the stream of visitors. The Gundrum staff eventually provided us a space in the line and informed the family that the presentation was to be made. I went forward and introduced Mike as the representative of “A” Company veterans and of the 506th Association and indicated that he would be making the presentation. Mike’s presentation and conversation with the family was a “class” act and it was clear that his deep compassion was evident. As a side note, Mike is in the middle of a reelection campaign and chose to attend to this duty rather than the closing days of his campaign. If this was not complicated enough, his “hot” car shredded a tire in route and his loaner car was a bright yellow VW bug.

Services (29 October 2010): Early the next morning I arrived at the church and had a conversation with the family pastor, Reverend David Nihiser. It turns out that Davis is a retired 1st Sergeant in the Indiana National Guard and Kenny's father served 21 years in the same unit as David. Soon after, the detachment for Fort Campbell arrived headed up by Captain Mabes and 1st SGT (P) Alfaro. Again it was good to meet and talk with some of the men who attend the 506th Reunion last summer. Immediately on their heel the "A" Company veterans arrived lead by Mike Rogers. Mike introduced Dan Nightingale (who saved his life one horrible night in VN), Jim O'Laughlin and Dave Daily. We sat together during the service in the church and the service was touching and very personal for the family. Kenny's favorite music was played, with the songs from early childhood particularly touching.

Procession to the Cemetery (29 October 2010): The procession from the church to the cemetery was lead by the Indiana State Police on motorcycles and the Indiana Patriot Guard (Rolling Thunder). The Indiana State Police also provided overhead helicopter cover. I will attempt to give an impression of the drive to the cemetery but words cannot really describe it. The entire city shut down and people lined the entire seven mile route to the cemetery. Hard hat workers, construction crews, police and fire departments from five surrounding counties, workers from McDonalds and Lowe's (all



businesses), school children and local residents all lined the route. All had American flags and two huge Garrison Flags were suspended above the main street – one could see them from miles away. Red, white and blue was evident everywhere. The respect was evident in the salutes of combat veterans who reside in the city, the signs the school children held and the sorrow evident in every resident in the city. Logansport is located in the Midwest, the "Heart of America". On this day it was clearly evident that the city was the "Heart of America".



Burial Service (29 October 2010): The Burial service was conducted at Ever-Rest Memorial Park outside of the city. All the representatives for the 506th Association were present as were the Currahees from Fort Campbell under the "gentle" guidance of 1st SGT (P) Alfaro. In addition, the American Legion and VFW provided color guards. It was evident that some of the American

Legion and VFW color guard were WW II veterans both from their age and the pins they wore. These old veterans stood at attention the whole time and never flinched once. The pall bearers, honor guard, bugler and firing squad were all provided by the Indiana National Guard from Indianapolis. The sequence followed the military funeral protocol and was very professionally done by the National Guard soldiers. I could not detect even the smallest error and would say that it was equal to the standard one would see at Arlington. Shawna, the widow, was presented with Kenny's Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Army Commendation Medal as well as a NATO Award. The American Flag was presented to Shawna and flags were also presented to Kenny's father, mother and each of his children.

Tom Duckett
506th Association Board Chair



In Memory Of
Staff Sgt. Kenneth Keith
McAninch

Date And Place of Birth

July 31, 1982
Monticello, IN

Date And Place Of Death

October 21, 2010
Yahya Khel District, Afghanistan

Services

10:30 AM Friday, October 29, 2010
First Assembly of God Church
Logansport, Indiana

