

MISSOURI STATE SOCIETY DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Proudly Honors



ROGER LEE WARD, III
UNITED STATES ARMY
SERGEANT (E-5)
JUNE 6, 2001 – JUNE 5, 2006



as

**PURPLE HEART PATRIOT
DECEMBER 2024**

Honoring his Service and Sacrifice

Sponsored by: Gilead Rupe Chapter, NSDAR



Sergeant (SGT) Roger Lee Ward, III, entered the U.S. Army in Montgomery, Alabama, as 118th Infantry Regiment on June 6th, 2001. During his enlistment, he was stationed at Fort Riley in Kansas and several bases in Kuwait in 2002, in Iraq during the ground invasion in 2003, and during a second combat deployment in 2004-2005.

SGT Ward spent most of his time while deployed, staying "outside the wire"; or being outside the protective perimeter of a particular military base. This is where he excelled at his duties, using a variety of weapons from small arms to armored vehicles, and volunteering for dangerous assignments that most men would elect not to participate in.

If you ask most infantrymen and operators what Iraq was like, you will usually get the response "hot and sandy"; and not much more. Soldiers like SGT Ward do not spend much time talking about themselves or what they have sacrificed for this country. But with the persuasion of his wife and fellow veteran, Dana Ward, this grateful nation is fortunate enough to get a glimpse of what Operation Iraqi Freedom was like, through the eyes of one of our heroes.

SGT Ward clearly remembered the times he entered Iraqi palaces while on missions and how grand they were. He reflected on the time he walked through the ruins of Babylon while patrolling south of Baghdad. And he spoke of seeing the 50-foot pyramid temple Ziggurat, in the ruins of the ancient city Ur. Being present in ancient Mesopotamia, also known as the cradle of civilization, was surreal to him. As a man of faith, he had only read about these historic sites in the Bible. But the times spent being able to take in the reality of being so close to the Holy Land was short-lived and what was supposed to be the core of Christian beliefs was constantly being fractured by the undeniable presence of war.

April 5, 2003, was a particularly poignant example that war was not only present but all around Private First Class (PFC) Ward and the soldiers with him in a Bradley Fighting Vehicle (BFV) on a mission in Karbala, Iraq. The BFV was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) and small arms fire, then became engulfed in flames. PFC Ward was able to exit the back ramp with other soldiers, but two were stuck in the turret. In an incredible display of valor, while still taking on a barrage of enemy fire, he and Specialist (SPC) Doc Corbit, climbed on top of the BFV and pulled the two men out. After running through the Iraqi streets while under constant fire, the men were eventually able to make it to safety. During the explosion and firefight, SGT Ward was injured and earned the Purple Heart Medal.

SGT Ward also earned the Army Commendation Medal with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Service Medal, and Overseas Service Medal. Other earned designations are the Combat Infantryman Badge and the Army Lapel Button.