

Acts of Courage: Inside America's Military

TODAY'S ARMY HEROES



by Joyce Markovics

[Intentionally Left Blank]

Acts of Courage: Inside America's Military

TODAY'S ★ ★ ARMY ★ ★ ★ ★ HEROES



by Joyce Markovics

**Consultant: Fred Pushies
U.S. SOF Adviser**

BEARPORT
PUBLISHING

New York, New York

Credits

Cover and Title Page, © Leif Skoogfors/Corbis, © Shane A. Cuomo/CNP/Corbis, and © U.S. Army/Sgt. Travis Zielinski, 1st ACB, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs; 4, © Spencer Platt/Getty Images; 5, © Ramzi Haidar/AFP/Getty Images; 6T, © U.S. Army; 6B, © Scott Nelson/Getty Images; 7, © U.S. Army/Patrick Albright; 8, © David Furst/AFP/Getty Images; 9T, © AP Photo/Charles Dharapak; 9B, © Pat Vasquez-Cunningham/Albuquerque Journal/ZUMA Press/Newscom; 10T, © U.S. Army; 10B, © AP Photo/David Guttenfelder; 11, © Reuters/Landov; 12, © U.S. Army/Spc. Anita VanderMolen; 13, © Mandel Ngan/AFP/Getty Images; 14T, © AP Photo/U.S. Army; 14B, © John D. McHugh/AFP/Getty Images; 15, © U.S. Army/Personal photo of Staff Sgt. Robert Miller; 16, © U.S. Army/Personal photo of Staff Sgt. Robert Miller; 17, © AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais; 18T, © AP Photo/U.S. Army/Spc. Micah E. Clare; 18B, © U.S. Army/82nd Airborne; 19L, © Paul Avallone/ZUMA Press/Newscom; 19R, © Shamil Zhumatov/Reuters/Landov; 20, © J.D. Whitmire; 21, © AP Photo/U.S. Army/Sgt. Jim Wilt; 22T, Courtesy Sergeant Jason Mike; 22B, © Radu Sigheti/Reuters / Landov; 23, © Courtesy Sergeant Jason Mike; 24T, © U.S. Army/Sgt. Jonathan W. Thomas; 24B, © Bob Strong/Reuters /Landov; 25L, © U.S. Army/Sgt. Jonathan W. Thomas; 25R, © Michael Reynolds/EPA/Landov; 26, © Simon Lim/Pictobank/ABACAPRESS/MCT/Newscom; 27, © Andrew A. Nelles/ZUMA Press/Newscom; 28, © Torsten Blackwood/AFP/Getty Images; 29T, © R. Corner/Shutterstock; 29B, © U.S. Army/Mr. Michael William Petersen (SDDC); 31, © Keith McIntyre/Shutterstock.

Publisher: Kenn Goin

Senior Editor: Lisa Wiseman

Creative Director: Spencer Brinker

Design: Dawn Beard Creative

Photo Researcher: Picture Perfect Professionals, LLC

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Markovics, Joyce L.

Today's Army heroes / by Joyce Markovics ; consultant, Fred Pushies.

p. cm. — (Acts of courage)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

Audience: Ages 7 to 12.

ISBN-13: 978-1-61772-445-9 (library binding)

ISBN-10: 1-61772-445-9 (library binding)

1. Soldiers—United States—Biography—Juvenile literature. 2. United States. Army—Biography—Juvenile literature. 3. Courage—Juvenile literature. 4. Heroes—Juvenile literature. 5. Combat—Juvenile literature. I. Pushies, Fred J., 1952– II. Title.

U52.M37 2012

355.0092'273—dc23

2011036125

Copyright © 2012 Bearport Publishing Company, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in whole or in part, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without written permission from the publisher.

For more information, write to Bearport Publishing Company, Inc., 45 West 21st Street, Suite 3B, New York, New York 10010. Printed in the United States of America in North Mankato, Minnesota.

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

★★★ Contents ★★★

Fighting Two Wars	4
Grenade Attack.....	6
Honoring a Hero	8
Ambushed!.....	10
One Against Two	12
Unthinkable Bravery.....	14
The Ultimate Sacrifice	16
A Medic's Mission	18
First Aid	20
Quick Thinking.....	22
Fighting Through the Pain	24
A Job Like No Other	26
More Army Heroes.....	28
Glossary.....	30
Bibliography.....	31
Read More.....	31
Learn More Online.....	31
Index.....	32
About the Author.....	32

Fighting Two Wars

On September 11, 2001, members of a **terrorist group** from Afghanistan **hijacked** four U.S. airplanes full of passengers. The terrorists flew two of the planes into the twin towers of New York's World Trade Center. They flew another plane into the **Pentagon**, and one plane crashed into a field in Pennsylvania. In all, nearly 3,000 people were killed.

