

June 28, 2013

Sally Ellertson  
Public Information Officer  
141 West Renfro  
Burleson, Texas 76028-4261  
817-426-9622  
F: 817-426-9390  
[sellertson@burlesontx.com](mailto:sellertson@burlesontx.com)  
[www.burlesontx.com](http://www.burlesontx.com)

Thirty-year-old William R. Moody, a husband and father of three, had something special planned for his children when he came home from Operation Enduring Freedom. And the Burleson Fire Department was going to play a big part in it.

Moody, who his family said recently promoted to sergeant, contacted the Burleson city manager's office, Burleson Fire Chief Gary Wisdom, and Police Chief Tom Cowan in early June.

"I'm currently deployed to Operation Enduring Freedom for nine months. I will be home in the beginning of or mid-September. My wife and children are in Burleson and I wanted to surprise them when I get home," he said.

Sgt. Moody asked if he could "possibly get a fire truck to ride on and have two police cars escort the fire truck to [his children's] elementary when my kids are getting out of school and surprise them by stepping out of the fire truck and picking them up from school . . . It would make their day." The Burleson resident closed his correspondence with his rank, name, branch of service, and "Go Elks" in reference to the mascot of his alma mater, Burleson High School.

The chief and his firefighters said a resounding yes to the request. Moody sent the fire department pictures of his "gun truck team," convoys and aircraft from Operation Enduring Freedom. The sergeant also included a picture of his wife, two sons and daughter. He and the fire chief exchanged emails up until 2 p.m. on June 17. Moody and three fellow soldiers lost their lives on June 18.

"I never met Sgt. Moody but we did talk on the phone a couple of times and shared some emails about planning a surprise homecoming event for his children in September," the fire chief said. "He shared some pictures and sent the fire department a shoulder patch. He struck me as a man who was very devoted to his family as well as this country. I wish very much that I could have met him. Our firefighters were very excited about helping him pull off the homecoming surprise for his children."

Chief Wisdom said that firefighters and military personnel share the same values of honor and service, and that it was a "privilege for us to have been asked to help him with this event."

Hearing of Moody's death was hard.

"I have been in the fire service for more than 32 years and not a whole lot stops me in my tracks. This did," the fire chief said. "We as firefighters have a very honorable profession, but it does not compare to the service and sacrifice of soldiers such as Sgt. Moody. Our hearts go out to his family. They are in the thoughts and prayers of everyone here at the Burleson Fire Department."

According to the Department of Defense, the four soldiers died Tuesday, June 18, in Bagram, Afghanistan, of wounds suffered when enemy forces attacked their unit with indirect fire. The four included Sgt. Justin R. Johnson, 25, of Hobe Sound, Fla, Spc. Ember M. Alt, 21, of Beech Island, S.C., Spc. Robert W. Ellis, 21, of Kennewick, Wash., and Moody, 30, of Burleson. They were all assigned to the 68th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 43rd Sustainment Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Carson, Colo.

Moody's family said he joined the United States Marines in 2003, and the United States Army in 2008. He deployed to Iraq twice with the Marines and to Afghanistan twice with the Army.

Among Moody's honors were an Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, Army Good Conduct Medal, Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Campaign Star, Iraq Campaign Medal with Campaign Star, Global War on Terror Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, NATO Medal, Driver's Badge/Wheeled Vehicle, a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart.

Funeral services for Sgt. William R. Moody are scheduled for 10 a.m. on Saturday, July 6, at Greenwood Funeral Home, 3100 White Settlement Rd., Fort Worth.