

THEY SERVED IN SILENCE



The Story of a Cryptologic Hero SSgt Jacob Michael Galliher



Staff Sergeant Jacob "Jake" Michael Galliher was born on February 7, 1999, in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. Founded in the eighteenth century, Pittsfield is located on the banks of the Housatonic River in the scenic Berkshire mountains, and named for British Prime Minister William Pitt, who championed the cause of the colonists before the revolution.

At Pittsfield's Taconic High School, Galliher excelled both in the classroom and on the athletic field, particularly in football. As a hard-charging running back, in 2016 he led the school to the Western Massachusetts Football Championship.

In 2017, after graduation, he made the decision to join the United States Air Force. After initial training, he attended and graduated with honors from the Defense Language Institute's Cryptologic Language Analyst course. He was then assigned to the 25th Intelligence Squadron in Hurlburt Field, Florida.

August of 2022 found him working as a direct support operator assigned to the 43rd Intelligence Squadron, Detachment 1, Operation Location-Alpha, 363rd Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Wing. As an airborne linguist, Galliher was part of a team that gathered critical information to allow both military and civilian leaders to gain a better understanding of the future intentions of our nation's adversaries. His language skills played a critical role in this process and, in a short time, he became an accomplished and dedicated cryptologic professional.

On November 29, 2023, Galliher and his team boarded their CV-22 Osprey aircraft for a routine mission. During the flight, the Osprey experienced major mechanical trouble and crashed in the area of operation, leading to the deaths of Galliher and his fellow service members.

In his time serving his country, Galliher left behind a legacy of success. Mr. Chris Callahan, a senior official of the National Security Agency, noted that Galliher "had ... an impressive career," and that "Although his family, friends, former classmates, and fellow Airmen are broken hearted, we know he answered the call..."

At Galliher's funeral mass, Father Christopher Malatesta remarked that "Because of his character and integrity, he chose as his life's vocation to serve our country."

Galliher's service and sacrifice are a stark reminder of the courage and bravery required of those who gather the critical information our nation requires to provide for our nation's security. He will always be remembered as someone who was devoted to his family, fellow service members, and the nation for which he served and died. Galliher was recognized with the Air Force Achievement Medal, Air and Space Commendation Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, and Air Force Meritorious Unit Award. He is buried in his hometown of Pittsfield, Massachusetts.

