



**Missouri State Society
Daughters of the American
Revolution**

PATRIOT OF THE MONTH



Kyle Vernon is the son of Kevin and Debbie Vernon and Karen and Gordon Engle. He has two sisters, Kimberly and Kathleen, and a younger brother, Kennety. Kyle was raised on the Vernon Century Farm, outside Eldon, Missouri.

His farming background, and the fact that he is 6 ft. 5 in. tall, weighing 235 lbs., earned him the nickname "Cornfed" by his platoon.

He joined the US Army Reserve shortly after his 17th birthday as a high school junior. He attended basic training in Fort Sill, Oklahoma, the summer between his junior and senior year. He graduated Eldon High School in 2004, and left at 3:00 a.m., the morning following his graduation for AIT (Advanced Individual Training) at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

He graduated at the head of his AIT class, and was called to active duty shortly after training was completed. He was transferred to the 463rd Combat Engineers attached to the 82nd

Airborne Division. He trained 3 months at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, before shipping out to Iraq for a one-year tour of duty.

Kyle was stationed various locations in Northern and Western Iraq. His company usually worked "outside the wire" of established bases and provided their own protection while doing construction. Kyle noted it was hard to work long days, in extremely high temperatures, while wearing complete combat gear. Later in his tour, he was in convoys hauling supplies across Iraq with the constant threat of IED's. Kyle lost his best friend to an IED in August of 2005.

Two weeks before his tour was complete, Kyle broke his ankle and was airlifted back to Fort Bragg. He is currently stationed there doing physical therapy and awaiting orders to release him from active duty. Kyle is proud of his service, but looks forward to returning home to his family, friends, and the farm.

Connie L. Willson, Regent of the Eldon Chapter, nominated Kyle and wrote that Kyle is their chapter's adopted soldier. Kyle's grandmother, Sylvia Vernon, is a member of the Eldon Chapter. The Eldon Chapter proudly nominates an honorable young man, Kyle Andrew Vernon, for MSSDAR's Patriot of the Month.

