



Gold Star Mother Re-enlists

It was exactly four years to the day after my son, Jeremy Michael Hodge was born that I initially enlisted into the U. S. Air Force, July 07, 1989. Six years later, July 7, 1995, again on my son's birthday I re-enlisted in the Air Force Reserve and served until 1998.

My son's life has closely followed my military career, not only in regards to these significant dates, but also with pride in his ultimate decision to join the military himself.

I was not surprised when Jeremy first came to me with his idea of joining the military. He decided to join the Ohio Army National Guard and entered service on Feb. 10, 2004 with the 612th Engineer Battalion, Tiffin, Ohio. Even with the known possible consequences of military service, I was tremendously proud of the decision that my son made because I knew he was destined for success.

On Oct. 10, 2005, Jeremy was killed in action during Operation Iraqi Freedom, a devastating day in the lives of his family and friends; a day in which the meaning of "ultimate sacrifice" became a severe reality. Jeremy gave me the title of mother and now the title of Gold Star Mother — both titles associated with sacrifice and pride; both titles filled with devotion and honor. It is our duty as Americans to never forget these fallen heroes. We should honor them every day in our lives.

To achieve my personal goals, on the eve of my son's anniversary, Oct. 9, 2009, I enlisted into the Air Force Reserve.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the brave men and women who have served and are currently serving in the armed services; I look forward to again getting the opportunity to work with you.

Dedicated to all of the parents who have lost a son or daughter, God bless you and your family.

Michele Norris
Air Force Reservist