



## Hornell Marine killed in Afghanistan

<http://www.eveningtribune.com/news/x231954135/Hornell-Marine-killed-in-Afghanistan>



By Staff reports  
The Evening Tribune  
Sun Jan 24, 2010, 02:18 PM EST

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Hornell, N.Y. -

Shawn Hogan, the mayor of the City of Hornell, told The Tribune this afternoon that Hornell native Zach Smith died in Afghanistan during his deployment as a U.S. Marine.

Hogan said that he ordered city flags flown at half staff this morning.

Zach Smith is the son of Christopher Smith, an Amity-based state trooper who is the Canaseraga Central School resource officer, and his wife Kim.

The Smiths are Hogan's neighbors on Mays Avenue in Hornell.

Smith is survived by his wife, Anne (Deebs) Smith, who he married last summer.



## **Hornell Marine killed in Afghanistan**

[http://news10now.com/southern-](http://news10now.com/southern-tier-news-1115-content/top_stories/494110/hornell-marine-killed-in-afghanistan)

[tier-news-1115-content/top\\_stories/494110/hornell-marine-killed-in-afghanistan](http://news10now.com/southern-tier-news-1115-content/top_stories/494110/hornell-marine-killed-in-afghanistan)

By: Web Staff Jan 24, 2010

HORNELL, N.Y. -- A marine from the City of Hornell has died in Afghanistan. Hornell Mayor Shawn Hogan tells News 10 Now that Lance Corporal Zach Smith, a 2008 graduate of Hornell High School, was killed in action this weekend.

Mayor Hogan says he learned about the incident Sunday morning and believes Smith was killed by an improvised explosive device. Hogan says Smith is the first person from Hornell to die in the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"This is the first time that the brutality of war has really knocked on our community's door and delivered a message that, you know, war is brutal and unjust and not fair in any way. This young man was a tremendous young man and he will be missed and this is a tremendous tragedy," said Shawn Hogan, Hornell Mayor.

Mayor Hogan has ordered all city flags to be flown at half staff until Smith's body is returned home.

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## **Hornell Marine Killed in Afghanistan**

Link: [http://rochesterhomepage.net/media\\_player.php?media\\_id=449851](http://rochesterhomepage.net/media_player.php?media_id=449851)

Reported by: WROC-TV  
Sunday, Jan 24, 2010 @01:46p

News 8 has learned a Hornell soldier has died.

A family friend reports Zach Smith, 19, was killed in Afghanistan over the weekend. Smith was deployed about a month ago. He was a U.S. Marine based at Camp Lejeune.

Details of his death are not known.

He leaves behind his wife, who he married last summer. He also leaves behind his parents, brother and sister. Smith was a 2008 Hornell High School graduate

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## **HORNELL NATIVE DIES IN AFGHANISTAN**

January 24, 2010 10:26:00

### **19 YEAR OLD MARINE DIED IN AFGHANISTAN**

Our news department has learned that Hornell native Zach Smith, a U.S. Marine, was killed in action in Afghanistan.

Hornell Mayor Shawn Hogan was a next door neighbor of Smith's. "I can't express the pain and sorrow that I feel and the sympathy that I feel, personally and on behalf of the community for the Smith family. Zach, I watched him grow up, he was almost like a family member, as I watched him grow up, and grow up into a tremendous young man. This is a tragedy of catastrophic proportions, and I just don't know how to express how I feel," said Mayor Hogan.

Hornell High School teacher Frank Libordi knew Zach well. "A total shock, I'm sure to the entire community. Zach was a wonderful, polite individual, a hard working student, a good athlete, just a real pleasure to be around and he's a true American hero," Libordi said.

Grief counselors will be available at Hornell High School.

Smith is survived by his wife Ann (Deebs), who he married last summer, along with his father, Chris and mother, Kim, as well as siblings Nate and Grace.

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## **Local soldier dies in Afghanistan**

Posted at: 01/24/2010 3:04 PM | Updated at: 01/24/2010 7:16 PM

A tight-knit community in Western New York is mourning the loss of a marine killed in Afghanistan.

Lance Corporal Zach Smith, of Hornell New York, died yesterday in Afghanistan. He was just deployed a month ago.

Several marines came to the Smith home to tell them their son had been killed.

His father is a New York State Trooper. Smith who was 19-years-old has an older brother and a sister in elementary school. Smith graduated from Hornell High School in 2008. He got married this summer.

The Mayor of Hornell, Shawn Hogan, who is also the Smith's neighbor, watched Smith grow up and says he was a smart and kind young man. He says Smith always wanted to be a marine, from the time he was young, and that he lived out his dream.

"War is brutal and unkind and unfair, it's taken one of our very best young people from us. He served proudly and we should honor that service."

The mayor says the community will do whatever it can to support the family. And the same goes for New York State Police. A number of troopers were at the Smith's home today. The captain of troop A told me they too are devastated over this loss.



## **Hornell Marine Killed in Afghanistan**

By: Scott Fairbanks

A Steuben County Marine was killed over this weekend while serving in Afghanistan.

Hornell Mayor Shawn Hogan told YNN city flags will fly at half-staff until the body of Zach Smith is returned home.

Hogan said Smith was one of three Marines killed by an IED on Saturday.

Smith was a 2008 graduate of Hornell High School. He is survived by his wife Anne as well as his two parents and two siblings.

Hogan said Smith is the first Marine or soldier from Hornell killed in either Iraq or Afghanistan.

"This is the first time the brutality of war has knocked on our community's door and delivered a message that war is brutal and unjust and not fair in any way. This young man was a tremendous young man and he will be missed and it's a tremendous tragedy," said Hogan.

Hogan said he doesn't just speak as the city's mayor, but also as Zach Smith's next door neighbor.

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January 24, 2010

19 year old Lance Corporal Zach Smith of Hornell had been in Afghanistan for only about a month.

A U.S. Marine from Hornell was killed over the weekend in Afghanistan.

The Mayor of Hornell said Lance Corporal Zach Smith, 19, was in Afghanistan for only about a month. He was killed by an improvised explosive device.

Smith is survived by his wife, parents and his brother and sister.

According to the Evening Tribune newspaper, Zach Smith is the son of Christopher Smith, an Amity-based state trooper who is the Canaseraga Central School resource officer, and his wife Kim.

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Monday, Jan 25, 2010 \_

## TWINTIERSLIVE.COM *News by you!!*

### ***Personnel carrier destroyed by mine***

Written by [Rob Price](#)

HORNELL – U.S. Marine Zach Smith of Hornell, son of Chris and Kim Smith, was killed in action Saturday in Afghanistan, according to unofficial reports.

Congressman Eric Massa, broadcasting in Hornell Sunday morning, learned of Smith's death and headed to the Smith family home on Mays Avenue to express his condolences to Smith's family.

Massa told Twin Tiers Live Smith died when his armored personnel carrier hit a mine in an undisclosed area of Afghanistan at about 10:30 a.m. Saturday Eastern Standard Time.

More details will be posted as they can be confirmed.

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Reported by: Sofia Ojeda  
Email: [sojeda@wetmtv.com](mailto:sojeda@wetmtv.com)  
Last Update: 7:15 am



Hornell Marine Killed (Evening Tribune)

A U.S. Marine from Hornell has been killed in Afghanistan.

Hornell Mayor Shawn Hogan tells WETM 18 news that 19 year old Lance Corporal Zach Smith was killed in action Saturday.

Smith is a 2008 graduate of Hornell High School.

Mayor Hogan believes Smith's death was caused by an improvised explosive device, and that Smith had been fighting in Afghanistan for only about a month.

Mayor Hogan lives next door to Smith's parents in Hornell, and says he's watched Smith grow up since he was about 8 years old.

Mayor Hogan says, "This is a big loss not only for this community but for everyone. I always called Zach the Good Will Ambassador because he always had a kind word or smile for you. He was caring and compassionate, a very special individual."

Mayor Hogan ordered city flags flown at half staff until Smith's body comes home.

Smith is survived by his wife, Anne, his parents Christopher and Kim Smith, and a brother and a sister.

## Local Marine dies in Afghanistan

A tight-knit community in Western New York is mourning the loss of a Marine killed in Afghanistan.

Lance Corporal Zach Smith, of Hornell New York, died yesterday in Afghanistan. He was just deployed a month ago.

Several Marines came to the Smith home to tell them their son had been killed.

His father is a New York State Trooper. Smith who was 19-years-old has an older brother and a sister in elementary school. Smith graduated from Hornell High School in 2008. He got married this summer.

The Mayor of Hornell, Shawn Hogan, who is also the Smith's neighbor, watched him grow up and says he was a smart and kind young man. He says Smith always wanted to be a Marine, from the time he was young, and that he lived out his dream.

"War is brutal and unkind and unfair, it's taken one of our very best young people from us. He served proudly and we should honor that service."

The mayor says the community will do whatever it can to support the family. And the same goes for New York State Police. A number of troopers were at the Smith's home today. The captain of troop a told me they too are devastated over this loss.



### U.S. Marine from Hornell Killed in Afghanistan



**Last Update: 6:16 am**

Hornell, N.Y. -- A U.S. Marine from Hornell was killed in Afghanistan Saturday.

Lance Corporal Zach Smith, 19, was in Afghanistan for only about a month, the Mayor of Hornell said. He was killed by a bomb.

Smith is survived by his wife, parents and his brother and sister.



# Hornell Marine killed in Afghanistan

By G. Jeffrey Aaron and Victoria E. Freile • [jgaaron@gannett.com](mailto:jgaaron@gannett.com) • January 25, 2010, 7:20 pm

A 19-year-old Hornell man, who joined the Marines after his 2008 graduation from Hornell High School, was one of three soldiers killed over the weekend by a roadside bomb in southern Afghanistan.

Marine Lance Cpl. Zach Smith was Hornell's first military casualty in the ongoing conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, according to city Mayor Shawn Hogan. Flags at government offices in Hornell are being flown at half-staff in honor of Smith.

Hogan, who is a friend and neighbor of the Smith family, said Smith enlisted in the Marines while he was still in high school and entered the service in July 2008. His unit deployed to Afghanistan from Camp Lejeune just before Christmas.

"The Department of Defense hasn't released a formal statement, but I've been talking to the family," Hogan said. "His death was the result of an IED (improvised explosive device), which have killed thousands in the conflicts of Iraq and Afghanistan. The parents were notified (Sunday) morning."

Details on Smith's unit, and details of the incident, were not available.

"It's really a dark day here in Hornell," said Gene Mastin, family friend and athletic director for the Hornell City School District. "We've lost one of our finest."

Mastin described Smith as an outgoing, comical and caring young man, who was also a gifted athlete. Smith was on the Hornell football and golf teams throughout high school. Mastin said he coached Smith for four years as a high school football player, but knew Smith since he was "just a small child."

"He was one of the friendliest, happiest, most respectful kids," Mastin said. "Whatever your day was going like, it got better when you saw Zach."

Smith was survived by his wife, Anne. The couple, high school sweethearts, married in July, Mastin said. Smith was also survived by his parents, Christopher and Kim, an older brother and a younger sister.

"I watched him grow up over the years and you just can't say enough about Zach," Hogan said. "He brought a smile to everyone's face and a skip to their hearts."

Hogan described Smith as a genuine, vibrant young man who "embraced life" and went out of his way to help others. Hogan said Smith always wanted to be a Marine and serve his country.



"He was more concerned about (helping) everyone else than he was about himself," Mastin said. "He's not one who will be defined by his deeds or achievements, but by how he treated others."

Many older students and staff members at Hornell High School have taken the news "quite hard," Mastin said.

"He will be missed," Hogan said. "This is a tragedy for his family, but also for this community. His death really has rocked the foundation of this community."

Family members traveled to Dover, Del., on Monday to take part in ceremonies returning their son to the United States. Funeral arrangements have not been announced.

Family members told the Hornell Evening Tribune that Smith's decision to join the Marines was influenced by an uncle, who also served in the Corps.

Smith's death brought the number of American service members killed so far this month to about 22 -- compared with 14 for the whole of January last year. A mild winter has brought no respite to the fighting, which traditionally drops off during the cold months.

The south of Afghanistan is the Taliban heartland and is expected to be a major focus of fighting as the United States and NATO allies send 37,000 additional troops to turn the tide of the war. decades of Soviet occupation and subsequent civil wars. Tens of thousands of mines and unexploded bombs still pepper the rugged country as violence has slowed efforts to clear them.

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## Morning Headlines for Monday, January 25



By WKBW Directors

Video Link: <http://www.wkbw.com/news/local/82584712.html?video=YHI&t=a>

Story Published: Jan 25, 2010 at 7:36 AM EST

BUFFALO, NY (WKBW) -- Here are some of the top stories from Good Morning Western New York.

A Marine from Hornell, NY, just south of Rochester, was killed by an Improvised Explosive Device in Afghanistan Saturday. 19-year old Lance Corporal Zach Smith leaves behind a wife, his [parents](#) and a brother and sister.



## **Reports: Local man dies in Afghanistan**



### ***Reports say 19-year-old man was killed Saturday***

Updated: Monday, 25 Jan 2010, 9:07 AM EST

Published: Monday, 25 Jan 2010, 9:07 AM EST

According to the Hornell Evening Tribune, flags are flying at half staff Monday morning in the City of Hornell.

During deployment as a U.S. Marine, Lance Corporal Zachary Smith died in Afghanistan, Hornell Mayor Shawn Hogan told the Tribune.

WETM 18 News reports that the 19-year-old Hornell High School graduate was killed in action, on Saturday.

The Tribune reports that Zach Smith is survived by his wife, Anne Deebs Smith, who he married last summer. He is also survived by his father Christopher Smith, an Amity-based state trooper who is the Canaseraga Central School resource officer, and his wife Kim.

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**MPN**now.com

Canandaigua, NY

### **U.S. Marine from Hornell dies in Afghanistan**

**By Staff reports      Posted Jan 25, 2010 @ 09:15 AM Canandaigua, N.Y. —**

A 19-year-old from Hornell was killed in the line of duty while serving overseas.

Several U.S. Marine's visited the Hornell home of Lance Corporal Zach Smith to inform his parents their son was killed in Afghanistan, our news partner, News 10 NBC, is reporting.

Mr. Smith, who was deployed a month ago, died Saturday.

His father is a New York State Trooper, and he has two siblings, an older brother and a younger sister. Mr. Smith graduated from Hornell High School in 2008. He was married this past summer.

