

Tribute Edition



# STEEL SPIKE EXPRESS

*ADSEQUOR - "TO ACHIEVE"*



**The "Steel Spike Team"  
remembers a Father, Husband,  
Soldier, Comrade and Friend —  
Chief Warrant Officer, Two  
Rodney A. Jarvis**



Chief Warrant Officer, Two Rodney Allen Jarvis was born in Akron, Ohio, 26 October 1974. On November 5, 1993 he reported to Fort Jackson, South Carolina for Basic Training, then reported to Fort Lee, Virginia for Advanced Individual Training as a Unit Supply Specialist.

CW2 Jarvis' first duty assignment was with the 46th Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy) at Fort Polk, Louisiana. He was assigned to Alpha Company as the supply clerk and in July 1995 deployed to Haiti in support of Operation Uphold Democracy.

In February 1997, CW2 Jarvis was assigned to the 39th Transportation Battalion, Kaiserslautern, Germany where he served as the Headquarters Supply Sergeant for three years. In February 2000, CW2 Jarvis moved to Fort Hood, Texas where he served as Headquarters Supply Sergeant and Battalion Supply NCOIC for the 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment. In March of 2004, he deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

In August 2005, after attaining the enlisted rank of Staff Sergeant, CW2 Jarvis attended the Warrant Officer Candidate Course at Fort Rucker, Alabama. Upon graduation, he attended the Warrant Officer Basic Course for Property Accounting Technicians at Fort Lee, Virginia.

CW2 Jarvis then returned to Fort Polk as the Property Book Officer for the 46th Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy) and deployed once again to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 05-07.

After redeploying in October 2006, he was attached to the Warrior Brigade and served as the Brigade Property Book Officer during the Brigade's transformation to the 1st Maneuver Enhancement Brigade. In January 2008, CW2 Jarvis was again assigned to the 46th Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy) and again deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 08-10, serving as the Battalion's Property Book Officer.

During his 15-year military career, CW2 Jarvis attended PLDC, BNCOC, WOCC, WOBC, PBUSE, Contracting Officer Course, Armorer Course and SPBS-R. His awards include the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal w/2 Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Army Achievement Medal w/2 Oak Leaf Clusters.

CW2 Rodney A. Jarvis is survived by his wife Fashion, and two daughters, Heather and Kourtnie.

"I had the privilege to work closely with Rodney, and his selfless service, his genuine care for Soldiers and people as individuals, and his dedication to ensuring our Battalion had every available equipment advantage were the basis for this unit's success in combat. More importantly, Rodney reminded us all with his simple honesty, his passion for life, and his expressions of love for his family that our relationships with one another are what life is truly about. Rodney's passion for fishing demonstrated this belief, and I will cherish the memory of talking about our lives and our Families, and of laughing about catching weeds and snagging hooks, as the sun set over the lake.

To his wife, Fashion, and his daughters Heather and Kourtnie, you may be proud of your husband and father. His example will guide us for the rest of our lives. Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to you, and we hope that by viewing this ceremony and our expressions of sorrow, we can bring you some comfort."

- LTC Matthew Zajac

**"I met Chief Jarvis four years ago in Camp Ramadi. I was a platoon leader and he was my property book officer and I was knocking on his door 24-7 for help with managing property. Ever since then, we have remained close friends and coworkers.**

**If I had to choose two words to describe Chief Jarvis they would be "family man". I recall one conversation with Rodney about his wife Fashion. He spoke so highly of her. He was so impressed with how intelligent, how business savy, and how strong she is (in fact, he once told me that she could beat me up—I agreed and made a mental note: stay on Fashion's good side.) She was managing their new country store and doing a great job at it. Chief would open up his cards from his daughters before we even made it back to the office. He couldn't wait to show us the picture of Heather at her school dance or the picture of Kourtnie where we couldn't help but notice the smirk on her face that was identical to that of her father's.**

**I was in shock when I heard about Rodney's untimely death. I simply could not believe what I was hearing. He was too young and he had so much more to do in this world. After taking some deep breaths, I realized that Rodney lived every minute of his life to the fullest. He was respected and loved by all that had the opportunity to be in his presence. I will forever be grateful for the last four years I was able to spend with Rodney. All the memories we have shared with him, all the laughs we have had will forever be cherished and remembered. He will forever live in our hearts."** - CPT Kelly Boone







Left: "Brothers in Arms"—The Commissioning of Warrant Officers Washington & Jarvis.



