



North Mankato Post 518 Proudly Honors This



Veteran of the Month

The Flag flying from this site is flown in honor of Army Staff Sergeant Ronald J. Shurer II for the month of February, 2021 _____ by North Mankato American Legion Post 518.

Ronald J. Shurer II was born in Fairbanks, Alaska on December 7, 1978, to parents both serving in the United States Air Force. Ronald graduated from Rogers High School in Puyallup, Washington in 1997, and Washington State University, where he received a bachelor's degree in business administration in 2001. He completed one year working towards a master's degree at Washington State

Ronald J. Shurer II enlisted in the United States Army in Spokane, Washington, in September 2002. Shurer initially trained as an army medic and qualified to train as a Special Forces medic, including internship in a hospital emergency room and completion of the national paramedic training program. He was promoted to staff sergeant with the 3rd Special Forces Group in 2006. Staff Sergeant Shurer was deployed with Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force in Afghanistan in November 2007 as a senior medical sergeant.

On April 6, 2008, the team was participating in a joint US-Afghan raid in the Shok Valley of Nuristan Province of Afghanistan. He and his team were attacked by an enemy force of more than 200 fighters. Shurer fought for more than an hour to reach part of his unit, killing several insurgents along the way. While moving through the valley under heavy fire, the team suffered several casualties and became pinned down on a mountainside. To reach the first wounded soldier, who had received RPG shrapnel in his neck, Shurer ran through enemy fire. He continued up the mountain, returning fire for another hour, killing several insurgents to reach more wounded soldiers. He stabilized four more wounded soldiers, receiving more enemy fire including a strike to his helmet and a wound to his arm. He then treated a soldier who lost a leg and continued aiding the injured and fighting the enemy for several more hours. He helped evacuate the wounded back down the mountain to a medevac helicopter, at times using his body as a shield against debris being dislodged from the cliff by the firefight. He was initially awarded a Silver Star for this action, but in 2016 The Pentagon upgraded this recognition to a Medal of Honor. He received the latter honor in a White House ceremony on October 1, 2018.

SSG Shurer was also awarded The: Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Army Commendation Medal, Meritorious Unit Commendation, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal w/2 bronze service stars, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, NCO Professional Development Ribbon w/numeral 2, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, Nato Service Medal for the former Yugoslavia and the Combat Infantryman Badge.

Shurer was honorably discharged in May 2009, and became a special agent in the Phoenix office of the United States Secret Service and later selected for the agency's Counter Assault Team and assigned to its Special Operations Division in Washington, D.C. He lived in Burke, Virginia, with his wife and two sons. In addition to his wife, Shurer is survived by two sons.

Shurer was diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer in 2017, and on May 14, 2020, he died as a result of the disease at the age of 41. He will be buried in Arlington National Cemetery near the nation's capital at a future date.

