

## **Soldier from Montgomery killed in Iraq**

**Montgomery Township, 9/29/2006** - A former resident of Montgomery Township died last week while serving in Iraq. First Lt. Ashley L. Henderson Huff, 23, died following an injury sustained while serving in Mosul, Iraq. She was injured Sept. 19<sup>th</sup> when an improvised explosive device, attributed to a suicide car bomber, detonated near her vehicle.

Lt. Huff was a year 2000 graduate of Montgomery High School, according to Township Schools Public Information Officer Anna Murphy.



Ms. Huff had lived on Cobblestone Court off Ridgeview Drive in the Belle Mead section on Montgomery until about three years ago with her family, according to a September 26<sup>th</sup> article in the Courier News. She originally grew up in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. She attended the University of Georgia on an Army ROTC scholarship, where she graduated in 2004 and was a member of Sigma Kappa. She had most recently lived in Savannah, Georgia and was newly married to Brian Huff in August 2005. Lt. Huff was an MP working to establish the Iraqi police force. She was scheduled to end her year-long tour of duty in Iraq in November.

Lt. Huff was assigned to the 549<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company, 385<sup>th</sup> Military Police Battalion, based in Fort Stewart, Ga. A memorial service, attended by her family and fellow soldiers from her unit, the

Army's 3rd Infantry Division, was held Monday in Fort Stewart.

Montgomery Mayor Louise Wilson expressed her heartfelt condolences and those of the entire Township Committee to Lt. Huff's family. "Our community mourns the loss of this fine woman, this fine officer. Ashley is remembered by many, and very fondly." Wilson said.

Lt. Huff was the 60th service member with ties to New Jersey to die in Iraq and is believed to be the first woman from the state killed in combat, according to a Sept. 26th article in the StarLedger. This article stated that overall, 65 of the 2,700 troops to die in Iraq have been women.

The Montgomery Township Veterans Memorial Committee intends to add, upon receiving her family's permission, Lt. Ashley Henderson Huff's name to a planned granite memorial structure honoring all current and former Montgomery residents who have served their country during times of war. Other efforts to honor First Lieutenant Huff are also in early planning stages.

Released by Montgomery Township 09/29/06

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