

In Memoriam

First Lt. Daren M. Hidalgo, 24, was killed in action Feb. 20 in the Afghanistan province of Kandahar when insurgents attacked his unit using an improvised explosive device.

He was assigned to 3rd Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment, Vilseck, Germany.

Hidalgo attended Kettle Moraine Middle and High Schools and

was a member of the school band and wrestled there.

He graduated from Pennsylvania's Dallastown Area High School in 2005 where he was a championship wrestler, National Honor Society member and a trumpeter in the school marching band.

Hidalgo was accepted to the U.S. Military Academy where he served as G-4 Company Commander during his senior year. He graduated near the top of the Class of 2009.

He completed numerous courses to include Ranger School. Earning the coveted Ranger Tab was one of the many proud moments of his career.

Hidalgo's greatest talent was his ability to maintain a positive attitude and inspire each of his Soldiers to be great.

He earned the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster posthumously.

Hidalgo was known for his winning smile and engaging personality; a jokester and prankster always looking to cheer up people around him.

His strength of character and empathy endeared him to all who met him. He will be sadly missed by his parents Jorge and Andrea; siblings Jared (Jenny) Hidalgo, Miles (Caroline) Hidalgo, Carmen (Mike) Spellman; nephews Wade and Carson; and his niece Lexie. His extended family and many friends will miss him also.

Visitation is scheduled 6-9 p.m. today at William F. Hogan Funeral Home, 135 Main St., Highland Falls.

Funeral Services will be held 10 a.m. Friday at Most Holy Trinity Chapel, West Point. Graveside services will be held 1:30 p.m., Monday, at West Point Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to the Daren M. Hidalgo Memorial Fund, to be used for future scholarships and support of wounded Soldiers.

Donations can be made at any US Bank in the country.

Mailing address is: US Bank 2040 W. Silvernail Road Pewaukee, Wisconsin 53072.



First Lt. Daren Hidalgo