Hornell Mayor Shawn Hogan, who is the Smith family's neighbor, says Mr. Smith always wanted to be a Marine, and that he lived out his dream.

"War is brutal and unkind and unfair," he said. "It has taken one of our very best young people from us. He served proudly and we should honor that service."

The mayor says the community will do whatever it can to support the family.



Hornell, NY

## War claims Hornell Marine

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By  
By Justin Head  
The Evening Tribune  
Mon Jan 25, 2010, 11:24 AM EST

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Hornell, N.Y. -

Lance Cpl. Zachary Smith, 19, a U.S. Marine from Hornell, was one of two U.S. service members killed by a roadside bomb in southern Afghanistan Saturday.

The popular Hornell High graduate, married just six months ago, was remembered as a friendly young man with a bright future.

"He always wanted to be a Marine. It's something he always wanted and looked forward to. He was taking after his uncle Matt. That's why he joined the Marines," said his grandfather, Sid Smith of North Hornell.

"(Zachary) was always the life of the party. Excellent personality, always doing harmless devilish things. He was very well liked for his personality."

Smith's grandmother, Alice Smith, spoke for all in the Hornell area who knew him.

"He was a great kid," she said, adding, "Full of life and and love, always on the up. He had a lot of friends and was a thoughtful boy."

Smith is survived by his wife, Anne (Deebs) Smith, who he married last summer, his brother Nathaniel, 23, his sister Grace, 10, and his parents, Christopher Smith, an Amity-based state trooper who is the Canaseraga Central School resource officer, and his wife Kim, and his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Mike and Andrea Deebs of Hornell.

Family members are traveling today to Dover, Del., to take part in ceremonies returning their son to the United States. Funeral arrangements have not been announced.

Mayor Shawn Hogan said the Smiths are his neighbors on Mays Avenue and he was deeply saddened by the news.

"He grew up across the street from me and he always brought a smile to my face and happiness to my heart because he was such a warm personality ... It's almost like a part of my family is gone. I just know this is a big loss for the community. You often hear about these brave young men dying

and it's always somebody else's brother or son. Now this is something we have to cope with," said Hogan.

Hogan ordered the city flags flown at half staff Sunday morning until Smith's body is returned home.

"The brutality of war was dumped at our door step this morning and it's ugly," Hogan said.

Zachary Smith played two seasons of varsity football at Hornell High School, starting on the offensive line at the center position in 2007. He graduated in 2008 and joined the Marines in July that year.

Known by those close to him for his sense of humor and athleticism, Smith touched the lives of many coaches at HHS.

Mickey Carretto retired from the HHS football program after the 2008 season. Carretto coached the Red Raiders offensive line and linebackers from 1998 to 2008.

"I've known him since he was a baby," Carretto said. "He was one of the most sincere, honest, nice kids that you'll ever meet up with. Always a smile on his face and he always had a great positive attitude. He always took the time with the younger kids, he took them under his wing so to speak. In fact, he treated my little girls like gold. They're as devastated as anybody right now ... You can't say enough good things about him. A blue-chip kid who will be missed by everybody."

Gene Mastin, HHS athletic director and head varsity football coach, spoke to the same degree of the soldier, neighbor, friend and family member that remains on so many minds.

"They don't come any better," Mastin said. "If Hornell ever had a favorite son it was probably Zach Smith. He was universally liked. Everything about him was good," he said. "Devastating. You deal with so many great kids and Zach was right at the top of the list. I can't imagine ... he was just everything that was good about any kid growing up today. He was just one of the best, most well-respected kids we've had in our school."

Mastin said the pair formed a close bond over the years without effort.

"I don't know but we did," Mastin said. "He was just one of those kids that was so easy to like. And such a hard worker. He called me every week of every game, throughout the playoffs and things like that ... You get close with people, and this was somebody I was going to be close with for the rest of our lives. A great kid and a great family. One of those things that you really grapple to find words for. Just devastating."

The character of Zachary Smith, who would have been 20 on April 2, according to his grandparents, was even felt by those who briefly knew him.

Jerry McAneny, a BOCES physical education teacher, did not teach Smith, but has a son who graduated in his class and spoke to Smith on several occasions.

“I knew him through school. He was just a great kid. He was a gentleman, a lot of fun to be around, and always respectful,” he said. “When he came back after joining the Marines he came into school with his uniform and talked to me. There was a fire drill and we went outside in the front lawn and he told me how he was doing and how proud he is to be serving the country.”

Others found great pleasure getting to know him better.

“He was always smiling, always able to joke, always respectful and never a problem. He was your all-American kid. He was the type of kid that if you’re a parent and you had a son you’d want your son to grow up and be just like him,” said Brian Dyring, a HHS physical education teacher who instructed Smith. “He was without a doubt the greatest kid to walk the hallways at Hornell High School.”

Michael Brewer is a manager at the Hornell Wegmans and worked with Smith, who was a cashier and handled various other responsibilities in the couple of years he worked there.

“The best way to describe him was an all-around likeable kid. He touched everyone with his humor ... He was a great kid. It was that simple. He was great to be around and he always lifted everyone’s spirits,” said Brewer.

Sid Smith said his grandson was a proud Marine and was just beginning his patrols. Alice Smith noted that the community has been respectful and there has been an “outpouring of love from our friends and family.”

Congressman Eric Massa, D-Corning, met with the family Sunday, and this morning issued the following statement: “Like all members of this community, I am saddened by the sacrifice of Lance Corporal Zach Smith and my heart goes out to his entire family. I will do everything in my power to help the entire Smith family through this terrible tragedy and I ask everyone to keep the Smiths in their prayers.”

According to the Associated Press, the two deaths brought to at least 22 the number of American service members killed so far this month — compared with only 14 for the whole of January last year. A mild winter has brought no respite to the fighting, which traditionally drops off during the cold months.

The south of Afghanistan is the Taliban heartland and is expected to be a major focus of fighting as the U.S. and NATO allies send 37,000 additional troops to turn the tide of the war.

Afghanistan is one of the most heavily mined countries in the world — a legacy from decades of Soviet occupation and subsequent civil wars. Tens of thousands of mines and unexploded bombs still pepper the rugged country as violence has slowed efforts to clear them.

Includes reporting by Derrick Balinsky and The Associated Press.

recordonline.com  
TIMES HERALD-RECORD



timesunion.com



Monday, January 25, 2010

## Marine from western NY killed in Afghanistan blast

**Associated Press Last updated: 12:30 p.m., Monday, January 25, 2010**

HORNELL, N.Y. -- A 19-year-old Marine from western New York has been killed by a roadside bomb in Afghanistan.

Lance Cpl. Zachary Smith's family says he died in the attack Saturday in a southern Taliban stronghold. He was a graduate of Hornell High School and had been married for six months.

Sid Smith of North Hornell tells the Hornell Evening Tribune that his grandson always wanted to be a Marine, following the lead of his uncle.

Smith's father -- Christopher Smith -- is a state trooper who works as a school resource officer in the Canaseraga (kan-uh-ser-AH'-gah) Central School. Funeral arrangements haven't yet been announced.

The Department of Defense hadn't confirmed the death as of Monday morning and details of the attack aren't available.

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Bath NY



## New York State Marine killed in Afghanistan

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By Justin Head

GateHouse News Service

[NEW!](#) Mon Jan 25, 2010, 01:31 PM EST

Hornell, N.Y. -

Lance Cpl. Zachary Smith, 19, a U.S. Marine from Hornell, was one of two U.S. service members killed by a roadside bomb in southern Afghanistan on Saturday.

The Hornell High graduate, married just six months ago, was remembered as a friendly young man with a bright future.

"He always wanted to be a Marine. It's something he always wanted and looked forward to. He was taking after his uncle Matt. That's why he joined the Marines," said his grandfather, Sid Smith of North Hornell.

"(Zachary) was always the life of the party. Excellent personality, always doing harmless devilish things. He was very well liked for his personality."

Smith's grandmother, Alice Smith, spoke for all in the Hornell area who knew him.

"He was a great kid," she said, adding, "Full of life and and love, always on the up. He had a lot of friends and was a thoughtful boy."

Smith is survived by his wife, Anne (Deebs) Smith, who he married last summer; his brother Nathaniel, 23; his sister Grace, 10; and his parents, Christopher and Kim Smith; and his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Mike and Andrea Deebs of Hornell.

Family members were set to travel Monday to Dover, Del., to take part in ceremonies returning their son to the United States. Funeral arrangements have not been announced.

Mayor Shawn Hogan said the Smiths are his neighbors on Mays Avenue and he was deeply saddened by the news.

"He grew up across the street from me and he always brought a smile to my face and happiness to my heart because he was such a warm personality ... It's almost like a part of my family is gone. I just know this is a big loss for the community. You often hear about these brave young men dying and it's always somebody else's brother or son. Now this is something we have to cope with," Hogan said.

Hogan ordered the city flags flown at half staff Sunday morning until Smith's body is returned home.

"The brutality of war was dumped at our door step this morning and it's ugly," Hogan said.



Zachary Smith played two seasons of varsity football at Hornell High School, starting on the offensive line at the center position in 2007. He graduated in 2008 and joined the Marines in July that year.

Known by those close to him for his sense of humor and athleticism, Smith touched the lives of many coaches at HHS.

Mickey Carretto retired from the HHS football program after the 2008 season. Carretto coached the Red Raiders offensive line and linebackers from 1998 to 2008.

"I've known him since he was a baby," Carretto said. "He was one of the most sincere, honest, nice kids that you'll ever meet up with. Always a smile on his face and he always had a great positive attitude. He always took the time with the younger kids, he took them under his wing so to speak. In fact, he treated my little girls like gold. They're as devastated as anybody right now ... You can't say enough good things about him. A blue-chip kid who will be missed by everybody."

Gene Mastin, HHS athletic director and head varsity football coach, spoke to the same degree of the soldier, neighbor, friend and family member that remains on so many minds.

"They don't come any better," Mastin said. "If Hornell ever had a favorite son it was probably Zach Smith. He was universally liked. Everything about him was good," he said. "Devastating. You deal with so many great kids and Zach was right at the top of the list. I can't imagine ... he was just everything that was good about any kid growing up today. He was just one of the best, most well-respected kids we've had in our school."

Mastin said the pair formed a close bond over the years without effort.

"I don't know but we did," Mastin said. "He was just one of those kids that was so easy to like. And such a hard worker. He called me every week of every game, throughout the playoffs and things like that ... You get close with people, and this was somebody I was going to be close with for the rest of our lives. A great kid and a great family. One of those things that you really grapple to find words for. Just devastating."

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"I knew him through school. He was just a great kid. He was a gentleman, a lot of fun to be around, and always respectful," he said. "When he came back after joining the Marines he came into school with his uniform and talked to me. There was a fire drill and we went outside in the front lawn and he told me how he was doing and how proud he is to be serving the country."

Others found great pleasure getting to know him better.

"He was always smiling, always able to joke, always respectful and never a problem. He was your all-American kid. He was the type of kid that if you're a parent and you had a son you'd want your son to grow up and be just like him," said Brian Dyring, a HHS physical education teacher who instructed Smith. "He was without a doubt the greatest kid to walk the hallways at Hornell High School."

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“The best way to describe him was an all-around likeable kid. He touched everyone with his humor ... He was a great kid. It was that simple. He was great to be around and he always lifted everyone’s spirits,” said Brewer.

Sid Smith said his grandson was a proud Marine and was just beginning his patrols. Alice Smith noted that the community has been respectful and there has been an “outpouring of love from our friends and family.”

Congressman Eric Massa, D-Corning, met with the family Sunday, and this morning issued the following statement: “Like all members of this community, I am saddened by the sacrifice of Lance Corporal Zach Smith and my heart goes out to his entire family. I will do everything in my power to help the entire Smith family through this terrible tragedy and I ask everyone to keep the Smiths in their prayers.”

*The Evening Tribune Includes reporting by Derrick Balinsky.*



<http://www.cbs6albany.com/>

## WNY marine killed in Afghanistan blast

January 25, 2010 1:47 PM

[Associated Press](#)

HORNELL -- A 19-year-old Marine from western New York has been killed by a roadside bomb in Afghanistan.

Lance Cpl. Zachary Smith's family says he died in the attack Saturday in a southern Taliban stronghold. He was a graduate of Hornell High School and had been married for six months.

Sid Smith of North Hornell tells the Hornell Evening Tribune that his grandson always wanted to be a Marine, following the lead of his uncle.

Smith's father -- Christopher Smith -- is a state trooper who works as a school resource officer in the Canaseraga Central School. Funeral arrangements haven't yet been announced.

The Department of Defense hadn't confirmed the death as of Monday morning and details of the attack aren't available.

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Wellsville, NY

## **Lance Cpl. Zachary Smith dies in Afghanistan**

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Lance Cpl. Zachary Smith

By Justin Head

Daily Reporter

Mon Jan 25, 2010, 02:02 PM EST

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HORNELL -

Lance Cpl. Zachary Smith, 19, a U.S. Marine from Hornell, was one of two U.S. service members killed by a roadside bomb in southern Afghanistan Saturday.

The popular Hornell High graduate, married just six months ago, was remembered as a friendly young man with a bright future.

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Smith's grandmother, Alice Smith, spoke for all in the Hornell area who knew him.

"He was a great kid," she said, adding, "Full of life and and love, always on the up. He had a lot of friends and was a thoughtful boy."

Smith is survived by his wife, Anne (Deebs) Smith, who he married last summer, his brother Nathaniel, 23, his sister Grace, 10, and his parents, Christopher Smith, an Amity-based state trooper who is the Canaseraga Central School resource officer, and his wife Kim, and his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Mike and Andrea Deebs of Hornell.

Family members are traveling today to Dover, Del., to take part in ceremonies returning their son to the United States. Funeral arrangements have not been announced.

Mayor Shawn Hogan said the Smiths are his neighbors on Mays Avenue and he was deeply saddened by the news.

"He grew up across the street from me and he always brought a smile to my face and happiness to my heart because he was such a warm personality ... It's almost like a part of my family is gone. I just know this is a big loss for the community. You often hear about these brave young men dying and it's always somebody else's brother or son. Now this is something we have to cope with," said Hogan.

Hogan ordered the city flags flown at half staff Sunday morning until Smith's body is returned home.

"The brutality of war was dumped at our door step this morning and it's ugly," Hogan said.

