



STEEL SPIKE EXPRESS

ADSEQUOR - "TO ACHIEVE"



The "Steel Spike Team" remembers a Soldier, comrade, and friend — SPC Jacob Barton.



Tribute Edition

Steel Spike Express



SPC Jacob David Barton was born July 24, 1988 in Rolla, Missouri. He attended Rolla High School and graduated in 2008. Shortly after graduation he enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserves as a 63B, Construction Equipment Repairer.

SPC Barton attended Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, where he trained with Alpha Company, 169th Engineer Battalion. He was stationed at Fort Leonard Wood with the 955th Engineer Company.

SPC Barton deployed to Baghdad, Iraq with the 277th Engineer Company based in San Antonio, Texas, where he worked in the company's Maintenance Platoon.

In his spare time SPC Barton enjoyed playing computer games and chatting online with his sister. He was always ready to help, was very willing to learn about the maintenance field, and was very humble and respectful of those around him.

SPC Barton's awards include: the National Defense Service Medal, the Iraqi Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with Mobilization device, the Army Service Ribbon, and the Overseas Ribbon. SPC Barton will be posthumously awarded the Bronze Star Medal.

“A man's character is defined by his actions, and PFC Jacob Barton, although a young man is a man we should look to as an example for ourselves and our children. He willingly chose to raise his right hand and serve his Country in a time of conflict.

He died in service of our Nation, as a brother-in-arms, and as a member of the Steel Spike team. We are shocked and saddened by his loss and ask all of you to keep Jacob's grandmother and sister in your prayers.” - LTC Zajac



“I want to offer my condolences to the family. SPC Barton joined the Army and volunteered for deployment during a time of war to support his Nation. He is a triple volunteer. (He volunteered for service, volunteered during war-time, and volunteered to deploy). He did anything his unit ever asked him to do.”

- CSM Thibodeau



“My fondest memory of him involves snow cones right in front of a tent near where he would often be seen working.

I will always remember how much SPC Jacob Barton liked snow cones. Last Friday, he came up to us just in front of one of the 277th Maintenance Tents. He asked if he could grab another snow cone, and switch flavors to a Blueberry Bubblegum.

He shared his appreciation for the command doing snow cones in the motor pool and told us that it made his day. As he started to eat it, I asked him if I could get a picture of him sporting his “blue-tooth” before he left. So he smiles this big grin stained with bright blue syrup and sticks out his blue tongue for additional humor. “

- Chaplain Wagner



Remembering A Friend



“SPC Barton was new to many things. Since he was from a small town he didn’t know what the feel of a big city was like. I was determined to change that. We were granted an overnight pass, and I was going to make sure he saw the bright lights of San Antonio.

He had never been to a night club before, but he did like music and dancing, so I knew the perfect place to take him. He had no civilian clothes with him, so we took him to a store and got him ready. He was dressed to impress and felt really good and excited about going out on the town. SPC Barton had the time of his life that night and thanked me tremendously for taking him out with the other soldiers. After that night he was more at ease with the rest of us.

SPC Barton had no enemies and always made his battle buddies laugh. Whether it be by his off the wall humor or just dancing to the music being played in the motor pool, he put a smile on everybody’s face.” - SPC Mata



“Barton was always on the computer. We started calling him ‘half-plant’ for a while. He chatted with his sister online a lot too.” - SPC Castillo



“Barton was a quiet guy, never bothered nobody. It got to the point where people would try to get rough with him and he wouldn’t say nothing back. Me and SGT Hernandez noticed this and came up with a plan.

The plan was to get Barton to stand up for himself. We all got together and told Barton, ‘If you don’t say nothing back, I’m going to smoke you.’ He laughed. So I tried him and—nothing. So we pushed some more. This happened for 3 days. Then after that he started speaking out, standing up to people. Soldiers started noticing this and to me, I think we gave him his confidence back...his voice to speak back respectfully.

We will miss you here in the bay, Barton. Second Squad all the way, Barton! Hooah! Take care of us from up there, buddy!” - SPC Orozco



“Barton was a real simple guy. He always worried about taking care of his family. He was a very generous guy too. If he was going to the PX he always asked if anyone wanted anything. One time we said, ‘Yeah, pick us up some rib-eye steaks.

He comes back from the PX with a half of cow under his arm...tired from carrying it and says, ‘You guys really owe me for this one.’ We were like, ‘Barton! What did you buy?’ He said it was a rib-eye. Yeah...20 pounds! He said it cost \$164.00. He just thought it was something we asked for and he didn’t hesitate to get it for us. That’s just how he thought.” - SPC Castillo

“I started cooking that meat about 10am and didn’t finish until 7pm that night! That was a lot of steak!” - SPC Mata

“SPC Barton had a simple purity of heart that showed his honesty in everything he did. There was no malice in SPC Barton. SPC Barton came from Lennox Missouri, a town so small it has a population of less than 30. He often found himself being tricked by his peers because of his trusting nature and very limited exposure to the corruption of the outside world.

It was his purity and trusting nature that allowed him to take the pranks without ever holding a grudge against his buddies. In time Barton’s trusting nature convicted the hearts of even the most active of practical jokers and won the affection of his platoon.” - CPT Robbins



“Anyone who was close to SPC Barton knew how he was. He was a kind and docile person. He did his best to avoid conflict or confrontation. The rest of the squad and I made it a point for him to stand up for himself. I told SPC Barton if someone talks down to you, you have to stand up for yourself. One of my other soldiers intentionally talked trash to him and SPC Barton noticed me staring at him while this was occurring. He turned and looked at the soldier and stood up for himself. I was proud of my soldier.

Another time at the motor pool I sent him to pick up Class 1 from Stryker DFAC. On the way back he was to fill up two fuel cans with mogas. When he arrived back to the motor pool, the Class 1 was drenched with mogas. I already knew what happened. I can’t remember how many times he would push my patience to the limit. No matter what I wasn’t going to give up on him. Because of us, his squad members and roommates, SPC Barton’s independence was reaching a point unimaginable. I’m going to miss you, buddy. I will always be here for you, as an NCO, your squad leader, and mostly as your friend.” - SGT Hernandez



“Barton was never disrespectful. He totally matured during the time he had been with us.

You could never get angry with the guy—frustrated, but never angry. He was just a real good guy.

They’re really going to miss him at Subway. He always ate there.

This has touched everybody. I hope he’s in a better place.”

- SGT Szczepaniak