The twin towers after
being attacked on
September 11, 2001

The terrorist group responsible for the attacks on September 11, 2001, is called **Al Qaeda**. Osama bin Laden was the leader of the group when the attacks were planned.

In October 2001, the United States sent troops to Afghanistan to destroy the camps where these terrorists had been trained. Then, in March 2003, the war on terror expanded into Iraq. Some U.S. officials believed that Iraq's ruler, Saddam Hussein, was building powerful weapons, including **nuclear** ones, to use against the United States and its **allies**. Though these weapons were never found, the United States, with help from other countries, was able to remove Hussein from power.

Thousands of brave U.S. Army soldiers served in Afghanistan and Iraq in the years following the September 11 attacks. This book recounts some of their amazing acts of courage as they faced terrible danger in service to their country.

The red parts of this map show where some of the events in this book took place.



U.S. Army soldiers in Iraq in 2003



Grenade Attack



Leroy Petry

Rank: Staff Sergeant (Later promoted to Sergeant First Class)
Hometown: Santa Fe, New Mexico
Conflict: War in Afghanistan
Date: May 26, 2008
Honor: Medal of Honor

Army Ranger Sergeant (Sgt.) First Class Leroy Petry will never forget May 26, 2008. That's the day he led a team of soldiers on a **raid** to capture terrorists in Paktia **province**, Afghanistan. It was daytime when helicopters carrying the men touched down in a dusty village. Shortly after they landed, Sgt. Petry and a few of the others went looking for the enemy fighters in a building. Once they were inside the courtyard of the building, bullets suddenly started flying at them. They were under enemy fire!



Two U.S. Army soldiers looking for enemy fighters in Afghanistan

Carrying out a **mission** during the daytime is very dangerous, because it's hard to hide from the enemy in the daylight. Most missions take place at night, because soldiers can more easily hide in the dark.

Almost immediately, Sgt. Petry was shot in both legs. Then, without warning, an enemy **grenade** exploded nearby, wounding two other soldiers. Minutes later, a second grenade landed a few feet away from Sgt. Petry and the injured men. Despite his serious injuries, Sgt. Petry did the unthinkable. Without hesitation, he lunged for the grenade before it could explode. "I grabbed it with my hand, and I threw it as hard as I could," he said.

An Army soldier gets ready to throw a grenade during a training exercise.



Index

- Afghanistan 4–5, 6, 9,
10–11, 14, 16, 18–19,
21, 24
- Al Qaeda 4, 15
- Army Ranger 6, 9
- body armor 12
- Brennan, Joshua 11, 13
- Brown, Monica 18–19,
20–21
- convoy 19, 22–23
- engineer 24–25, 29
- Gaston, Antony 24–25
- Giunta, Salvatore 10–11,
12–13, 14, 27
- grenades 6–7, 8, 12, 16
- helicopters 6, 19
- Humvees 19, 20, 23
- improvised explosive
device (IED) 19, 25, 29
- insurgents 13, 14–15, 16,
19, 22–23, 24
- Iraq 5, 21, 22–23, 29
- Korengal Valley 5, 10
- Medal of Honor 6, 9, 10,
13, 14, 17, 27
- medevac 21
- medic 18–19, 21, 22
- Mike, Jason 22–23
- military police 22
- Miller, Robert J. 14–15,
16–17
- missions 6, 12, 14, 18,
22, 26
- Pashto 16
- Pentagon 4
- Petry, Leroy 6–7, 8–9,
10, 14
- platoon 10, 12–13
- prosthetic 9
- Purple Heart 24–25
- shrapnel 20, 24
- Silver Star 18, 21, 22–23
- Taliban 11, 15
- terrorists 4–5, 6
- weapons 5

About the Author

Joyce Markovics is a writer and editor in New York City. In writing this book, she wished to pay tribute to all the brave men and women who have risked their own safety for the sake of others.

[Intentionally Left Blank]

Acts of Courage: Inside America's Military

TODAY'S ARMY HEROES

In the years following September 11, 2001, thousands of brave men and women have fought in the war against terrorism in Afghanistan and Iraq. Many of them have faced extremely dangerous, even deadly, combat situations. This book recounts some of their stories. From Staff Sergeant Leroy Petry, who saved the lives of his teammates but lost his right hand in the process, to Staff Sergeant Robert J. Miller, who gave his life to save others, the courageous actions of the U.S. Army soldiers in this book show what heroism truly means.

TODAY'S AIR FORCE HEROES

 **TODAY'S ARMY HEROES**

TODAY'S COAST GUARD HEROES

TODAY'S MARINE HEROES

TODAY'S NAVY HEROES

BEARPORT
PUBLISHING

www.bearportpublishing.com

ISBN-13: 978-1-61772-445-9



9 781617 724459