Zachary Smith played two seasons of varsity football at Hornell High School, starting on the offensive line at the center position in 2007. He graduated in 2008 and joined the Marines in July that year.

Known by those close to him for his sense of humor and athleticism, Smith touched the lives of

many coaches at HHS.

Mickey Carretto retired from the HHS football program after the 2008 season. Carretto coached the Red Raiders offensive line and linebackers from 1998 to 2008.

"I've known him since he was a baby," Carretto said. "He was one of the most sincere, honest, nice kids that you'll ever meet up with. Always a smile on his face and he always had a great positive attitude. He always took the time with the younger kids, he took them under his wing so to speak. In fact, he treated my little girls like gold. They're as devastated as anybody right now ...

You can't say enough good things about him. A blue-chip kid who will be missed by everybody."

Gene Mastin, HHS athletic director and head varsity football coach, spoke to the same degree of the soldier, neighbor, friend and family member that remains on so many minds.

"They don't come any better," Mastin said. "If Hornell ever had a favorite son it was probably Zach Smith. He was universally liked. Everything about him was good," he said. "Devastating. You deal with so many great kids and Zach was right at the top of the list. I can't imagine ... he was just everything that was good about any kid growing up today. He was just one of the best, most well-respected kids we've had in our school."

Mastin said the pair formed a close bond over the years without effort.

"I don't know but we did," Mastin said. "He was just one of those kids that was so easy to like.

And such a hard worker. He called me every week of every game, throughout the playoffs and things like that ... You get close with people, and this was somebody I was going to be close with for the rest of our lives. A great kid and a great family. One of those things that you really grapple to find words for. Just devastating."

The character of Zachary Smith, who would have been 20 on April 2, according to his grandparents, was even felt by those who briefly knew him.

Jerry McAneny, a BOCES physical education teacher, did not teach Smith, but has a son who graduated in his class and spoke to Smith on several occasions.

"I knew him through school. He was just a great kid. He was a gentleman, a lot of fun to be around, and always respectful," he said. "When he came back after joining the Marines he came into school with his uniform and talked to me. There was a fire drill and we went outside in the front lawn and he told me how he was doing and how proud he is to be serving the country."

Others found great pleasure getting to know him better.

"He was always smiling, always able to joke, always respectful and never a problem. He was your all-American kid. He was the type of kid that if you're a parent and you had a son you'd want your son to grow up and be just like him," said Brian Dyring, a HHS physical education teacher who instructed Smith. "He was without a doubt the greatest kid to walk the hallways at Hornell High School."

Michael Brewer is a manager at the Hornell Wegmans and worked with Smith, who was a cashier and handled various other responsibilities in the couple of years he worked there.

"The best way to describe him was an all-around likeable kid. He touched everyone with his humor ... He was a great kid. It was that simple. He was great to be around and he always lifted everyone's spirits," said Brewer.

Sid Smith said his grandson was a proud Marine and was just beginning his patrols. Alice Smith noted that the community has been respectful and there has been an "outpouring of love from our friends and family."

Congressman Eric Massa, D-Corning, met with the family Sunday, and this morning issued the following statement: "Like all members of this community, I am saddened by the sacrifice of Lance Corporal Zach Smith and my heart goes out to his entire family. I will do everything in my power to help the entire Smith family through this terrible tragedy and I ask everyone to keep the Smiths in their prayers."

According to the Associated Press, the two deaths brought to at least 22 the number of American service members killed so far this month — compared with only 14 for the whole of January last year. A mild winter has brought no respite to the fighting, which traditionally drops off during the cold months.

The south of Afghanistan is the Taliban heartland and is expected to be a major focus of fighting as the U.S. and NATO allies send 37,000 additional troops to turn the tide of the war.

Afghanistan is one of the most heavily mined countries in the world — a legacy from decades of Soviet occupation and subsequent civil wars. Tens of thousands of mines and unexploded bombs still pepper the rugged country as violence has slowed efforts to clear them.

Includes reporting by Derrick Balinsky and The Associated Press.

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## THE BUFFALO NEWS

Marine Lance Cpl. Zach Smith graduated from Hornell High School in 2008.

# Hornell soldier, 19, killed in Afghanistan

By Gene Warner

News Staff Reporter

Updated: January 25, 2010, 2:45 pm

Published: January 25, 2010, 2:37 pm

The city of Hornell has suffered its first military casualty since the Vietnam War, with the weekend death in Afghanistan of Marine Lance Cpl. Zach Smith, 19, a young man known for his big smile, his great sense of humor and his outgoing personality.

Smith, a 2008 graduate of Hornell High School, reportedly was killed Saturday by a roadside improvised explosive device, along with at least one other member of the U.S. military. The Defense Department still has not released any information about his death.

"[Sunday] morning at 8:15 or 8:20, the horrors of war knocked on the doors of this community," said Shawn Hogan, mayor of Hornell, a city with about 10,000 residents. Hornell is about 90 miles southeast of Buffalo, in Steuben County.

Hogan not only was Smith's mayor; he also was his neighbor.

"I had the pleasure of watching the young man grow up," Hogan said in a telephone interview. "He was all any parent could hope for, in terms of his integrity and his compassion for his fellow man.

"He had a vivacious personality," the mayor added. "He'd always bring a smile to your face and a skip to your heart."

Zach Smith was considered an all-around high school student, who played football, was an accomplished golfer and worked at Wegmans, where Hogan called him a great ambassador for the supermarket chain.

"Although they didn't have official greeters at Wegmans, he was one," Hogan said. "He was always looking to be helpful."

Living in a small city, Hogan said that residents often hear about military deaths on CNN. While saddened by them, they don't feel the connection, until something like this happens.

"It's not just a passing name," he said. "People know of him or his family or have a connection in some way . . . He was that special an individual, and the community is rocked to its core."

Smith, according to the mayor, graduated from Hornell High School in June 2008, began basic training the following month and was deployed to Afghanistan shortly before Christmas. He had wanted to be a Marine since he was a young boy.

"That was his goal," Hogan said. "He achieved his goal. He was a proud Marine, and he did the Marines proud."

The mayor ordered flags to be flown at half-staff following the news of Smith's death. [gwarner@buffnews.com](mailto:gwarner@buffnews.com)



<http://thesafetyplace.org/>

## **Department of Defense Military Casualty List - January 2010**

*The Safety Place would like to send our condolences to all the families of our service men and service women who paid the supreme sacrifice to keep America the "**Land of the Free and Home of the Brave**"*

### ***January 24, 2010 (Marines) (3)***

The following Marines died Jan. 24 while supporting combat operations in Helmand province, Afghanistan:

- 1 - Sgt. Daniel M. Angus, 28, of Thonotosassa, Fla.
- 2 - Lance Cpl. Timothy J. Poole, 22, of Bowling Green, Ky.
- 3 - Lance Cpl. Zachary D. Smith, 19, of Hornell, N.Y.

Angus and Smith were assigned to 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C. Poole was assigned to 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii.



Video Link: <http://www.wivb.com/dpp/news/military/Local-young-Marine-killed-overseas>



# Young local Marine killed overseas

## ***Zach Smith of Hornell was killed by roadside bomb***

Updated: Monday, 25 Jan 2010, 5:44 PM EST

Published : Monday, 25 Jan 2010, 5:21 PM EST

- Luke Moretti
- Posted by: Eli George

A community right on the edge of western New York is remembering a native son, killed in the war on terror. Marine Lance Corporal Zach Smith made the ultimate sacrifice at the age of 19.

Those who knew him say Zachary Smith always wanted to be a Marine. He was in boot camp shortly after graduating from Hornell High in 2008. The school's athletic director and family friend, says Zach will be remembered for the way he treated people.

Hornell High School Athletic Director Gene Mastin said, "I can't ever remember a happier, friendlier, and yet as respectful, a kid as Zach Smith. He treated everybody the way people are supposed to treat one and other."

On Saturday, just shy of his 20th birthday, Lance Corporal Zach Smith was one of three Marines killed by a roadside bomb in southern Afghanistan. His native Hornell, a city of ten thousand people, is grieving.

"The brutality of war has finally reached our doorstep here in Hornell," said Hornell Mayor Shawn Hogan.

Zach and his high school sweetheart, Anne, were married only six months ago. Hornell Mayor Shawn Hogan knows the family well. He says says Zach was an all-star person.

"It's like losing one of your own family members. When you lose them in this fashion it triples the grief," said Hogan.

Mastin added, "If we'd ever had anybody that earned the title of being a favorite son of Hornell, it certainly would've been Zach."

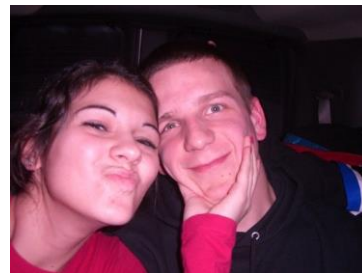
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Reported by: Sean Carroll  
Email: [scarroll@13wham.com](mailto:scarroll@13wham.com)  
Last Update: 7:39 pm

## U.S. Marine from Hornell Killed in Afghanistan



Hornell, N.Y. --- The family of a 19 year-old Marine from Hornell is in Dover, Delaware awaiting the return of their son's body. Friends of the family say they believe it was a homemade bomb that killed Lance Corporal Zach Smith just one month after he was deployed to Afghanistan

"I think the dreary day, the rain and the dark day kind of mirrors the mood in this community today," Hornell Mayor Shawn Hogan said Monday morning. "The brutality and tragedy of war has knocked on our door here in Hornell, NY."

Mayor Hogan calls Mays Avenue home, he calls Zach Smith's family friends and neighbors.

"I feel like this young man was part of my own family," Hogan said of Zach Smith. "I watched him grow up."

Smith was the kid with that flat, just slightly-crooked grin. The son of a New York State Trooper. A little brother to Nate, and a big brother to Grace all at once. In high school Smith was a Hornell Red Raider football player and golfer, he was certain of what he wanted to do in life.

"He wanted to be a Marine he enlisted while he was still in high school," Hogan recalled. "Zach certainly had that calling and he was proud, very proud."

It was at Hornell High School that Smith met his future wife Anne too. Zach graduated in 2008, Anne in 2009, and they were married just last summer. "He leaves a beautiful young woman as his widow which is doubly tragic," Hogan said.

The football player and former cheerleader were high school sweethearts, just beginning their journey together when Smith was deployed to Afghanistan about a month ago.

"He went willingly into harm's way as so many thousands have and do," Hogan said. "He was a true credit to his parents, to this community, and to the United States Marine Corps."

Mayor Shawn Hogan said Zach Smith is Hornell's first casualty of the wars in Afghanistan or Iraq. The military's yet to release specifics about his death. Funeral arrangements are pending.



VIDEO LINK: [http://news10now.com/cny-news-1013-content/top\\_stories/494215/hornell-mourns-fallen-marine](http://news10now.com/cny-news-1013-content/top_stories/494215/hornell-mourns-fallen-marine)

01/25/2010 09:14 PM

## Hornell mourns fallen Marine

By: Kaitlyn Lioni

*The Hornell community was hit with tragedy this weekend, learning that 19-year-old Lance Corporal Zachary Smith had been killed in Afghanistan. Our Kaitlyn Lioni spoke with family friends and tells us what they'll miss most about their fallen hero.*

HORNELL, N.Y. -- Flags in Hornell fly at half staff as the community mourns the loss of a beloved son. Zachary Smith, 19, was killed while serving his country in Afghanistan this weekend.

"Always aspired to be a Marine. He was doing what he wanted to, what he loved," said Hornell Mayor Shawn Hogan.

The 2008 graduate of Hornell High School played football and golf and was supportive of his classmates both on and off the field.

"He was great with younger students. If there was a student who maybe socially wasn't the best, Zach would step up, he'd always say hi to that kid," said high school teacher Mark Labanoski.

Friends say Smith's caring personality also showed through during his time working at the local Wegmans.

"If you ran into Zach, you better have a little bit of time, because he was going to shake your hand, he was going to ask you about your family, he was going to ask you about your kids and really meant it and then you left always feeling better," said Gene Mastin, Hornell athletic director and football coach.

Although Smith's life was cut short, there is no shortage of memories those who knew him have of what a special person he was and the lasting impact he had on the community.

"Whenever he would come home from the military, he always made it a point to stop in to a lot of the teachers, say hello, see how we're doing. Always had a joke, always had a smile. Gonna miss that," said Labanoski.

"You cannot say enough about this young man. He really, he always brought a smile to your face and a little skip to your heart," Hogan said.

And their memories of Smith are what the community will hold on to, even after they say goodbye.

"Zach's going to be remembered for the way he treated people. If there were ever a manual on the right way to treat people, Zach would have been the one that would have written it," Mastin said.

Smith leaves behind his wife of six months, his parents and a brother and sister. His body is expected to arrive in the United States at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware Tuesday night.

| **19 YEAR OLD HORNELL MARINE KILLED IN ACTION IN AFGHANISTAN**

## **19 YEAR OLD HORNELL MARINE KILLED IN ACTION IN AFGHANISTAN**

Updated: January 25, 2010 10:26:00

Published: January 24, 2010 10:26:00

### **Family ready to meet body in Dover, Delaware**

**Zach Smith, a U.S. Marine, has been killed in action in Afghanistan. He was deployed there about a month ago and reportedly died as the result of a roadside bomb attack, a common terrorist attack method both in Afghanistan and Iraq.**

**He is survived by his wife the former Ann Deebs, whom he married last summer as well as his father Chris, mother Kim, brother Nate and sister Grace. Chris Smith is a state trooper presently assigned to Canesaraga Central School as part of a special program.**

**Zach, a 2008 graduate of Hornell High School, was 19. The family plans to meet the body of Lance Corp. Smith when it arrives at Dover, Delaware.**

**Hornell Mayor Shawn Hogan was a next door neighbor of Smith's. "I can't express the pain and sorrow that I feel and the sympathy that I feel, personally and on behalf of the community for the Smith family. Zach, I watched him grow up, he was almost like a family member, as I watched him grow up, and grow up into a tremendous young man. This is a tragedy of catastrophic proportions, and I just don't know how to express how I feel," said Mayor Hogan.**

**Hornell High School teacher Frank Libordi knew Zach well. "A total shock, I'm sure to the entire community. Zach was a wonderful, polite individual, a hard working student, a good athlete, just a real pleasure to be around and he's a true American hero," Libordi said.**

**Grief counselors were posted at Hornell High School today.**



Corning, NY

## Hornell Marine killed in action

By Justin Head  
Corning Leader  
Mon Jan 25, 2010, 11:06 PM EST

Hornell, N.Y. -

The Hornell community is mourning the loss of a popular teenager killed this weekend as a Marine in Afghanistan.

