

## Biography of Staff Sergeant Vincent J. Bell –

Staff Sergeant Bell was born on July 8, 1983 in Detroit, Michigan. He enlisted in the Marine Corps. on July 7, 2001. He attended Recruit Training in Parris Island, SC. Upon graduation he transferred to Camp Lejeune, NC in order to attend Marine Corps. Training (MCT). Upon completion of MCT Private Bell transferred to Fort Sill, OK for Field Artillery Cannoneer Crew Course from October 2001-December 2001.

Upon completion, Private Bell reported to Sierra Battery 5<sup>th</sup> Bn, 11<sup>th</sup> Marines as a Cannoneer in January 2002. In January 2003, Lance Corporal Bell deployed with Battalion Landing Team (BLT) 2/1, 15<sup>th</sup> Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), Special Operations Capable (SOC) in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom-1. Upon returning from deployment, Corporal Bell held the billets of Assistance Section Chief, and Fire Team Leader. In September 2004, Corporal Bell deployed with 2d Bn, 11<sup>th</sup> Marines in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 2-2. Upon returning from deployment, Corporal Bell held the billet of Howitzer Section Chief.

In July 2005, Corporal Bell transferred to the Inactive Ready Reserves. On March 3, 2006, Sergeant Bell transferred to active duty and was assigned to Sierra Battery 5<sup>th</sup> Bn, 11<sup>th</sup> Marines. In September 2006, Sergeant Bell deployed with BLT 2/4 15<sup>th</sup> MEU (SOC) in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 5-7. Upon returning from deployment, Sergeant Bell underwent new equipment training for the M142 HIM-ARS Launcher and served as a Launcher Chief.

In July 2008, Sergeant Bell again deployed with Sierra Battery 5<sup>th</sup> Bn, 11<sup>th</sup> Marines in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom Resolution. Upon returning from deployment, Sergeant Bell was reassigned to Headquarters Battery, 11<sup>th</sup> Marine Regiment to serve as an Artillery Training School Instructor, where he provided advanced training to the Section Chiefs of 11<sup>th</sup> Marine Regiment. In February 2011, Staff Sergeant Bell was promoted to his current rank, and reported to Golf Battery 2d Bn, 11<sup>th</sup> Marines, where he served as a Howitzer Section Chief.

On October 31, 2011, he deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom 11.2 as the Platoon Sergeant for Golf Battery, 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon. While conducting daily combat operations throughout the Kajaki District, Helmond Province, Afghanistan, his life tragically ended on November 30, 2011. Staff Sergeant Bell is survived by his father, James, his mother, Pamela and his sisters London and Andrea.

His personal decorations include the Purple Heart, the Navy and Marine Corps. Commendation Medal with Combat "V", the Navy and Marine Corps. Achievement Medal with one Gold Star, and the Combat Action Ribbon with one Gold Star.