"Fashion, Heather, Kourtnie, Mrs. Lillie Jarvis, family members, and friends, I'm deeply sorry for your recent loss. I came to know Rodney a few weeks before this deployment and he has made a big impact on my life during these past 14 months. I didn't know him quite as well as some of the others here today, but I would have liked to. In the time that I did know him, I can say that Chief was a great husband, a great father, a great Soldier, a great man, and a great friend. He touched so many people's heart and soul in ways that words can't describe. It's just the type of person he was. He was a mentor, a teacher, and a coach. The thing that really convinced me on how great of a person he was, was the times he spent with the Soldiers. He was a team player. He trained and counseled Soldiers from the ranks of PVT to LTC, he cared. He cared about his job, the missions, the welfare of the Soldiers, but most important, he cared about his family. He talked about his girls and wife all the time and when it was time to call home, he'd made sure to put everything else to the side to make that call.

Chief, you will be missed and the memories you've made will remain in our hearts and minds. My kids will know of a great friend named Rodney Jarvis." - SFC Eric Padron

### **RJ, The Business Man's Hidden Truth**

"RJ and I had many conversations about his family store in Merryville, he was so focused on expansion and bragged on how his wife was working on setting up a deli, he always stated how proud he was that his wife could run the business better than he could.

We just laughed and both agreed that women were smarter than men, but we would never tell our wife's this. As RJ would say, "ya imagine that, huh?" - CW4 Richard Pinkerton



"To have friends, you must be a friend. Chief had a lot of friends, because he was a friend to many. Weather in the gym, playing basketball, softball, fishing, or just hanging around, he was social and down to earth. What you saw was what you got. I think one of his peers summed it up well when they commented, "He had no enemies."

I find comfort that when Chief died, he was not alone. On the last day of his life he worked out with a battle buddy, went to chow with battle buddies, and was taken to the BN Aid Station by battle buddies. The Scripture stated, "For if either of them falls, the one will lift up his companion." There were others around to help Chief because he himself was the kind of Soldier and man that people just enjoyed being around.

I also find comfort that like Chief, I do not believe that flesh and blood is the end, yet merely the beginning. In John 14:14 the Bible records, "In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you." If Chief could speak to us this evening I am certain that he would reassure us that there is existence outside of the physical body.

Fashion, and Jarvis family - I would not dare to compare our grief or loss with what you are going through. At the same time, I assure you that on July 13<sup>th</sup>, the 46<sup>th</sup> Engineers experienced a great loss. We lost a comrade, a technical expert, a patriot, a leader, an encourager, and last but not least a trusted friend.." - Chaplain (CPT) Jerry Wagner

"When I came to the S4 section he pulled me aside and we talked for about 30-40 minutes about what was going on recently in my life to what I needed to do to bounce back. When lunch time came he looked at me and said "come on, I got to get my SWOL on". Lets go "Don't punk out now." From that day on I knew chief was a man I could talk to, someone very easy to connect with, someone that I could turn to talk to. No matter how small my dilemmas and issues where he was always ready to listen and give advice. He was that way with everyone. It's who he was.



Fishing in Iraq was one thing Chief talked about wanting to do. So when we got the chance to do some fishing he was all over it. "I got the poles and the tackle, let's do this" he said. It was a chance to relax and put away all work related issues. On one particular night Chief was getting constant bites over and over again. Determined to catch the fish he waited and waited, finally with a fast pull he snagged it, "got him," he said as he pulled the catfish out of the water, we all stood around and noticed something odd, "Chief how the hell did you catch the fish by its tail." "That's how us country boys do it," he said.

