

Schwedler, Joseph C.

Joseph Clark Schwedler, 27, of Crystal Falls, was killed in action in Al Anbar province, Iraq, on April 6, 2007. Schwedler, a Navy SEAL, was participating in his team's assault on a home occupied by terrorists involved in the recent downing of a Coalition helicopter. An Iraqi soldier involved in the joint operation also was killed, and two other SEALs were wounded. Schwedler, the eldest son of Carl Joseph and Susan Herrington Schwedler, of Crystal Falls, was born May 1, 1979, in Iron Mountain. He graduated from Crystal Falls Forest Park High School in 1997, and attended Michigan State University before becoming a Navy SEAL. He joined the Navy in 2002. After basic training at the Great Lakes Naval Station, he completed his training in San Diego and was assigned to SEAL Team FOUR in Virginia Beach, Virginia. He was a dedicated member of the SEALs and reenlisted in the Navy while in Iraq during his first tour of duty there in 2005. He returned to Iraq in October 2006 and had been scheduled to return to the U.S. later this month. Schwedler participated in many high school activities, including football, basketball, and track. He was active in student council and served as senior class president. While at Michigan State, Schwedler was a member of the rowing team. He was an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed hunting, skiing and camping. Schwedler is survived by his parents; his sister, Catherine, of Ferndale; his brother, Thomas, and his sister-in-law, Mary, of West Bend, Wisconsin. His grandparents are Ann Kavanagh Schwedler and the late John Thomas Schwedler, of Port Austin; and Charles Clark Herrington and the late Jeannette Buckley Herrington, of Bad Axe. A military funeral will take place at 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 14, 2007, CST at the Forest Park High School gymnasium in Crystal Falls. Further information is available from the Jacobs-Plowe Funeral Home. A scholarship fund will be established with the Crystal Falls Area Community Fund, P.O. Box 269, Crystal Falls, Michigan 49920.