Lance Cpl. Zachary Smith, 19, was one of two U.S. service members killed by a roadside bomb Saturday in southern Afghanistan.

The popular Hornell High graduate, married just six months ago, was remembered as a friendly young man with a bright future.

"He always wanted to be a Marine. It's something he always wanted and looked forward to. He was taking after his uncle Matt. That's why he joined the Marines," said his grandfather, Sid Smith of North Hornell.

"(Zachary) was always the life of the party. Excellent personality, always doing harmless, devilish things. He was very well liked for his personality."

Smith's grandmother, Alice Smith, said, "He was a great kid. Full of life and and love, always on the up. He had a lot of friends and was a thoughtful boy."

Smith is survived by his wife, Anne (Deebs) Smith, whom he married last summer; his brother, Nathaniel, 23; his sister, Grace, 10; his parents, Christopher Smith, an Amity-based state trooper who is the Canaseraga Central School resource officer, and his wife, Kim, and his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Mike and Andrea Deebs of Hornell.

Family members are traveling today to Dover, Del., to take part in ceremonies returning Zachary Smith's body to the U.S.

Funeral arrangements have not been announced.

Mayor Shawn Hogan said the Smiths are his neighbors on Mays Avenue and he was deeply saddened by the news.

"He grew up across the street from me and he always brought a smile to my face and happiness to my heart because he was such a warm personality ... It's almost like a part of my family is gone. I just know this is a big loss for the community," Hogan said.

Hogan ordered the city flags flown at half staff Sunday morning until Smith's body is returned home.

"The brutality of war was dumped at our door step... and it's ugly," Hogan said.

Zachary Smith played two seasons of varsity football at Hornell High School, starting on the offensive line at the center position in 2007. He graduated in 2008 and joined the Marines in July that year.

According to The Associated Press, the two deaths brought to at least 22 the number of American service members killed so far this month, compared with only 14 for the whole of January last year.

[Victoria E. Freile](#) • Staff writer • January 25, 2010

Flags are flying at half-staff in Hornell, Steuben County, in memory of a young Marine killed over the weekend.

Hornell Mayor Shawn Hogan said Zach Smith, 19, was the community's first military casualty in the ongoing conflict in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Officers with the U.S. Marine Corp informed Smith's family of the news yesterday morning. Hogan, a neighbor and family friend, said Smith was on his first tour of duty in Afghanistan when he was killed.

Lance Corporal Smith, a 2008 graduate of Hornell High School, was deployed in December. He enlisted in the Marines while still in high school, and left for training in the summer of 2008.

Details on Smith's unit and details of the incident were not available. The U.S. Department of Defense has not released any information about the deaths.

"It's really a dark day here in Hornell," said Gene Mastin, family friend and athletic director for the Hornell City School District. "We've lost one of our finest."

Mastin, described Smith as an outgoing, comical and caring young man, who was also a gifted athlete. Smith was on the Hornell football and golf teams throughout high school. Mastin said he coached Smith for four years as a high school football player, but knew Smith since he was "just a small child."

"He was one of the friendliest, happiest, most respectful kids," Mastin said. "Whatever your day was going like, it got better when you saw Zach."

Smith was survived by his wife Anne. The couple, high school sweethearts, married in July, Mastin said. Smith was also survived by his parents, Christopher and Kim, an older brother and a younger sister.

"I watched him grow up over the years and you just can't say enough about Zach," Hogan said. "He brought a smile to everyone's face and a skip to their hearts."

Hogan described Smith as a genuine, vibrant young man who "embraced life" and went out of his way to help others. Hogan said Smith always wanted to be a Marine and serve his country.

"He was more concerned about (helping) everyone else than he was about himself," Mastin said. "He's not one who will be defined by his deeds or achievements, but by how he treated others."

Many older students and staff members at Hornell High School have taken the news "quite hard," Mastin said.

"He will be missed," Hogan said. "This is a tragedy for his family, but also for this community. His death really has rocked the foundation of this community."

Smith's parents flew to Dover Air Force Base today, Mastin said. It was not known how soon they could return home with their son's remains, Mastin said. No funeral arrangements have been set.

Hogan said flags will remain lowered until after his memorial service.

[VFREILE@DemocratandChronicle.com](mailto:VFREILE@DemocratandChronicle.com)

# THE BUFFALO NEWS



Lance Cpl.  
Zach Smith  
known for  
his smile.

## **AFGHANISTAN BOMBING**

## ***Hornell mourns Marine's death***

By Gene Warner

NEWS STAFF REPORTER

January 26, 2010, 6:56 am

The City of Hornell has suffered its first military casualty since the Vietnam War, with the weekend death in Afghanistan of Marine Lance Cpl. Zach Smith, 19, a young man known for his big smile, his great sense of humor and his outgoing personality.

Smith, a 2008 graduate of Hornell High School, reportedly was killed Saturday by a roadside improvised explosive device, along with at least one other member of the U. S. military. The Defense Department had not released any information about his death Monday.

“[Sunday] morning at 8:15 or 8:20, the horrors of war knocked on the doors of this community,” said Shawn Hogan, mayor of Hornell, a city with about 10,000 residents. Hornell is about 90 miles southeast of Buffalo in Steuben County.

Hogan not only is Smith’s mayor, but he also was his neighbor.

“I had the pleasure of watching the young man grow up,” Hogan said in a telephone interview. “He was all any parent could hope for, in terms of his integrity and his compassion for his fellow man.”

“He had a vivacious personality,” the mayor added. “He’d always bring a smile to your face and a skip to your heart.”

Zach Smith was considered an all-around high school student. He played football, was an accomplished golfer and worked at Wegmans, where Hogan said he a great ambassador for the supermarket chain.

“Although they didn’t have official greeters at Wegmans, he was one,” Hogan said. “He was always looking to be helpful.”

Living in a small city, Hogan said that residents often hear about military deaths on CNN. While saddened by them, they don’t feel the connection, until something like this happens.

“It’s not just a passing name,” he said. “People know of him or his family or have a connection in some way . . . He was that special individual, and the community is rocked to its core.”

Smith, according to the mayor, graduated from Hornell High School in June 2008, began basic training the following month and was deployed to Afghanistan shortly before Christmas. He had wanted to be a Marine since he was a young boy.

“That was his goal,” Hogan said. “He achieved his goal. He was a proud Marine, and he did the Marines proud.”

Rochester News

1/26/2010

### Steuben County Town Mourns Soldiers Loss

(Hornell, NY) -- A Steuben County town is mourning the loss of a teenage Marine in Afghanistan. Nineteen-year-old Zach Smith is Hornell's first military casualty in Iraq or Afghanistan. Flags are being flown at half-staff in his honor. Smith was a 2008 graduate of Hornell High School who enlisted in the Marines even before he graduated. He was deployed to Afghanistan in December. Smith had just married his high school sweetheart last July. Community members who knew him remember him as an outgoing, funny and genuine person who could make people smile. Details of the deadly incident in Afghanistan have not yet been released. Funeral plans are pending. <

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Photo By Lynn Brennan

*The entry to Hornell on State Route 36 near Maple Court Homes*

By Justin Head

The Evening Tribune

Tue Jan 26, 2010, 11:10 AM EST

## A community mourns

Hornell, N.Y. - Lit candles were placed on doorsteps and sidewalks throughout the Maple City Monday night and flags are still hung at half staff today, a tangible reminder of Hornell mourning its fallen hero, Lance Cpl. Zachary Smith.

Smith, 19, a U.S. Marine and 2008 Hornell High School graduate, was one of two U.S. service members killed by a roadside bomb in southern Afghanistan Saturday.

Smith is survived by his wife, Anne (Deebs) Smith, who he married last summer, his brother Nathaniel, 23, his sister Grace, 10, his parents, Christopher Smith, an Amity-based state trooper who is the Canaseraga Central School resource officer, and his wife Kim, his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Mike and Andrea Deebs of Hornell, and his grandparents, Alice and Sid Smith and Donna and Darrell McDaniel.



Family members are traveling to Dover, Del., to take part in ceremonies returning their loved one home.

For updates on this story, posts will be made at our Web site [www.eveningtribune.com](http://www.eveningtribune.com) as information becomes available to the newspaper.

The Hornell City School District held a Monday afternoon press conference where Athletic Director Gene Mastin and Mark Labanoski, a HHS teacher and friend of the Smith family, spoke to the media.

“Few young people in our community have been as universally loved as was Zach Smith. He was one of the friendliest, happiest kids I’ve ever known. Regardless of how your day was going whenever you saw Zach he made it a little better. Zach had a positive nature that was absolutely infectious,” said Mastin, who was one of Smith’s football coaches and close with his family.

Mastin held back tears as he mentioned Monday was six months to the day after he married his high school sweetheart, Anne Smith, and talked about the young gentleman that gave his life protecting the country.

“As a student, an athlete, and a person, Zach was more concerned with helping those around him than for himself. He was always helping a younger person at the school, an older person in the community, or a teammate on one of his teams. He was a giver with his ambition in life to be a United States Marine for as long as anyone can remember. It seemed only natural to him that he would follow the calling to serve his country.”

Even in the chambers of city government, the horror of this tragedy was felt by emotional officials, prompting Mayor Shawn Hogan to address the issue at both the beginning and end of the Common Council’s Monday evening meeting.

“The tragedy of this past weekend rocked the community to the very core and I just ask everyone to be supportive and respectful of the family and maintain your faith. Don’t lose faith, in God and in one another ... Remember at a time like this you really shouldn’t sweat the small stuff,” said Hogan.

Brian Dyring, a HHS physical education teacher, spoke to the way the Hornell area knew Smith in a Monday article in The Tribune.

“He was always smiling, always able to joke, always respectful and never a problem. He was your all-American kid. He was the type of kid that if you’re a parent and you had a son you’d want your son to grow up and be just like him,” said Dyring, adding, “He was without a doubt the greatest kid to walk the hallways at Hornell High School.”

The Smiths will be making funeral arrangements with the Dagon Funeral Home on Church Street, but plans are incomplete at this time.

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## **Remains of Marine Expected to Arrive Tonight**



Reported by: WROC-TV Tuesday, Jan 26, 2010 @11:10am EST

The remains of a Western New York soldier killed overseas are expected to return to the U.S. on Tuesday.

19-year-old LCpl Zach Smith was killed in Afghanistan over the weekend. Smith was from Hornell and was a 2008 graduate of Hornell high school.

Smith married his high school sweetheart, Anne, before deploying. He also leaves behind his parents and two siblings.

His remains should arrive at the Dover Air Force Base in Delaware later in the evening.

## **Canisteo Valley News.com**

### **19 YEAR OLD HORNELL MARINE KILLED IN ACTION IN AFGHANISTAN**

**Family ready to meet body in Dover, Delaware**

January 26, 2010 10:16:00

**Zach Smith, a U.S. Marine, has been killed in action in Afghanistan. He was deployed there about a month ago and reportedly died as the result of a roadside bomb attack, a common terrorist attack method both in Afghanistan and Iraq.**

**He is survived by his wife the former Ann Deebs, whom he married last summer as well as his father Chris, mother Kim, brother Nate and sister Grace. Chris Smith is a state trooper presently assigned to Canesaraga Central School as part of a special program.**

**Zach, a 2008 graduate of Hornell High School, was 19. The family plans to meet the body of Lance Corp. Smith when it arrives at Dover, Delaware.**

**Hornell Mayor Shawn Hogan was a next door neighbor of Smith's. "I can't express the pain and sorrow that I feel and the sympathy that I feel, personally and on behalf of the community for the Smith family. Zach, I watched him grow up, he was almost like a family member, as I watched him grow up, and grow up into a tremendous young man. This is a tragedy of catastrophic proportions, and I just don't know how to express how I feel," said Mayor Hogan.**

**Hornell High School teacher Frank Libordi knew Zach well. "A total shock, I'm sure to the entire community. Zach was a wonderful, polite individual, a hard working student, a good athlete, just a real pleasure to be around and he's a true American hero," Libordi said.**

**Grief counselors were posted at Hornell High School today.**



U.S. Department of Defense  
Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs)

## News Release

On the Web:

<http://www.defense.gov/Releases/Release.aspx?ReleaseID=13269>

Media contact: +1 (703) 697-5131/697-5132

Public contact:

<http://www.defense.gov/landing/comment.aspx>

or +1 (703) 428-0711 +1

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### IMMEDIATE RELEASE

No. 069-10  
January 26, 2010

#### DOD Identifies Marine Casualty

The Department of Defense announced today the death of a Marine who was supporting Operation Enduring Freedom.

Lance Cpl. Jeremy M. Kane, 22, of Towson, Md., died Jan. 23 while supporting combat operations in Helmand province, Afghanistan. He was assigned to 4th Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 4th Marine Division, Marine Forces Reserve, based out of Camp Pendleton, Calif.

For additional background information on this Marine, news media representatives may contact the Marine Forces Reserve public affairs office at 504-678-6539.



Washington, NC

<http://www.witn.com/onslowcounty/headlines/82717072.html>

Updated: 4:29 PM Jan 26, 2010

## PENTAGON: Two Camp Lejeune Marines Killed In Afghanistan

The two were members of 1st Battalion, 6th Marines and were killed Sunday in combat in the Helmand province.

Posted: 4:26 PM Jan 26, 2010



Two Camp Lejeune Marines are the latest casualties in Afghanistan.

The two were members of 1st Battalion, 6th Marines and were killed Sunday in combat in the Helmand province.

The dead are Sgt. Daniel Angus of Thonotosassa, Florida and Lance Corporal Zachary Smith of Hornell, New York.

The Pentagon says another Marine, assigned to the 3rd Marine Division in Hawaii, was also killed in the same fighting.

Camp Lejeune says Angus became a Marine in September 2003 and was promoted to the rank of sergeant on May 1, 2007. The 28-year-old was on his third combat deployment, having previously served in Iraq from July 2004 to February 2005, and again from December 2005 to March 2006.

Angus' awards include the Combat Action Ribbon, two Good Conduct Medals, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and a number of other service decorations.

