

Family Members of the Knights of Columbus In Service to Our Country

The Knights of Columbus Council #11815 is honored to share the following information about family members who are about to depart or recently returned from active duty in Iraq and/or Afghanistan. We are proud of each of these young men and send our prayers to all of them and their families. God bless you for your service to our country.

MAJOR K. Weedon Gallagher **Officer In Charge** **US Army Corps of Engineers** **Afghanistan Engineer District - Kandahar Area**

Weedon Gallagher, Major, EN. is a member of the St. Ignatius of Loyola Council.

Major K. Weedon Gallagher was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in 1991, and graduated from Virginia Military Institute, Lexington, Virginia in 1991. The Distinguished Military Graduate earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering. His military education includes the Engineer Officer Basic and Advanced courses, Combined Arms Exercise (formerly Combined Arms Services Staff School) and Intermediate Level Education (formerly Command and General Staff College).

MAJ Gallagher served in numerous command and staff positions in the United States Army Reserve and Maryland Army National Guard. He began his career serving as a Platoon Leader with the 330th Engineer Battalion (Heavy) and the 299th Engineer Company (MRB). MAJ Gallagher then transferred to the 121st Engineer Battalion (MECH) and served on the Battalion Staff consecutively as the Assistant Operations Officer for Plans and the Assistant Operations Officer for Operations before being selected for command of B Company. After company command, he deployed to Afghanistan as the Chief of Design, Bagram Airfield with Facility Engineer Team 28, 416th Engineer Command. Following his first deployment, MAJ Gallagher served on Division Staff as the Training Officer for Joint Force Headquarters Maryland before returning to the 121st Engineer Battalion (MECH) to serve consecutively as the Executive Officer and Operations Officer. He was then selected to serve on the Brigade Staff as the Assistant Operations Officer at the 58th Troop Command. MAJ Gallagher is serving his most recent assignment with the US Army Corps of Engineers, Afghanistan Engineer District as the Kandahar Area Officer in Charge.

MAJ Gallagher's awards and decorations include the Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal (4

OLC), Army Achievement Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal (3 OLC), Reserve Components Overseas Training Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal (BSS), Armed Forces Reserve Medal (M), Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Maryland Superior Unit Award, California Drug Interdiction Ribbon (1 OLC), Army Airborne Badge, and the Bronze Order of the DeFleury Medal.

He is married to Mrs. Anne Gallagher and resides with their three sons in Mount Airy, Maryland.

Weedon Gallagher added:

The simple fact is that every soldier does the same thing; we bring the fight to the enemy so that he can't bring it to us. I did no more than my part and worked with some great Americans.

A better story than mine is my wife's. She didn't sign on to be a single parent, but did just that for a year. She's a wonderful mother that kept things at home running smoothly without any help from me. That's the best part about being back in the US; being home with Anne and the boys. No doubt about that.

Chris Lunsford, Jr.

Chris Lunsford, Jr. is the son of Chris Lunsford, Sr., a member of the St. Ignatius of Loyola Council. His father writes:

I would like to thank you for thinking of my son when trying to come up with interesting articles for the Knights. I'm sure you can imagine how proud I am of him. I will prepare a brief for you on him and his tours. He actually just went back to Iraq after his two week R&R in July and we await his return home in early January. I don't know if you know the Willoughby's (Malcolm and Alisia) but their son Ryan is leaving for Afghanistan this week for his second tour there. He is with the 82nd Airborne. He just got married on July 25th and I cannot imagine the feelings he and his new wife are experiencing over his departure. I don't know if Malcolm is a Knight but they are very active in our parish. Please keep him and his family in your prayers also as that conflict is a difficult one at best. I am getting a little choked up as I write this just thinking about the courage of our young men and women in the military and how truly blessed we are to live in a country that produces such fine individuals.

Something that you can feel free to put in your article is that if it were not for my faith in God, I don't know how I would have made it through Chris' tours. While I still feel anxiety on a daily basis, as any father would, I have turned my fears over to the Lord and know that His will, will be done.

God bless you and yours,
Chris

Todd Ryktarsyk

Todd Ryktarsyk is the son-in-law of John and Gloria Przybocki. John is a member of the St. Ignatius of Loyola Council. John and his wife, Gloria, are known all through their years of service to the KofC and the parish. Todd is expecting to be deployed, but the date is not definite.

Ryan Willoughby

Ryan is the son of former Knight Malcolm Willoughby, and is a member of the member of the 82nd Air Borne