Clergy

Pastor David Nihiser

Burial

Ever-Rest Memorial Park
Logansport, Indiana

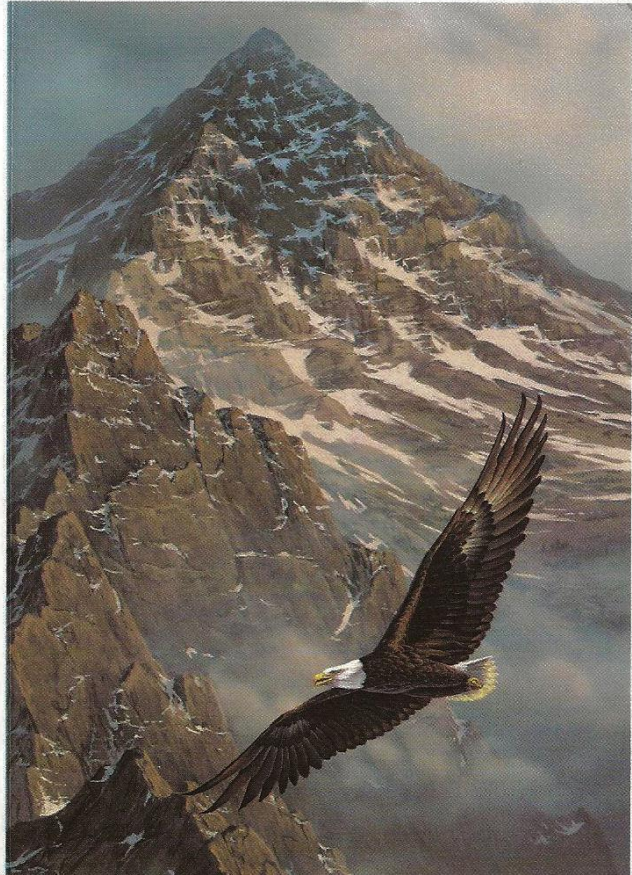
Arrangements By
Gundrum Funeral Home
Logansport, Indiana

The death of a warrior is long and honorable; The death of a coward is short and unremembered; Yet the families of these men remember each death of the loved one; The death I propose for myself is one to remember and forget; For I live the life of a hero; Fought war of a warrior and felt wrath of a winner; As I walk a tunnel of light I chose to take the toughest path. –
Kenneth McAninch

Do not stand at my grave and weep. I am not there; I do not sleep. I am a thousand winds that blow. I am the diamond glit on snow. I am the sunlight on ripened grain. I am the gentle autumn's rain. When you waken in the morning's hush; I am the swift up-lift rush of a quiet bird in circle flight. I am the soft stars that shine at night. Do not stand at my grave and cry; I am not there; I did not die.


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MESSENGER



SSGT Kenneth Keith McAninch

(July 31, 1982 - October 21, 2010)

 SSgt. Kenneth Keith McAninch July 31, 1982 - Oct. 21, 2010 Sgt. Kenneth Keith McAninch, 28, Hopkinsville, Ky., formerly of Logansport, died Thursday, Oct. 21, 2010, in the Yahya Khel district, Afghanistan. He was born July 31, 1982, in Monticello, the son of Marvin McAninch and Cheryl A. Richardson. On June 11, 2010, in Hopkinsville, Ky., he married Shawna R. Sidwell, and she survives. Kenneth was a staff sergeant serving with the U.S. Army. His awards and decorations include the Joint Service Commendation Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with Mobilization Device and Combat Infantryman Badge. Kenneth attended Southeastern, Eastlawn and Pioneer elementary schools. He also attended Delphi Middle School and Lewis Cass High School. He enjoyed fishing, hunting, playing video games, especially "Call of Duty", and was an avid artist. He is survived by his wife, Shawna R. McAninch; four sons, Jeremiah McAninch, Braxton McAninch, Brayden McAninch and Colby McAninch; one daughter, Shyanne



Adam; mother, Cheryl A. Nance and husband Richard, Peru; father, Marvin McAninch and wife Regina, Logansport; sisters, Kayla Ann Wallace, Katie Lee McAninch and Brianna McAninch, all of Logansport; brothers, Jason McAninch and Briar McAninch, both of Logansport; stepbrother, David Jackson Nance and wife Tammy, Idaho; stepbrother, Richie Nance, Peru; stepsister, Melanie Bennett, Peru; maternal grandmother, Barbara Price and husband Elmer, Monticello; paternal grandmother, Mary Downing, Lake Cicott; paternal grandmother, Carol McAninch, Burnettsville; step-grandparents, Fred and Connie Taylor, Logansport; and several nieces, nephews, aunts and uncles. He was preceded in death by grandfathers, Marvin McAninch Sr. and James Richardson; one step-grandfather, Clarence H. Downing; and step-grandparents, Richard and Helen Nance. Services are 10:30 a.m. Friday at The First Assembly of God Church, 831 Burlington Ave., Logansport, with Pastor David Nihiser officiating. Burial will be in Ever-Rest Memorial Park, Logansport. Visitation is 1 to 8 p.m. Thursday at the church. Memorials may be made to The Kenneth McAninch Family Fund C/O Security Federal Savings.