



Sgt. Matthew Abbate

September 10, 1984 – December 2, 2010

U.S. Marines

February 1, 2006 – December 2, 2010

Served in:

Afghanistan

Sgt. Matthew Abbate



Age: 26
Hometown: Honolulu, HI
Date of Death: 12/2/2010
Incident: Helmand
Location: province,
Afghanistan

Branch of Military: Marines
Rank: Staff Sgt.
Unit: 3rd Battalion,
5th Marine Regiment,
1st Marine Division,
I Marine Expeditionary
Force
Unit's Base: Camp Pendleton,
California

Marine Sgt. Matthew Abbate will receive the Navy Cross for his heroism in Afghanistan. The ferocious fighting that the men of 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, encountered during their 2010-11 deployment to Afghanistan with Regimental Combat Team 2 — and the valor with which they fought — has been hailed yet again with an award for "extraordinary heroism" in combat. Sgt. Matthew T. Abbate is the latest leatherneck with the Camp Pendleton, California-based "Darkhorse" battalion to be honored with the coveted Navy Cross. He was cited for his "bold and decisive leadership" while leading his scout-sniper section through a hellish ambush in Sangin district on Oct. 14, 2010.

Abbate was killed in combat just six weeks after that battle, on December 2, 2010. He was 26. His survivors include his young son, Carson, and family in the Fresno, Calif., area.

Abbate was later nominated for a posthumous award of the Navy Cross, and Navy Secretary Ray Mabus approved the medal. Mabus is expected to present the Navy Cross — which ranks second only to the Medal of Honor for Marines and sailors — to Abbate's family at an award ceremony later this year.