Chief Jarvis, a country boy from OHIO. Your guidance will be missed, and never forgotten. You are our PBO, friend and brother. We will miss you always." - SSG Sean Shands



**"Chief Jarvis was a humble man that always went out of his way to help others. He was very proficient at his job. On several occasions throughout CPT Smoot's and my change of command inventory he replied, "Ma'am, I got you," and I honestly believed that. I saw him the morning of his death sitting outside with his head down. As I walked pass him headed to my supply room, I looked at him not knowing that would be the last time he would say good morning to me. Chief Jarvis was not only my Soldier, but he was my friend.**

**I had an opportunity to spend some time with Chief and his family prior to our deployment. He invited several officers in the Battalion over to go mudding with him. For the one's that doesn't know what mudding is, you have to experience it to appreciate it. It's when you ride through the mud on four wheeler and see how dirty you can get the person that's riding on the back. I didn't understand the reasoning behind mudding or even the concept of it; but what I did realize that the time spent with him, his wonderful family and friends was priceless." - CPT Kimberly Cowlin**

**"I met Chief Jarvis just prior to our deployment. During our deployment I learned that he was not just another set of Dots in the PBO office, but a Chief that really cared, not only about how the Supply Rooms carried out their business, but cared about the soldiers that ran those offices.**

**He was very approachable and would give life advice as well as professional advice. He wanted each and every soldier under his wings to succeed.**

**Chief and I went fishing a few times with SFC Padron and SSG Shands on Camp Victory. We were the local anglers. We spent many an hour searching for that elusive 5 ft carp or that sneaky Baghdad Bass. We threw everything in the tackle box. We tried every watering hole we could try and only managed to come up with a few catfish. Granted, the only fish he caught, out of the 6 times we went, was an 8 inch long catfish that he caught by hooking it through the tail. Leave it to Chief to be just a little bit different. During one of the lulls, when the fish weren't biting, Chief said "I don't care if I don't catch anything, as long as I am fishing, I am happy."**

**That was Chief in a nutshell. The simple things in life gave him a lot of pleasure. He was in his own words "Just a simple man." - SGT Vincent Babb**





"CW2 Jarvis made the Army Supply System (there's a reason they didn't make that into an acronym) ALMOST bearable. I can't tell you how many times I sprinted into his office, breathlessly announced a crisis, and watched him laugh at me while giving me the solution.

As a PBO, he was everything I could have asked for...knowledgeable, technically-solid, experienced. He managed to mix in the perfect amount of common sense while following procedure, and he was always supportive of the SOLDIERS. As a friend, he was a sounding board, a patient and trusted advisor, and a constant source of laughs. My last email from Chief said "YOU ROCK." Well I'd like to say that Chief, above everyone, epitomized accountability, patriotism, and Rock-n-Roll. He will be missed, but never forgotten."

—CPT Reyn Landreth



"A couple months into the deployment Chief began his College Algebra class. Now when we say chief is a country boy—I mean, I can't understand what he is saying 9 times out of 10. The first homework assignment he had to do I hear screaming from his office; "CPT B—what the heck are all these letters and symbols?!" I couldn't help but laugh and try to help him understand Algebra.

After about another 30 minute "Discussion" on what Algebra is chief determined "I don't need freaking Algebra to run my business". But Chief was determined to get his Bachelor's degree and Algebra was the one class he knew he had to finish. I remember coming into the office early in the morning and Chief would be in his office with his Algebra book knocking out problems. The last topic his class covered was matrices. As we worked through the problems and did his review for his final exam I couldn't help saying to myself "Holy crap—look how far we've come. I mean, Chief was solving quadratic equations and simplifying functions like it was nothing."

I want to believe his daughter gave him the extra encouragement that he needed. Upon hearing that her father was taking Algebra she told him "Dad, it's just Algebra—it's not that hard."

Chief completed and passed his class last week. The truth is, Chief succeeded at everything he did and he loved everything he did. I don't think it is a coincidence that his love for life and success went hand in hand.

His love and passion for life made him into the man he is. Whether it was playing Softball, fishing, laterally transferring property, mudding, or mentoring Soldiers and stubborn officers like myself—he loved it. He loved what he did and he was great at it."

- CPT Kelly Boone







**Memorial Ceremony  
Camp Liberty, MWR Field House  
16 July 2009**





*We will never forget our fallen.  
We will never forget their sacrifice.  
They will always be in our hearts.  
They will never be lost, nor alone.  
They will always live in our memories.  
They fought for freedom, for us.  
They are heroes. They are miracles.  
They will always be remembered.  
We will not forget.*



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