

Special Forces Association, USAWC to honor SFC Randy Shughart: 20th anniv of Medal of Honor actions

Memorial: Special Forces Association, USAWC Military to honor SFC Randy Shughart on 20th anniversary of his Medal of Honor actions



A small grave marker is a silent but often-overlooked sentinel at the gravesite of a quiet hero in Carlisle, Pa. A Special Forces ‘Quiet Professional’ honored by the nation with the Medal of Honor, Sergeant First Class Randall ‘Randy’ Shughart may not have asked for more. But former friends, professional colleagues, and members of the Special Forces community believe that this hometown hero deserves better. The Special Forces Association Chapter 64 has sponsored an effort to replace the current marker with a more visible and meaningful memorial for Randall Shughart.

Thursday, October 3 at 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. at Westminster Cemetery, Carlisle, Pa – A special ceremony will dedicate a new cemetery marker created to recognize the courage, dedication and sacrifice of this American Soldier on the 20th anniversary of the Battle of Mogadishu. The ceremony will honor Randall David Shughart, Medal



of Honor, SFC US ARMY, Veteran of Panama and Somalia whose life spanned from Aug. 13, 1958 to Oct. 3, 1993 when he was killed in action in Mogadishu, Somalia.

Scouts learn the right way to honor deceased Veterans at Westminster Cemetery.



New marker and installation is completed, courtesy of SFA Chapter 64, Westminster Cemetery, veterans, friends, and community.

The memorial commemoration will include several elements. Army Col. Matt Dawson, director of the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center will give a short historical review of U.S. actions in Somalia 20 years ago. Maj. Gen. Tony Cucolo, U.S. Army War College Commandant, will offer

his thoughts about Shughart, his actions under fire, and the ageless significance of his bravery to Soldiers today and tomorrow. Thirty members of the extended Shughart Family will be in attendance. Veterans groups have been invited to present wreaths. The SFA new memorial design includes a granite slab with the Medal of Honor citation engraved upon it, and a distinctive granite bench bearing a Shughart Family quote.

o Open to the public, the ceremony will take place rain or shine, at Westminster Cemetery, 1159 Newville Road, Carlisle.

o A reception with light refreshments will follow, nearby at the West Pennsboro Fire Department, 20 Park Road, Plainfield, Pa.

Previously, the marker for SFC Randall Shughart did not include the Medal of Honor Citation.



The ceremony is sponsored by the Special Forces Association, the U.S. Army War College, the West Pennsboro Fire Department and Veterans Groups. In support of the



SFC Shughart commemoration, Boy Scout Troop & Pack 173 will post U.S. flags at more than 400 Veterans' gravesite within the cemetery.

Small Wars Journal published on Sept. 11 a full-length article co-authored by Mike Marra and Dr. Bill Pierce, Army War College faculty members, entitled, "[Somalia 20 Years Later: Lessons Learned, Re-learned and Forgotten](#)".

Medal of Honor Citation:

Sergeant First Class Shughart, United States Army, distinguished himself by actions above and beyond the call of duty on 3 October 1993, while serving as a Sniper Team Member, United States Army Special Operations Command with Task Force Ranger in Mogadishu, Somalia. Sergeant First Class Shughart provided precision sniper fires from the lead helicopter during an assault on a building and at two helicopter crash sites, while subjected to intense automatic weapons and rocket propelled grenade fires. While providing critical suppressive fires at the second crash site, Sergeant First Class Shughart and his team leader learned that ground forces were not immediately available to secure the site. Sergeant First Class Shughart and his team leader unhesitatingly volunteered to be inserted to protect the four critically wounded personnel, despite being well aware of the growing number of enemy personnel closing in on the site. After their third request to be inserted, Sergeant First Class Shughart and his team leader received permission to perform this volunteer mission. When debris and enemy ground fires at the site caused them to abort the first attempt, Sergeant First Class Shughart and his team leader were inserted one hundred meters south of the crash site. Equipped with only his sniper rifle and a pistol, Sergeant First Class Shughart and his team leader, while under intense small arms fire from the enemy, fought their way through a dense maze of shanties and shacks to reach the critically injured crew members. Sergeant First Class Shughart pulled the pilot and the other crew members from the aircraft, establishing a perimeter which placed him and his fellow sniper in the most vulnerable position. Sergeant First Class Shughart used his long range rifle and side arm to kill an undetermined number of attackers while traveling the perimeter, protecting the

downed crew. Sergeant First Class Shughart continued his protective fire until he depleted his ammunition and was fatally wounded. His actions saved the pilot's life. Sergeant First Class Shughart's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest standards of military service and reflect great credit upon him, his unit and the United States Army.

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