

REGARDING ALABAMA VETERAN TREY WILBOURN:

"Trey was the first child in our family and only son. From the time he was a little boy he always wanted to be a pilot. Like most young men in the 70s and 80s he liked sports. He was particularly fond of waterskiing. In fact, while he was a part of Desert Shield, he sent us photos of him and some other soldiers skiing on a beach in Saudi. We thought that was just like Trey to find a way to waterski halfway across the world. He played both offense and defense on his high school football team and, after graduating from Auburn, went straight into the Marine Corps to begin training to fly jets.

"The last time I spoke with him he was about to take off again on another bombing mission over Iraq. The next day was a Saturday and we had just returned from Arab, Alabama, where we had gone to see an accountant friend about our taxes. Like a lot of people, we tuned into CNN to see what was going on with the war and, even more importantly to see if they had stopped the bombing missions our son was involved in. The doorbell rang and, when I opened it there were three Marines standing on my porch. I didn't have to ask why they were there. Though we miss him everyday, I know that Trey would not want anyone to feel sorry for him. He died doing exactly what he wanted to do, flying as a pilot in the United States Marines."

--Mrs. Joyce Wilbourn