

# THEY SERVED IN SILENCE



## The Story of a Cryptologic Hero SSG Michael W. Hosey, USA

*“When the fate of a Nation and the lives of its soldiers are at stake, gentlemen do reach each other’s mail, if they can get their hands on it”*

*Allan Welsh Dulles, former Director of Central Intelligence*

SSG Michael W. Hosey was born in the “Magic City” of Birmingham, Alabama, and spent his youth in historic Jefferson County. Named for Thomas Jefferson, the area was settled by Soldiers who fought alongside Andrew Jackson in the Creek War. The county’s founding predates the establishment of the state of Alabama. As a young boy, Michael loved to read books about military history. During his youth, he would attend Clay-Chalkville High School where he was remembered by his classmates as “a good listener” and as someone with a great sense of humor who, no matter the time or situation, “could put a smile on your face.”

In 2001, Michael would make the decision to join the United States Army with the aim of becoming a communications intelligence specialist. After completing basic training, he would get additional training in the field of languages and tactical SIGINT operations, and serve in a variety of intelligence-related positions. In 2005, he would be assigned to Ft. Lewis, Washington, where he would become part of the 1st Special Forces Group and begin to hone his skills as a member of a Special Operations Team (SOT). SOTs are known and respected for their uncanny ability to conduct electronic warfare operations on the battlefield. Their mission is a unique, but vital one, namely, to detect, monitor, and exploit enemy communications..

Michael proved to be a valuable member of his team. His fellow Soldiers, like his high school classmates, would come to not only admire his contributions on the battlefield, but also his sense of humor. One of his fellow Soldiers, who had deployed with Michael on two previous occasions, noted that, “He had a jokester side. When you think of the military, you may always think of being lockstep, proper and inside of a square; but it’s not always true. In our private lives, we





know how to have fun and he was someone who could lighten a mood very easily.”

But while Michael was both a brave warrior and a good and loyal friend to his fellow Soldiers, life on the battlefield is one of endless peril and danger. While on patrol in Afghanistan, on September 17, 2011, SSG Michael Hosey would lose his life when his unit was attacked by enemy forces. For his service in combat, he would be posthumously awarded the Meritorious Service Medal, the Purple Heart, and the Bronze Star Medal.

On October 2, 2011, the American flag adjoining the Clay-Chalkville High School flew at half-mast in honor of the service and supreme sacrifice of one of its own. SSG Michael W. Hosey would be honored and remembered by his friends, family, and fellow Soldiers. That night Mr. Jerry Hood, the football coach at Hosey’s alma mater, would relate that “...We honor him as a hero, and his life was meaningful. And nothing better can be said about a person than to have honor.” Michael’s mom perhaps described him best by simply noting, “My son was someone who had a deep love for his people and his country.” SSG Michael W. Hosey, in his short, but eventful time on earth lived a life exemplified not only by honor, but also by unmatched pride and devotion to the Nation for which he gave his life.



***SSG Michael W. Hosey***  
***United States Army***  
***September 23, 1983 – September 17, 2011***



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