



BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

STAFF SERGEANT LOUIS M. BONACASA

Staff Sergeant Louis M. Bonacasa of East Patchogue, New York, was a 2002 graduate of Newfield High School. Upon graduation, he enlisted in the Air Force. He was stationed at Hill Air Force Base, Utah for four years where he met and married his wife, Deborah, who is also a Veteran.

Staff Sgt. Bonacasa excelled at his job as an Emergency Actions Controller and quickly became recognized. He was promoted to Senior Airman Below the Zone and selected Airman of the Quarter. In 2008 he re-enlisted as a Security Forces member in the New York Air National Guard with the 106th Rescue Wing.



In 2010, he joined the 105th Airlift Wing and was assigned to the 105th Security Forces Squadron, Stewart ANGB, N.Y. He served four tours among Qatar, Iraq and Afghanistan that proved his exceptional performance in challenging leadership positions.

In Afghanistan he distinguished himself as a Tactical Security Element Truck Commander. On Dec. 21, 2015, while conducting outside-the-wire human intelligence operations near Bagram Air Field, a suicide bomber positioned his explosive laden motorcycle 15 feet from Staff Sgt. Bonacasa and his patrol. Staff Sgt. Bonacasa placed himself between his team members and the terrorist's motorcycle using a tactical security fighting position when the suicide bomber detonated his explosive. The blast killed Staff Sgt. Bonacasa and five others in his patrol. However, his heroic action safeguarded two of his fellow team members and ensured the survival of a fellow Defender.

Staff Sgt. Bonacasa is survived by his parents, Vincent M. Bonacasa and Diana O. Bonacasa; his wife of 11 years, Deborah A. Bonacasa and their daughter, Lilianna M. Bonacasa; sisters, Gabriela M. Bonacasa and Raquel A. Bonacasa; brother, Vincent C. Bonacasa; niece, Jayla M. Bonacasa; other extended family members and friends.