The 19-year-old Smith entered the Marine Corps in July 2008 and was promoted to lance corporal April 1, 2009. His awards include the National Defense Service Medal and Global War on Terrorism Service Medal. Smith was on his first deployment.

## SMITH AND DEEBS FAMILIES AWAIT ARRIVAL OF BODY IN DELAWARE

January 26, 2010 10:51:00

The parents of Lance Cpl. Zach Smith, killed in action this past weekend in Afghanistan, are awaiting the arrival of his body in Dover, Delaware. Funeral arrangements in Hornell are in care of the Dagon Funeral Home and no announcements have been forthcoming as yet.

Accompanying his widow, 18 year old Ann Deeks, to Dover were her parents---Mike and Andrea Deeks--- and Chris and Kim Smith, parents of Zach. The family members arrived in Dover yesterday, flown there by the Marine Corps. Ann and Zach were married this past summer at St. Ann's Church in Hornell shortly before his deployment to Afghanistan. Zach had been in the war torn country about a month when he was killed along with two other Marines in a roadside bombing, a favorite tactic of the terrorists.

Here in Hornell, several persons are hoping they will be able to honor the fallen Marine when his body returns to the city but no final arrangements have been made pending knowledge of the family's wishes.

Announcements regarding the body's return and funeral arrangements will be announced on WLEA and WCKR and posted on this website.

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### Hornell Marine dies in Afghanistan

Wednesday, January 27, 2010 10:12 AM EST

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. (AP) -- Two North Carolina-based Marines, including one from Hornell, have been killed in combat in Afghanistan.

A spokesman at Camp Lejeune says 28-year-old Sgt. Daniel M. Angus of Thonotosassa, Fla., and 19-year-old Lance Cpl. Zachary D. Smith of Hornell, N.Y., were killed Sunday.

Both were assigned to 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade. The unit had been in Afghanistan since December.

Angus joined the Marine Corps in 2003 and was on his third combat tour, both in Iraq.

Smith joined the Marines in 2008 and was on his first deployment.

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## SMITH'S BODY RETURNED TO THE STATES

January 27, 2010 10:22:00

### No final arrangements yet for returning his body to Hornell

There are a number of erroneous rumors about the return of the body of Lance Corporal Zachary Smith to Hornell. Here is the story as we have it from the family, in Dover, Delaware:

**The marine's body has been returned from Afghanistan. The family is now at the airbase in Dover, where they are discussing arrangements for returning Smith's body to Hornell. It has not been determined as yet when that will be.** His widow, Anne Deeks Smith, her parents and the parents of the fallen marine are in Dover at this time.

**Many persons have expressed interest in standing solemnly along the streets of Hornell when the body is returned to the Maple City but there are reports the family may prefer to keep the return of the body of the 19-year-old a private, family matter.**

There will be a funeral Mass offered at St. Ann's but times have not yet been determined. The Dagon Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Lance Cpl. Smith was one of three Marines killed in action Saturday in Afghanistan. The others, killed with Smith in a roadside bombing, were from Florida and Kentucky.

**As we get new information we will air it on WLEA and WCKR and post it on this website.**

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**charlotteobserver.com | timesunion.com**

## 2 NC-based Marines die in Afghanistan

The Associated Press Posted: Wednesday, Jan. 27, 2010

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. Two North Carolina-based Marines have been killed in combat in Afghanistan.

A spokesman at Camp Lejeune says 28-year-old Sgt. Daniel M. Angus of Thonotosassa, Fla., and 19-year-old Lance Cpl. Zachary D. Smith of Hornell, N.Y., were killed Sunday.

Both were assigned to 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade. The unit had been in Afghanistan since December.

Angus joined the Marine Corps in 2003 and was on his third combat tour, both in Iraq.

Smith joined the Marines in 2008 and was on his first deployment.

# The Washington Post

## Faces of the Fallen

U.S. service members who died in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom



**Lance Cpl. Zachary D. Smith**

**Hometown:** [Hornell](#), [New York](#), U.S.

**Age:** [19 years old](#)

**Died:** [January 24, 2010](#) in Operation Enduring Freedom.

**Unit:** [Marines](#), 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

**Incident:** Died while supporting combat operations in Helmand province, Afghanistan.

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*Photo By Lynn Brennan*

*Ryan Harrison attached an American flag to a utility pole on Mays Avenue in Hornell Tuesday afternoon in memory of Hornell native Lance Cpl. Zach Smith who was killed in Afghanistan over the weekend.*

## Fallen Marines arrive at Dover AFB

Hornell, N.Y. -

The Department of Defense confirmed what the Hornell area has known since Sunday when it announced Tuesday afternoon the deaths of three U.S. Marines killed in southern Afghanistan Saturday evening, including Lance Cpl. Zachary D. Smith.

Smith, 19, a 2008 Hornell High School graduate, Sgt. Daniel M. Angus, 28, of Thonotosassa, Fla., and Lance Cpl. Timothy J. Poole, 22, of Bowling Green, Ky, were killed supporting Operation Enduring Freedom in the Helmand province of Afghanistan.

According to the Department of Defense, Angus and Smith were assigned to 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force in Camp Lejeune, N.C. and Poole was assigned to 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force in Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii. The Marine Corps Base Hawaii public affairs office said there is a 10 1/2 hour time difference between Afghanistan and the U.S., so the incident happened around noon Sunday Afghanistan time, Saturday evening local time.

“Who would have thought such a thing would have happened to him on his second day of service. He was like a new soldier,” said Alice Smith, Zachary’s grandmother. “He was a special kid with a bright future just like his brother and sister.”

She said her grandson had been in Afghanistan for about a month. Smith was the community's first military casualty in the ongoing conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, and the first death since the war in Vietnam.

According to the Associated Press, the plane carrying Smith’s remains arrived at the Dover Air Force Base in Delaware shortly after 9:30 p.m. today. Joe Livingston, a friend of the family and a state police officer, said Smith’s family is there for a ceremony and will return to Hornell soon.

Smith’s remains will now be flown to Rochester at some point in the following days, but exactly when is not known. It is projected that the remains will be flown to Rochester this weekend, and then driven to Hornell by the Dagon Funeral Home. Rumors of a procession to take place today are not true, sources close to the family said.

Smith is survived by his wife, Anne (Deebs) Smith, who he married last summer, his brother Nathaniel, 23, his sister Grace, 10, his parents, Christopher Smith, an Amity-based state trooper who is the Canaseraga Central School resource officer, and his wife Kim, his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Mike and Andrea Deebs of Hornell, and his grandparents, Alice and Sid Smith and Donna and Darrell McDaniell.

Hornell Mayor Shawn Hogan said it’s important to respect the Smith family and remember his return should be a solemn event.

“I know people are well intentioned. Everyone wants to do something for the family, but you have to extend that respect and if the family doesn’t want people lining the streets and hooting and hollering I would ask people to respect that,” said Hogan, adding, “This family needs a chance to grieve.”

The Smiths live on Mays Avenue neighboring Hogan. On Tuesday afternoon the city lined the street with roughly a dozen American flags fastened to utility poles. City flags have remained at half staff since Sunday, a reminder of the area mourning its fallen hero.

Funeral arraignments are incomplete at this time.



## Military officials release some details on death of Hornell Marine

Victoria E. Freile • Gannett • January 27, 2010, 11:30 am

U.S. Department of Defense officials said Smith was one of three Marines killed Sunday “while supporting combat operations” in Helmand province, Afghanistan: Also killed were Sgt. Daniel M. Angus, 28, of Thonotosassa, Fla. and Lance Cpl. Timothy J. Poole, 22, of Bowling Green, Ky.

The U.S. Department of Defense did not release specific details on how the men died.

Angus and Smith were assigned to 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force; Camp Lejeune, N.C. Poole was stationed out of Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii.

Smith, a 2008 graduate of Hornell High School, was the community’s first military casualty in the ongoing conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, said Hornell Mayor Shawn Hogan, also a neighbor and family friend.

Smith was deployed to Afghanistan and had been overseas about one month when he was killed. He enlisted in the Marines while still in high school and left for training in the summer of 2008.

Family friend Gene Mastin, who is also the athletic director for the Hornell City School District, described Smith as an outgoing, comical and caring young man, who was also a gifted athlete. Smith was on the Hornell football and golf teams throughout high school. Mastin said he coached Smith for four years as a high school football player, but knew Smith since he was “just a small child.”

Smith is survived by his wife Anne. The couple, high school sweethearts, married in July, Mastin said. Smith also is survived by his parents, Christopher and Kim, his older brother Nate and younger sister Grace.

Hogan described Smith as a genuine, vibrant young man who “embraced life” and went out of his way to help others. Hogan said Smith always wanted to be a Marine and serve his country.

It was reported that Smith’s body arrived at Dover Air Force base last night. Tuesday, Jan. 26 Funeral arrangements have not been set.

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## Fallen Hornell Marine may be flown to Hornell airport Saturday

By Staff reports  
The Evening Tribune  
Wed Jan 27, 2010, 06:39 PM EST

Hornell, N.Y. - The remains of U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Zachary Smith may be flown to his hometown Saturday.

Joe Livingston, family friend and state police officer, said Wednesday evening that military officials told the family it is favorable that Smith's body can be returned by small jet to the Hornell Municipal Airport.

The situation, Livingston added, remains subject to change.

Earlier today, the remains of Smith, who was killed in combat in southern Afghanistan over the weekend, arrived at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware.

There, family members watched as a Marine honor guard assisted in the return of Smith's remains to the United States.

Accompanying the Marine from Dover AFB to Hornell will be his father, Christopher Smith of Mays Avenue.

A solemn procession from the airport to the Dagon Funeral Home on Church Street will follow arrival of Smith's remains and previously today Hornell Mayor Shawn Hogan asked that all along the route of cortege that onlookers show courtesy to the family by offering quiet expressions of respect.

Other details regarding calling hours and funeral arrangements have yet to be determined, Livingston said.

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[http://www.usatoday.com/printedition/news/20100127/tollbox27\\_st.art.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/printedition/news/20100127/tollbox27_st.art.htm)

Wed Jan 27, 2010

Page 5A

## **U.S. death toll**

As of Tuesday, 4,364 U.S. servicemembers and 13 Defense Department civilians had been reported killed in the Iraq war. In and around Afghanistan, 885 U.S. servicemembers and two Defense Department civilians had been reported killed.

Latest deaths identified in Afghanistan:

•**Marine Sgt. Daniel M. Angus**, 28, Thonotosassa, Fla.; died Sunday in Helmand province while supporting combat operations; 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force.

•**Marine Lance Cpl. Jeremy M. Kane**, 22, Towson, Md.; died Saturday in Helmand province while supporting combat operations; 4th Marine Division, Marine Forces Reserve.

•**Marine Lance Cpl. Timothy J. Poole**, 22, Bowling Green, Ky.; died Sunday in Helmand province while supporting combat operations; 3rd Marine Expeditionary Force.

•**Marine Lance Cpl. Zachary D. Smith**, 19, Hornell, N.Y.; died Sunday in Helmand province while supporting combat operations; 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force.

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# Canisteo Valley News.com

## | FAMILY OF FALLEN MARINE BACK FROM DOVER

January 28, 2010 09:21:00

### **Body of Cpl. Zach Smith due to arrive Saturday night**

The family of fallen U.S. marine Zach Smith, 19, have arrived back in the City of Hornell. Chris and Kim Smith, the parents of Zach, along with Anne (Deebs) Smith, Zach's wife, and Mike and Andrea Deebs, returned without the body of Lance Corporal Zach Smith. Smith's body has not been yet released by the Marines. His body is expected back on Saturday.

The funeral will be held at St. Ann's Church in Hornell, following calling hours at the Dagon Funeral Home on Church Street in Hornell. Times have n



**Video Link:** <http://www.wivb.com/dpp/news/military/Marine-comes-to-final-resting-place>

## **Marine comes to final resting place**

### ***Zachary Smith was killed at age 19 in Afghanistan***

Updated: Thursday, 28 Jan 2010, 5:17 PM EST

Published : Thursday, 28 Jan 2010, 5:17 PM EST

- Mark Parrotte
- Posted by: Eli George

It's the final journey home for a U.S. Marine who made the ultimate sacrifice at the age of 19.

The remains of Lance Corporal Zachary Smith are expected to arrive in his hometown of Hornell this weekend. Corporal Smith was recently killed in combat in Afghanistan. Funeral arrangements are being finalized.

He leaves behind a wife, whom he married only a few months ago.

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**[New York State Office of the Governor](#)**

## **Governor Paterson Directs Flags to Be Flown at Half-Staff**

- by [New York State Office of the Governor](#)

ALBANY, NY (01/28/2010)(readMedia)-- Governor David A. Paterson has directed that flags on New York State government buildings be flown at half-staff on Monday, February 1, in honor of a Marine from Hornell who died in Afghanistan on January 24.

Marine Lance Corporal Zachary Smith died while supporting combat operations in Helmand Province. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, which is headquartered at Camp Lejeune, N.C.

"I join with all New Yorkers in expressing our sympathy to the family and friends of Lance Corporal Smith, as well as the Marines who served with him," Governor Paterson said. "This fine young man served this nation with honor and distinction. We will mourn his passing but we will honor his service to the United States of America and the Marine Corps."

Governor Paterson has directed that flags on all State buildings be lowered to half-staff in honor and tribute to our State's service members who are killed in action or die in a combat zone.

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Additional news available at [www.ny.gov/governor/press](http://www.ny.gov/governor/press) | High resolution images available at [www.ny.gov/governor/mediaimages](http://www.ny.gov/governor/mediaimages) | password: paterson | New York State | Executive Chamber | [press.office@chamber.state.ny.us](mailto:press.office@chamber.state.ny.us) | 212.681.4640 | 518.474.8418



## **Marine's body makes final journey home**

### ***Zachary Smith's body to arrive Saturday***

Updated: Friday, 29 Jan 2010, 7:16 AM EST

Published : Friday, 29 Jan 2010, 7:16 AM EST

- Shannon Ross                      Posted by: Emily Lenihan

This weekend, a fallen local Marine will make his final journey home.

The body of Lance Corporal Zachary Smith is expected to arrive in his hometown of Hornell, on Saturday.

He was one of three marines killed last weekend by a roadside bomb in Afghanistan.

Lance Corporal Smith was just shy of his 20th birthday.

