



Sgt. Phillip C. Jenkins, 26, of Decatur, Ind., died Sept. 7 at Balad, Iraq, of wounds suffered in a shooting incident in Salah ad-Din province. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Stryker Advise and Assist Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. Survivors include his wife Melissa L. Jenkins of Wahiawa, Hawaii; two daughters Lindly M. Stuckey and Piper C. Jenkins both of Wahiawa, Hawaii; his mother Rose M. Jenkins of Decatur; mother-in-law Debby Feurer of Gahanna, OH; father-in-law Mike Hays of Louisville, KY; sister Cassie K. Jenkins of Decatur; two brother-in-laws Matt Hays and Nick Hays both of Louisville, KY; paternal grandmother Darlene Carlile of Warsaw, IN. Preceding Phillip in death are grandparents Gordon & Betty Hauter and Roy Carlile.

Contributed by Elizabeth Reed - no source listed

Staff Sgt. Phillip Jenkins - City man 'gave his life for America'

Decatur said goodbye to one of its own on Saturday; a man described by those who knew him, and by those who didn't, as a great American hero.

Staff Sgt. Phillip Jenkins, 26, was laid to rest during private ceremonies in Decatur Cemetery on Saturday afternoon, 11 days after he was killed in Iraq in the line of duty. He leaves behind a wife and two young daughters, in addition to his parents and a sister.

The Decatur community turned out en masse for the funeral of the Belmont High School graduate, from nearly filling the theatre at Belmont High School during a public ceremony, to lining the length of Monroe Street - in many places shoulder-to-shoulder - to pay their final respects to the fallen soldier as the hearse carrying his body rolled past on its way to the cemetery. Many carried American flags and signs which read "Thank you, Sgt. Jenkins." Public viewing of Sgt. Jenkins' flag-draped casket began at 10 a.m. on Saturday, and for the next three-plus hours a steady line of mourners filed past to pay their respects. As time for the services drew near, a reverent hush fell over the theatre.

Speaking at the funeral was Lt. General Curt Stein, commanding general of the U.S. Army's tank and automotive division based in Warren, Mich.

Stein said he was pleased to be present "on behalf of the people of the United States of America to honor, recognize and remember Sgt. Phillip Jenkins, who gave his life for America." "Today, words are feeble," said Stein. "Sgt. Jenkins will never be forgotten, and we mourn his loss. Sgt. Jenkins was a soldier's soldier who made the ultimate sacrifice so that others could live in a country that is free." Stein said Jenkins "accepted the burden of defending freedom; he understood that freedoms are not free. It's soldiers like Sgt. Jenkins who go into harm's way for the betterment of others." The general, who himself recently returned from a tour of duty in Iraq, spoke directly to Jenkins' family and friends when he said, "No human words can fix the hurt. Your pain anchors this country to its past, its present and its future. It is the thread that binds together the heart and soul of America's character." To all those in attendance, Stein said, "It's clear that Phillip cared deeply about his soldiers, his family, his community and his country. Phillip loved all of you." Following his remarks, Stein presented The Bronze Star Medal "for meritorious service" and the Purple Heart Award "for wounds received in action" to Jenkins' widow, Melissa, on behalf of Secretary of the Army John McHugh. Bagpipes then played "Amazing Grace" on the theatre stage while uniformed members of the military filed past the casket three-by-three for a final salute to their fallen comrade.

Outside Belmont High School, some 100 members of the Patriot Guard, a group comprised primarily of motorcycle-riding military veterans from northeast Indiana, lined the sidewalks holding large American flags in a sign of respect for Sgt. Jenkins. Gen. Stein personally greeted many of the motorcyclists prior to the funeral services.

"This is truly a sad day but it's great to see all these great patriots here," Stein said.

Members of the Patriot Guard would later ride their motorcycles down Monroe Street, following the hearse on its way to the cemetery.

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**Haggard-Sefton & Hirschy online obit (accessed 5/5/2012)**

Staff Sergeant Phillip Chad Jenkins, 26 formerly of Decatur, Indiana, living in Wahiawa, Hawaii was killed in action on September 7, 2010 in Iraq. He was born on September 27, 1983 in Decatur, Indiana to David A. Jenkins and Rose M. (Hauter) Jenkins. On July 21, 2008 Phillip married Melissa L. Hays.

Staff Sergeant Jenkins was a member of the Eagles Lodge #2653 in Decatur, the Warsaw V.F.W. and American Legion. He was with the Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, Second Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division. He was a 2002 Belmont High School graduate.

Survivors include his wife Melissa L. Jenkins of Wahiawa, Hawaii; two daughters Lindly M. Stuckey and Piper C. Jenkins both of Wahiawa, Hawaii; his mother Rose M. Jenkins of Decatur; mother-in-law Debby Feurer of Gahanna, OH; father-in-law Mike Hays of Louisville, KY; sister Cassie K. Jenkins of Decatur; two brother-in-laws Matt Hays and Nick Hays both of Louisville, KY; paternal grandmother Darlene Carlile of Warsaw, IN. Preceding Phillip in death are grandparents Gordon & Betty Hauter and Roy Carlile.

Public visitation will be from 10:00 - 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 18, 2010 at Belmont High School 1000 North Adams Dr., Decatur, IN. Funeral services will be held following the visitation at 2:00 p.m.

A private burial will take place at Decatur Cemetery. The funeral procession will be leaving Belmont High School following the service. Any members of the community wishing to show their support are asked to line the sidewalks along Monroe St., starting at Limberlost Trail in Stratton Addition to 13th St. (U.S. Hwy 27).

Memorials may be made to 27th Infantry Regiment Association Historical Society in Hawaii.