## **CanisteoValleyNews.com**

### **TRAVELLING ROUTE FOR THE ARRIVAL OF ZACH SMITH'S BODY**

January 29, 2010 02:11:00

Hornell Mayor Shawn Hogan says that the body of Lance Corporal Zachary will return to Hornell at approximately 4:30 PM on Saturday, January 30, 2010.

Those who wish to witness the procession are invited to do so in a solemn and respectful way. Hogan says that Smith's body will be driven to Hornell from the Rochester Airport by a state police escort. Once near Hornell, the cortege will turn off State Route 36 onto County Route 66 near Aldi's and then right onto Seneca Road.

The procession will move through North Hornell and then turn left off Seneca Street onto Mays Avenue past the Smith family home. From there, the cortege will take William Jackson Drive around the former Corbin's plant and then onto Fulton Street, turning left onto Church Street to the Dagon Funeral Home. The Marine honor guard will then oversee transfer of the body to the funeral home, and it is anticipated the block from Maple to Genesee streets will be cordoned off for that ceremony.

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## Lance Cpl. Zachary D. Smith

Corning Leader  
Fri Jan 29, 2010, 11:03 PM EST

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KABUL, AFGHANTISTAN -

Lance Cpl. Zachary D. Smith, 19, of Hornell, died Sunday, Jan. 24, 2010, while serving with the U.S. Marines in Afghanistan.

Survivors include his wife, Anne Smith; his parents, Chris and Kim Smith of Hornell; a brother, Nathaniel Smith of Hornell; a sister, Grace Smith of Hornell; his grandparents, Sid and Alice Smith and Darrell and Donna McDaniel, all of Hornell.

Calling hours are 2-6 p.m. Monday and 2-6 p.m. Tuesday at Dagon Funeral Home, 38 Church St., Hornell.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Wednesday at St. Ann's Church.

Burial with military honors will be in St. Mary's Cemetery.

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### Fallen Hornell Marine's cortege to enter Hornell Sat. afternoon



*The route home for fallen Marine*

By ANDY THOMPSON and JUSTIN HEAD

The Evening Tribune  
Fri Jan 29, 2010, 12:00 PM EST

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Hornell, N.Y. -

The return of U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Zachary Smith's remains to his hometown will take place Saturday as originally planned, but the transfer from a military flight will now take place in Rochester.

Joe Livingston, family friend and state police officer, said this morning Marine officials initially were in favor of a flight to Hornell, but now will have a jet fly from Dover Air Force Base in Delaware to Rochester International Airport. Christopher Smith, the fallen Marine's father, will accompany his son's body from Dover to Rochester, where other family members will be waiting inside a hangar.

The jet is expected to taxi directly into the hangar for a Marine honor guard transfer to a hearse driven by funeral director Jim Dagon.

From there, the body will be driven to Hornell with a state police escort. Once near the city, the cortege will turn off State Route 36 onto County Route 66 near Aldi's and then right onto Seneca Road. The procession will move through North Hornell and then turn left off Seneca Street onto Mays Avenue past the Smith family home. From there, the cortege will take William Jackson Drive around the former Corbin's plant and then onto Fulton Street, turning left onto Church Street to the Dagon Funeral Home. The Marine honor guard will then oversee transfer of the body to the funeral home, and it is anticipated the block from Maple to Genesee streets will be cordoned off for that ceremony

Livingston said those wishing to pay their respects to Smith should expect the cortege to enter the city around 4:30 p.m. The timing is subject to change if the military flight arrives later, and all updates will be posted at [eveningtribune.com](http://eveningtribune.com).

Smith, 19, a 2008 Hornell High School graduate, Sgt. Daniel M. Angus, 28, of Thonotosassa, Fla., and Lance Cpl. Timothy J. Poole, 22, of Bowling Green, Ky., were killed supporting Operation Enduring Freedom in the Helmand province of southern Afghanistan. Smith and Angus died late Saturday while on patrol.

According to the Department of Defense, Smith was assigned to 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, II Marine Division, Regional Combat Team 7, Marine Expeditionary Brigade. He was deployed from Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Plans for calling hours and funeral services have not been announced.

"I know that Congressman Eric Massa is planning on attending and the governor placed a call to the Smith family, but I don't know what that entailed," said Mayor Shawn Hogan this morning.

On Thursday, Gov. David Paterson ordered all flags on state government buildings statewide to be flown at half staff. Flags have been flown at half staff in the city and surrounding area since word of the tragedy arrived Sunday.

"I join with all New Yorkers in expressing our sympathy to the family and friends of Lance Cpl. Smith, as well as the Marines who served with him," said Paterson in a prepared statement. "This fine young man served this nation with honor and distinction. We will mourn his passing but we will honor his service to the United States of America and the Marine Corps."



Smith is survived by his wife, Anne (Deebs) Smith, who he married last summer, his brother Nathaniel, 23, his sister Grace, 10, his parents, Christopher Smith, an Amity-based state trooper who is the Canaseraga Central School resource officer, and his wife Kim, his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Mike and Andrea Deebs of Hornell, and his grandparents, Alice and Sid Smith and Donna and Darrell McDaniel.

Comments (3)

5thwardbrat

22 hours ago

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Since most of us have never had to participate in something like this, I am going to assume that the proper form would be the same as saluting the flag. Gentlemen, hats off and over your heart. Ladies, hands over your heart. Former and present military....they already know how to do it.

May God be with the Smith and Deebs families, and God bless the folks who are helping them to bring Zach home.

milliner50

20 hours ago

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I do not care how long I will have to stand in the cold.. I will be there to pay Zach the up most respect for the ultimate sacrifice.

I will continue to pray for the Smith and Deebs families.

pgleader

19 hours ago

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The Newfane NY, American Legion Post 873 offers our heartfelt sympathy to the family of Marine Lance Corporal Zachary Smith.

As we lower the Town Flag today to Half-staff, we join with you as you mourn the loss of your son, brother, husband and friend.

As we honor Lance Corporal Zachary Smith today, we mourn his death, but honor his memory and celebrate his selfless service to his country as another American Hero is called home by the Supreme Commander Himself.

Semper Fidelis

For God and Country,

Paul Leader, Post Commander



Hornell, NY

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## Calling hours, funeral tentatively set for Marine Lance Cpl. Zachary Smith

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By Andy Thompson    The Evening Tribune    Fri Jan 29, 2010, 02:30 PM EST

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Hornell, N.Y. –

The family of Lance Corporal Zachary Smith has announced that his body will return to Hornell at approximately 4:30 p.m. on Saturday. Additionally, tentative times and dates for calling hours and funeral services have been determined.

Those who wish to witness the procession are invited to do so in a solemn and respectful way.

His body will be driven to Hornell from the Rochester Airport by a state police escort. Once near the city, the cortege will turn off State Route 36 onto County Route 66 near Aldi's and then right onto Seneca Road. The procession will move through North Hornell and then turn left off Seneca Street onto Mays Avenue past the Smith family home. From there, the cortege will take William Jackson Drive around the former Corbin's plant and then onto Fulton Street, turning left onto Church Street to the Dagon Funeral Home. The Marine honor guard will then oversee transfer of the body to the funeral home, and it is anticipated the block from Maple to Genesee streets will be cordoned off for that ceremony.

There will be a public viewing on Monday and Tuesday from the hours of 2-6 p.m. on both days. The funeral will take place at 10 a.m. Wednesday at St. Ann's Church on Erie Avenue.

Additionally, the Hornell City School District announced Friday that all schools will be closed on the date of the funeral. The district will make formal notification of the closure through its Global Connect network once arrangements are finalized.

## Canisteo Valley News.com

### LANCE CPL. LANCE SMITH, 19

January 29, 2010 05:09:00

#### **Killed in action in Afghanistan**

Hornell, New York

Lance Corporal Zachary D. "Zach" Smith – 19 – of Hornell died in combat on Sunday, January 24, 2010, while serving his country with the United States Marine Corps in Afghanistan.

A native & life resident of Hornell, he was born April 2, 1990 and was the son of Chris & Kim (McDaniel) Smith.

Zach was a graduate of Hornell High School (class of 2008) where he was a member of the football & golf teams. Immediately following graduation, he followed his lifelong dream and enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. On October 3, 2008 graduated from Recruit Training in Parris Island, SC. He completed the Marine Corps School of Infantry and was then assigned to the 2nd Platoon C Company 1st Battalion 6th Marines based out of Camp Lejeune, NC. On December 17, 2009 was deployed to Afghanistan.

He was a member of Our Lady of the Valley Parish and a communicant of St. Ann's Church. Zach was an avid golfer and was a member of Twin Hickory Golf Club and also the Hornell Golf Club. He enjoyed watching sporting events and especially liked to root for the New York Giants, New York Yankees and the Syracuse Orangemen.

Zach had a way of touching the lives of everyone that he met. He had a wonderful sense of humor; a contagious laugh and the most genuine smile that God ever gave a human being. He was always ready with a good joke or a humorous story. He will be sadly missed by his family, friends, the Hornell community and everyone that had the pleasure of knowing him.

He was married on July 25, 2009 to the former Anne Deebs who survives. Also surviving are his parents, Chris & Kim Smith of Hornell; 1 brother, Nathaniel "Nate" Smith of Hornell; 1 sister, Grace Smith of Hornell; his grandparents, Sid & Alice Smith of Hornell and Darrell & Donna McDaniel of Hornell; his mother-in law and father-in- law, Mike & Andrea Deebs of Hornell; his in-laws, Michael, Patrick, Mary, Brendan, Grace and Andrew Deebs; several aunts, uncles, nieces & nephews.

The family of Lance Corporal Zachary D. "Zach" Smith will receive friends on Monday from 2:00 PM – 6:00 PM and also on Tuesday from 2:00 PM – 6:00 PM at the **Dagon Funeral Home**, 38 Church St., Hornell, NY. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Wednesday at 10:00 AM at **St. Ann's Church** with burial in St. Mary's Cemetery with full military honors.

Zach's family graciously request that instead of sending flowers, friends help to keep his memory alive by contributing to the Zachary D. Smith Memorial Scholarship Fund, c/o Regi Gambino, 17 Elmwood Place, Hornell, NY 14843. Memorial forms will be available at the Dagon Funeral Home.



01/29/2010 07:08 PM

## Fallen Marine to Arrive Saturday for Burial

By: Amy Young

The body of Lance Cpl. Zach Smith is expected to arrive in Rochester Saturday.

The Hornell native, along with Sgt. Daniel Angus, 28, of Florida, and Lance Cpl. Timothy Poole, 22, of Kentucky, died after an improvised explosive device went off in Afghanistan on January 23.

If Smith's body arrives as planned at the Rochester International Airport Saturday at 3 o'clock, then calling hours will be held Monday and Tuesday from 2 p.m. until 6 p.m. at Dagon's Funeral Home on Church Street in Hornell.

A funeral service is tentatively set for Wednesday at 10 a.m. at St. Ann's Church in Hornell.

Smith was a 2008 graduate of Hornell High School. Smith and Angus were members of the 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment based out of Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

Smith is survived by his wife of six months, his parents and two siblings.



Elmira New York News

# Fallen Marine returns to Hornell Saturday

By Jason Whong • [jwhong@gannett.com](mailto:jwhong@gannett.com) • January 29, 2010, 8:30 pm

The body of a Hornell Marine killed in Afghanistan will return home Saturday.

A ceremonial procession for Marine Lance Cpl. Zachary Smith, 19, should arrive in Hornell around 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Hornell Mayor Shawn Hogan said.

"Those who wish to witness the procession are invited to do so in a solemn and respectful way," Hogan said in a press release.

Smith's body will be driven from Greater Rochester International Airport with a state police escort, Hogan said.

Once it approaches Hornell on state Route 36, the cortege will turn left onto county Route 66, near Aldi grocery store, and then right onto Seneca Road.

The cortege will drive through North Hornell and then turn left onto Mays Avenue past the Smith family home.

From there, the vehicles will take William Jackson Drive around the former Corbin's plant, to Fulton Street, turning left onto Church Street, to Dagon Funeral Home.

The Marine honor guard will transfer the body to the funeral home.

Hogan said the block from Maple to Genesee Street would probably be cordoned off for that ceremony.

Public viewings will be held from 2 to 6 p.m. Monday and Tuesday. The funeral service will be held at 10 a.m. Wednesday at St. Ann's Church on Erie Avenue in Hornell.

Smith was killed by a roadside bomb Sunday in southern Afghanistan.

He is survived by his wife, Anne, his parents, Christopher and Kim, an older brother and a younger sister.



Video Link: <http://www.wivb.com/dpp/news/local/Community-says-goodbye-to-fallen-hero>

# Community says goodbye to fallen hero

## ***Lance Corporal Zachary Smith died by roadside bomb***

Updated: Saturday, 30 Jan 2010, 1:00 PM EST

Published : Saturday, 30 Jan 2010, 12:59 PM EST

- Luke Smith
- Posted by: Kate McGowan

A southern tier community plans to welcome home a fallen war hero for the final time Saturday.

Lance Corporal Zachary Smith was killed by a roadside bomb last weekend in Afghanistan.

Zach's body will arrive at the Rochester airport from Dover, Delaware Saturday afternoon.

State police will then escort his casket to his hometown of Hornell for a hero's tribute.

Mayor of Hornell, Shawn Hogan said, "It'll bring a sense of well being and closure to the community that's suffered and has been shaken to its very core."

He also exclaimed, "The feelings that people are feeling, the emotions run high and they want to be, they want to show their respect and their sympathy to the family."

Zach was deployed to Afghanistan in December, only months after marrying his high school girlfriend.

Zach's family is inviting the community to Saturday's procession.

| THE BODY OF LANCE CORPORAL SMITH ARRIVES HOME

## THE BODY OF LANCE CORPORAL SMITH ARRIVES HOME

January 30, 2010 05:50:00

Hundreds of area residents, including members of the U.S. Marines, braved the frigid temperatures to pay their respects to Hornell native, Lance Corporal Zach Smith, 19, who died in Afghanistan last week. The procession that brought Smith back to Hornell included State Police and the Marines. The body arrived at the Dagon Funeral Home on Church Street Hornell shortly after 5pm.

Smith was married last July to the former Anne Deebs, who survives. Also surviving are his parents, Chris & Kim Smith of Hornell; 1 brother, Nathaniel Smith of Hornell; 1 sister, Grace Smith of Hornell; his grandparents, Sid & Alice Smith of Hornell and Darrell & Donna McDaniel of Hornell; his mother-in-law and father-in-law, Mike & Andrea Deebs of Hornell; his in-laws, Michael, Patrick, Mary, Brendan, Grace and Andrew Deebs; several aunts, uncles, nieces & nephews.

The family of Lance Corporal Zachary D. Smith will receive friends on Monday 02/01/10 from 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM and also on Tuesday 02/02/10 from 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM at the Dagon Funeral Home, 38 Church St., Hornell, NY. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Wednesday 02/03/10 at 10:00 AM at St. Ann's Church with burial in St. Mary's Cemetery with full military honors.



## Fallen Marine returns home

**Updated 5:54 PM** By: Web Staff Syracuse, NY

HORNELL, N.Y. -- It's a somber day in Hornell, as the body of a fallen Marine returns home. Lance Corporal Zachary Smith, 19, was killed in Afghanistan last weekend.

Smith's body is scheduled to arrive in Hornell around 4:30 p.m. with a procession from Rochester International Airport.

Calling hours are scheduled for Monday and Tuesday from 2 to 6 p.m. at Dagon's Funeral Home, with the funeral Wednesday morning at St. Ann's Church.



Video Link: <http://www.whec.com/news/stories/S1392900.shtml?cat=566>

## Fallen Marine returns home

Posted at: 01/30/2010 6:38 PM | Updated at: 01/30/2010 10:36 PM

By: Linzi Sheldon | WHEC.com



The body of a fallen marine was returned home Saturday night.

As they waited for the procession to come through Hornell, friends, family and community members remembered a young marine who gave his life for his country.

"I would call it a hero's welcome," family friend Dennis Canty said. "I would call it a hometown hero's welcome."

The family of Lance Corporal Zachary Smith says the support of the community is what's helping them through this difficult time.

Smith was killed last Saturday while serving in Afghanistan. He was just 19 years old.

Hundreds of people lined the streets on the way to the funeral home.

"It hurts the whole community, not just one person," Nik DeGaetano said.

Many held American flags or candles.

"When he went away, everybody said, 'C'mon back, we can't wait to get you back,'" Canty said. "And when this happens, it's just devastating."

Canty watched Smith grow up.

Meghan Quinlan grew up with him.

"I just remember everything from the 19 years of his life, from the day I've known him," she said.

Smith's body was taken in a white hearse from Rochester airport to Hornell, accompanied by troopers.

Some people, like members of the American Legion, stood on overpasses to salute him.

"We want to show our support for him and the family," David MacIntyre, of the 1151 American Legion.

People came to remember his service and his sacrifice.



"Just his whole life he wanted to be a marine," Nik DeGaetano said.

"He's done so much and he's been through so much just for us," Colby DeGaetano said.

They also remembered the way he lit up their lives.

"He always had a smile in his eyes," Canty said. "Always a good word to say for people."

Everyone had so much to say about him.

"He was the funniest kid I ever met, honestly," Quinlan said.

But as the procession came into Hornell, the silence said it all.

Hands on their hearts, they welcomed him home.

"It's sad because he was a wonderful kid," Smith's former teacher Morgan Allison said, "but you're so proud of what he did."

Smith's family and close friends followed the hearse in a large bus. Though they didn't want to be on camera, his father released a statement of thanks to the community:

"We cannot express our appreciation for the friendship and heartfelt love we saw from Rochester to Hornell today. I am grateful for what everyone has done-- from the phone calls to the hundreds of people who stood and saluted by the side of the road.

These people didn't just come out because he was a fallen marine. These people knew Zach-- as a member of the community and a great son and great husband."

People in Hornell say it's the least they could do to remember a hometown hero.

"His family means a lot to this community so people are out here saying, 'We're with you,'" Canty said.

"We all love them and we're all here for them," Allison said.

Calling hours are scheduled at Dagon Funeral Home in Hornell on Monday and Tuesday from 2 p.m. until 6 p.m.

The funeral service is set for Wednesday morning at St. Ann's Church in Hornell.



Zachary Smith

Hornell, NY

## Lance Cpl. Zachary D. 'Zach' Smith

The Evening Tribune

Sat Jan 30, 2010, 07:15 PM EST

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Hornell, N.Y. -

Lance Cpl. Zachary D. "Zach" Smith, 19, of Hornell, died in combat Sunday (Jan. 24, 2010), while serving his country with the United States Marine Corps in Afghanistan.

A native and life resident of Hornell, he was born April 2, 1990, and was the son of Chris and Kim (McDaniel) Smith.

Zach was a graduate of Hornell High School (Class of 2008) where he was a member of the football and golf teams. Immediately following graduation, he followed his lifelong dream and enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. On Oct. 3, 2008, he graduated from Recruit Training in Parris Island, S.C. He completed the Marine Corps School of Infantry and was then assigned to the 2nd Platoon C Company 1st Battalion 6th Marines, based out of Camp Lejeune, N.C. On Dec. 17, 2009, he was deployed to Afghanistan.

He was a member of Our Lady of the Valley Parish and a communicant of St. Ann's Church. Zach was an avid golfer and was a member of Twin Hickory Golf Club and also the Hornell Golf Club. He enjoyed watching sporting events and especially liked to root for the New York Giants, New York Yankees and the Syracuse Orangemen.

Zach had a way of touching the lives of everyone that he met. He had a wonderful sense of humor; a contagious laugh and the most genuine smile that God ever gave a human being. He was always ready with a good joke or a humorous story. He will be sadly missed by his family, friends, the Hornell community and everyone that had the pleasure of knowing him.

He was married on July 25, 2009 to the former Anne Deeb, who survives. Also surviving are his parents, Chris and Kim Smith of Hornell; one brother, Nathaniel "Nate" Smith of Hornell; one sister, Grace Smith of Hornell; his grandparents, Sid and Alice Smith of Hornell, and Darrell and Donna McDaniel of Hornell; his mother-in law and father-in-law, Mike and Andrea Deeb of Hornell; his in-laws, Michael, Patrick, Mary, Brendan, Grace and Andrew Deeb; and several aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews.

The family of Lance Corporal Zachary D. "Zach" Smith will receive friends from 2-6 p.m. Monday and 2-6 p.m. Tuesday at the Dagon Funeral Home, 38 Church St., Hornell. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Wednesday at St. Ann's Church with burial in St. Mary's Cemetery with full military honors.

Zach's family graciously requests that instead of sending flowers, friends help to keep his memory alive by contributing to the Zachary D. Smith Memorial Scholarship Fund, c/o Regi Gambino, 17 Elmwood Place, Hornell, NY 14843. Memorial forms will be available at the Dagon Funeral Home.



US Lieutenant Aaron McLean (3rd L), second platoon commander, holds identification tags surrounded by his men, as they pay tribute to pay tribute to Sergeant Daniel Angus and Lance Corporal Zachary Smith from 1st Battalion, 6th regiment, Charlie company who were killed on the battlefield on January 24, in Fiddler's Green camp, in the outskirts of Marjah in central Helmand on January 30, 2010. About 113,000 foreign troops under US and NATO command are based in Afghanistan, with about 40,000 more due to be deployed this year to try to turn around the costly war against the resurgent Taliban. TOPSHOTS AFP PHOTO / CHRISTOPHE SIMON (Photo credit should read CHRISTOPHE SIMON/AFP/Getty Images)

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**WKBW.com**

January 30, 2010

Buffalo, New York link: <http://www.wkbw.com/news/local/83173942.html?video=YHI&t=a>

## Remains of Local Marine Return Home

Story Published: Jan 30, 2010 at 7:43 PM EST

Story Updated: Jan 30, 2010 at 7:45 PM EST

The remains of a local marine who was killed recently while serving in Afghanistan arrived back home on Saturday. After arriving at the Rochester airport the body of Lance Corporal Zach Smith, 19, was taken on a procession to his hometown of Hornell. An improvised explosive device is being blamed for his death. Smith was a 2008 graduate of Hornell High School.

Calling hours for Lance Corporal Smith are tentatively scheduled for Monday and Tuesday from 2:00-6:00 p.m. at Dagon's funeral home in Hornell. His funeral scheduled for Wednesday morning at 10:00 at St. Ann's church in Hornell. The funeral will be followed by a private burial service and then a public reception at the Knights of Columbus.



# Many flags and more tears as Hornell's Zachary Smith carried home

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By Andy Thompson  
The Evening Tribune  
Sat Jan 30, 2010, 07:47 PM EST

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Hornell, N.Y. -

They stood, some for more than an hour, as the sun went down late Saturday afternoon.

Friends, classmates, teachers, former and present Marines and other U.S. service members fought back the bone-chilling cold but not their tears as Lance Cpl. Zachary Smith was carried home. Many held flags, some held candles, all carried sadness as the state police-escorted cortege slowly made its way to the outskirts of Hornell and down Seneca Road, passing below the home of Anne Smith, the high school sweetheart he had married just six months ago.

People, hundreds of people, lined the streets to pay respect to the first Hornell casualty of war since Vietnam.

A little after 5 p.m. the procession crossed the Seneca Street bridge to reach Mays Avenue, where the 2008 Hornell High School graduate called home before beginning service to his country.

It was a week ago the family first learned that Smith, 19, had been killed during one of the first days of his patrol in southern Afghanistan. The news began a week of sorrow, and remembrance, and all awaited the return of a young man widely admired for his friendly ways, courage and sense of humor.

Voices dropped to silence as the cortege passed Hornell High. Bright lights lit the field where Smith had played football as a Red Raider. Standing in front were many of his classmates, and his coach, Gene Mastin. Nearby, Marine veterans of all ages dipped flags as the hearse passed, a collection of men from as far away as Corning and as near as the street where Smith grew up. Windows and doors were open at many Mays Avenue homes, with watery-eyed faces peeking outside, watching the return of their fallen hero.

Just minutes before, routine weekend life was at a standstill as the procession headed toward Hornell. Neighbors walked house to house, updating others on the location of the cortege. Several young children appeared from houses and got out of cars, looking down the street awaiting a scene few had ever encountered, nor could imagine.

It could be safely said that Hornell has never been more silent, collectively, despite so many people on the streets, than during the minutes it took for the procession to move through the city.

Nearly two hours before, a military jet from Dover Air Force Base in Delaware had landed at Rochester International Airport. It taxied into a hangar and inside, a Marine honor guard aided in the transfer of the body for the ride south and home. All along the route signs of remembrance could be seen, as those watching along I-390 to Dansville and then Arkport joined in the tribute. Upon the cortege's destination, the Dagon Funeral Home on Church Street, another Marine honor guard transferred the body inside. Nearby, a crowd with dozens of crying bystanders packed together, some shaking their heads, others with eyes closed, all with some form of evident emotion transfixed on the coffin that carried a son, a brother, a grandson, a nephew, a friend, a Marine.

#### Services announced

- Public calling hours for Smith will be from 2-6 p.m. on both Monday and Tuesday at the Dagon Funeral Home. The funeral will take place at 10 a.m. Wednesday at St. Ann's Church on Erie Avenue. The full obituary appears on page 2A of today's newspaper and also online at [eveningtribune.com](http://eveningtribune.com)
  - The Hornell City School District announced Friday that all schools will be closed on Wednesday.
  - On Thursday, Gov. David Paterson ordered all flags on state government buildings to be flown at half staff. Flags have been flown at half staff in the Maple City and surrounding area since word of the tragedy arrived.
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Video Link: <http://www.wivb.com/dpp/military/Community-pays-respect-to-fallen-Marine>

# Community pays respect to fallen Marine

## ***Body of Zachary Smith arrived in his hometown***

Updated: Saturday, 30 Jan 2010, 7:53 PM EST

Published : Saturday, 30 Jan 2010, 6:20 PM EST

- [Tricia Cruz](#)
- Posted by: Kate McGowan

A southern tier community offered a final goodbye Saturday morning to a favorite son who gave his life for his country.

The body of Lance Corporal Zachary Smith arrived in his hometown of Hornell Saturday evening.

It was a somber procession, led by a state police trooper followed by family.

Many of Zach's neighbors and friends came to pay their respects.

He was killed by a road side bomb in Afghanistan and was just deployed there in December.

"The whole family is all American. It's just a real tragedy," one community member exclaimed.

Zach had a profound impact on everyone who met him, even if it was just a brief encounter.

Calling hours for Zach and his funeral are scheduled for next week.

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Lynn Brennan

## Community coming together to honor fallen son

<http://www.eveningtribune.com/newsnow/x1920348497/Community-coming-together-to-honor-fallen-son>

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By Lynn Brennan  
The Evening Tribune  
Sat Jan 30, 2010, 09:23 PM EST

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Hornell, N.Y. -

The loss of one of Hornell's favorite sons is tangible, its weight lingering over the city like a heavy cloud.

It seems as if everyone in the area has been affected by Zach's death, regardless of how well they knew him.

Although I didn't know Zach well, after I heard word of his death, memories of the young Marine started whirling through my head, two standing out from the rest.

I remember the day he graduated, standing outside Hornell High School with the rest of the class of 2008, hamming it up for the camera as he was often known to do, flexing his muscles and striking the Heisman pose before walking into the stadium.

The next clear memory took place on the same turf later in the year. Zach had returned home from the Marines to take in a football game. I remember him standing on the sidelines with his teammates in his uniform as dozens of people came up to him welcoming him home and congratulating him for making it through boot camp.

It was hard to tell whose eyes were filled with more pride, Zach's or those shaking his hand. The Hornell area reacts less like a community and more like a large family when tragedy strikes, and it has never been more apparent to me than in the last week.

Since word of Zach's death spread, new flags have been placed in front on houses, signs thanking him for his service placed in front of businesses and candles lighting the night are perched on doorsteps and front windows of homes.



We are all used to seeing reports of American casualties in wars overseas, and while it is sad to hear, the reality of what those deaths mean never hit home until Sunday morning.

Hornell Mayor Shawn Hogan put it best, “The brutality of war was dumped at our door step this morning and it’s ugly.”

You could see it in the tear-filled eyes of hundreds lining the streets of the Maple City as the cortege with Smith’s remains slowly made its way by.

Like a lot of people in the area, I am at a loss of what to say to the Smith and Deeks families. ‘I’m sorry for your loss’ can’t come close to filling the hole in their hearts left behind by the loss of a son, a brother, a best friend, and a husband.

The loss of Zach Smith has made me appreciate my friends currently making the sacrifice to serve their country overseas. It also makes me worry about them that much more.

If you know or see a member of the military, a police officer, or firefighter, thank them for their service now.

You never know when they are going to be asked to make the ultimate sacrifice.

*Contributions to the Zachary D. Smith Memorial Scholarship Fund can be directed to  
Regi Gambino, 17 Elmwood Pl., Hornell, NY 14843*

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Link <http://www.wivb.com/dpp/military/Emotional-tribute-for-fallen-Marine>





### [Marine's body makes final journey home](#)

The body of Lance Corporal Zachary Smith is expected to arrive ...



### [Marine comes to final resting place](#)

It's the final journey home for a U.S. Marine who made the ...



### [Young local Marine killed overseas](#)

A community right on the edge of western New York is re...



### [Local Marine killed in Afghanistan](#)

Lance Corporal Zach Smith was one of three Marines killed by a ...

## Emotional tribute for fallen Marine

### ***Casket of Zachary Smith made its way to Hornell***

Updated: Sunday, 31 Jan 2010, 12:55 PM EST

Published : Sunday, 31 Jan 2010, 12:55 PM EST

- [Tricia Cruz](#)
- Posted by: Kate McGowan

When the casket of Corporal Zachary Smith made its way through his hometown of Hornell, hundreds of people were waiting for him.

Friends, neighbors and other veterans who wanted to pay their respects to a young man who inspired them in so many ways.

Korean War veteran, Robert Dwyer expressed, "Number one individual young man. It's pretty difficult for me."

The 19-year-old Marine was killed by a roadside bomb in Afghanistan last week.

In his short life, he touched everyone who ever met him.

Even if it was just a brief encounter.

"How friendly and just outgoing. I never saw, never saw anything but a smile on his face," Alan Klus explained.

Family friend Doug Wyant remarked, "We actually knew Zach a little bit. He used to wait on us at Wegmans grocery store. The whole family is all American it's just a real tragedy."

Corporal Smith died fulfilling his lifelong dream of serving in the military.

"He went to support the United States so we could stay free and keep it over there instead of here."

Shirley Jackett said, "He was such a young boy to have to lose his life and I feel so sad for his family and for his wife."

Zach married his wife, Anne six months ago.

He graduated from Hornell High School in 2008.

Family friend, Mary Lee Wyant commented, "He was a great kid. He always had a smile on his face. Just very upbeat and always wanted to be a Marine."

As the motorcade with his casket made its way through his hometown and his neighborhood, people held their candles and waved their flags, remembering the young friendly man for his service and so much more.

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## Fallen Marine returns home

**Updated:** January 31, 2010 11:05 AM Syracuse, NY

Video Link [http://news10now.com/tompkins-cortland-news-1045-content/top\\_stories/494729/fallen-marine-returns-home/?ap=1&MP](http://news10now.com/tompkins-cortland-news-1045-content/top_stories/494729/fallen-marine-returns-home/?ap=1&MP)

By: Vince Slomsky

*Tragedy struck Hornell just a week ago, as the news broke that one of their own had been killed in combat. Lance Cpl. Zachary Smith, 19, was killed by an improvised explosive device while serving in Afghanistan. Our Vince Slomsky was in Hornell as Smith's body was returned home Saturday and tells us how the memories of Zach will live on.*

HORNELL, N.Y. -- A final farewell to a hometown hero. The body of Lance Cpl. Zachary Smith was flown into Rochester International Airport Saturday and then led by police escort back to his hometown of Hornell. Hundreds lined the city streets, flags in hand, and waited through the cold to say goodbye one last time.

"Zach is coming home for the last time. God bless him. God bless his soul. It's good for closure in many ways for many people on this street and in the community," said Bob Clancy.

Bob Clancy lives two houses down from the Smith family, and remembers how selfless Zach was.

"Always in a great mood. Do anything for you. Very neighborly, shovel walks, just whatever you wanted done he would do it. He was just a pleasant joy to have around and we're going to miss him," he said.

Another neighbor only had the pleasure of meeting Zach once, but that memory will last forever.

"He stopped and commented about the weather and stuff and it's like you know, I left there thinking wow, what a charming young man," said Linda Mehlenbacher, a neighbor.

By the number of flags around the city, it was clear Zach was known and loved by just about everyone. His life was cut short just a week ago as he and two other marines died serving our country in Afghanistan. He was only 19 years old.

"It's just so sad, it's just not fair. And I feel sorry for his wife, I mean he really hasn't had a chance to do all the things he's supposed to," said Mehlenbacher.

It was hard for everyone to hold back tears as the Hurst drove by shortly after 5 p.m. Most have never experienced this pain before; Zach was the first military person from the city to be killed since Vietnam and although Hornell's hero is gone, he will never be forgotten.

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[http://news10now.com/southern-tier-news-1115-content/top\\_stories/494855/flags-fly-at-half-staff-in-honor-of-fallen-marine](http://news10now.com/southern-tier-news-1115-content/top_stories/494855/flags-fly-at-half-staff-in-honor-of-fallen-marine)

Syracuse, NY 02/01/2010 07:45 AM

## **Flags fly at half staff in honor of fallen Marine**

By: Web Staff

Courtesy of Hornell Evening Tribune

HORNELL, N.Y. -- Flags across the state are at half staff today in honor of a Hornell Marine. Lance Corporal Zachary Smith died on January 24th while supporting combat operations in Afghanistan.

Smith's body was returned home to Hornell over the weekend. Calling hours for Smith are scheduled for Monday and Tuesday from 2 to 6 p.m. at Dagon's Funeral Home.

The funeral is scheduled for Wednesday morning at St. Anne's Church.



<http://www.wetmtv.com/news/local/story/Smiths-Calling-Hours/H4B9zwagOEmH0H5XRhiBRQ.csp>

## Smith's Calling Hours

Reported by: Nick Natario

Email: [nnatario@wetmtv.com](mailto:nnatario@wetmtv.com)

Last Update: 2/01 11:31 pm

HORNELL - "Sad, I could very easily break down", said Philip Harvey.

Harvey was one of hundreds of people who came out to say good-bye to 19-year-old Zachary Smith.

The funeral home wasn't big enough to fit everyone, as neighbors were forced to wait around the block.

Smith was killed last weekend when friends say a home-made bomb exploded near him.

He was serving his first term in Afghanistan with the marines when he died.

Neighbors say they are not surprised at the amount of support the community has shown Smith and his family.

"Everybody's behind it, super, super turnout. I don't know what else you could say", said Harvey.

"It behooves you to show your support, not only your support but your love of human beings that made the ultimate sacrifice", said George Schermann.

On Saturday, Smith's body was flown into Rochester from Delaware.

Then a two-hour procession followed down to Hornell.

Smith's casket was carried into the funeral home by fellow marines.

Flags have been at half-staff in Hornell, but it's not just in Hornell that they're half-staff. This flag here in Campbell has been at half staff today after Governor David Paterson announced that all flags will be flown at half staff in honor of Smith.

"I think it's appropriate to honor a fallen hero. I think the sacrifices of our marines, soldiers, airmen and sailors are forgotten about", said Mike Wheeler.

Calling hours will continue Tuesday at the Dagon Funeral Home from two until six.

Funeral services will take place Wednesday morning at ten at Saint Ann's Church on Erie Avenue.

# Canisteo Valley News.com



**HUGE LINES - GOING AROUND THE CORNER TO MAPLE STREET...TOWARDS SENECA STREET IN HORNELL**



**CALLING HOURS AND FUNERAL TODAY AND TOMORROW FOR ZACH SMITH**

February 1, 2010 04:47:00 <http://www.canisteovalleynews.com/index.php/Local/local-news/11517.html>

**The family of Lance Corporal Zachary D. Smith will receive friends on Ttoday and tomorrow from 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM at the Dagon Funeral Home, 38 Church St., Hornell, NY. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Wednesday 02/03/10 at 10:00 AM at St. Ann's Church with burial in St. Mary's Cemetery with full military honors. Father Peter Angalarre, pastor of Our Lady of the Valley Parish, will be the main celebrant of the funeral Mass and Father Sean DiMaria of Alfrred and Almond will deliver the homily.**

Lance Corporal Zachary D. "Zach" Smith, 19, of Hornell, died in combat on Sunday, January 24, 2010, while serving his country with the United States Marine Corps in Afghanistan. A native & life resident of Hornell, he was born April 2, 1990 and was the son of Chris & Kim (McDaniel) Smith.

Zach was a graduate of Hornell High School (class of 2008) where he was a member of the football & golf teams. Immediately following graduation, he followed his lifelong dream and enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. On October 3, 2008 graduated from Recruit Training in Parris Island, SC. He completed the Marine Corps School of Infantry and was then assigned to



the 2nd Platoon C Company 1st Battalion 6th Marines based out of Camp Lejeune, NC. On December 17, 2009 was deployed to Afghanistan.

He was a member of Our Lady of the Valley Parish and a communicant of St. Ann's Church. Zach was an avid golfer and was a member of Twin Hickory Golf Club and also the Hornell Golf Club. He enjoyed watching sporting events and especially liked to root for the New York Giants, New York Yankees and the Syracuse Orangemen.

Zach had a way of touching the lives of everyone that he met. He had a wonderful sense of humor; an infectious laugh and the most genuine smile that God ever gave a human being. He was always ready with a good joke or a humorous story. He will be sadly missed by his family, friends, the Hornell community and everyone that had the pleasure of knowing him.

He was married on July 25, 2009 to the former Anne Deeks who survives. Also surviving are his parents, Chris & Kim Smith of Hornell; 1 brother, Nathaniel Smith of Hornell; 1 sister, Grace Smith of Hornell; his grandparents, Sid & Alice Smith of Hornell and Darrell & Donna McDaniel of Hornell; his mother-in law and father-in-law, Mike & Andrea Deeks of Hornell; his in-laws, Michael, Patrick, Mary, Brendan, Grace and Andrew Deeks; several aunts, uncles, nieces & nephews.

Zach's family graciously request that instead of sending flowers, friends help to keep his memory alive by contributing to the Zachary D. Smith Memorial Scholarship Fund, c/o Regi Gambino, 17 Elmwood Place, Hornell, NY 14843. Memorial forms will be available at the Dagon Funeral Home.



<http://rochesterhomepage.net/content/video/?watch=1&cid=151701>



Reported by: WROC-TV

Monday, Feb 1, 2010 @09:15am EST

Calling hours will be held Monday for a Hornell Marine killed in Afghanistan.

Lance Corporal Zach Smith was 1 of 3 Marines killed last week. His body was returned to his home over the weekend.

Calling hours will be Monday from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Dagon Funeral Home in Hornell. Governor Paterson has also ordered flags to be flown at half staff in his honor Monday.

Smith's funeral will be held Wednesday at 10 a.m. at St. Ann's Church in Horne





WHEC-TV updated 9:16 a.m. ET, Mon., Feb. 1, 2010



**The body of a fallen marine was returned home Saturday night.**

**As they waited for the procession to come through Hornell, friends, family and community members remembered a young marine who gave his life for his country.**

**"I would call it a hero's welcome," family friend Dennis Canty said. "I would call it a hometown hero's welcome."**

**The family of Lance Corporal Zachary Smith says the support of the community is what's helping them through this difficult time.**

**Smith was killed last Saturday while serving in Afghanistan. He was just 19 years old.**

**Hundreds of people lined the streets on the way to the funeral home.**

**"It hurts the whole community, not just one person," Nik DeGaetano said.**

**Many held American flags or candles.**

**"When he went away, everybody said, 'C'mon back, we can't wait to get you back,'" Canty said. "And when this happens, it's just devastating."**

**Canty watched Smith grow up.**

**Meghan Quinlan grew up with him.**

**"I just remember everything from the 19 years of his life, from the day I've known him," she said.**

**Smith's body was taken in a white hearse from Rochester airport to Hornell, accompanied by troopers.**

**Some people, like members of the American Legion, stood on overpasses to salute him.**

**"We want to show our support for him and the family," David MacIntyre, of the 1151 American Legion.**

**People came to remember his service and his sacrifice.**

**"Just his whole life he wanted to be a marine," Nik DeGaetano said.**

**"He's done so much and he's been through so much just for us," Colby DeGaetano said. They also remembered the way he lit up their lives.**

**"He always had a smile in his eyes," Canty said. "Always a good word to say for people."**

**Everyone had so much to say about him.**

**"He was the funniest kid I ever met, honestly," Quinlan said.**

**But as the procession came into Hornell, the silence said it all.**

**Hands on their hearts, they welcomed him home.**

**"It's sad because he was a wonderful kid," Smith's former teacher Morgan Allison said, "but you're so proud of what he did."**

**Smith's family and close friends followed the hearse in a large bus. Though they didn't want to be on camera, his father released a statement of thanks to the community:**

**"We cannot express our appreciation for the friendship and heartfelt love we saw from Rochester to Hornell today. I am grateful for what everyone has done-- from the phone calls to the hundreds of people who stood and saluted by the side of the road.**

**These people didn't just come out because he was a fallen marine. These people knew Zach-- as a member of the community and a great son and great husband."**

**People in Hornell say it's the least they could do to remember a hometown hero.**

**"His family means a lot to this community so people are out here saying, 'We're with you,'" Canty said.**

**"We all love them and we're all here for them," Allison said.**

**Calling hours are scheduled at Dagon Funeral Home in Hornell on Monday and Tuesday from 2 p.m. until 6 p.m.**

**The funeral service is set for Wednesday morning at St. Ann's Church in Hornell.**



<http://www.empirestatenews.net/News/20100201-4.html>

**Monday, February 1, 2010**

**State honors Hornell marine today**

**ALBANY - Governor David Paterson has directed that flags on New York State government buildings be flown at half-staff today, in honor of a Marine from Hornell who died in Afghanistan on January 24.**

**Marine Lance Corporal Zachary Smith died while supporting combat operations in Helmand Province. He was assigned to 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, and 3rd Marine Division of the III Marine Expeditionary Force, which is headquartered at Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii.**

**"I join with all New Yorkers in expressing our sympathy to the family and friends of Lance Corporal Smith, as well as the Marines who served with him," Governor Paterson said. "This fine young man served this nation with honor and distinction. We will mourn his passing but we will honor his service to the United States of America and the Marine Corps."**



Link <http://www.wivb.com/dpp/news/military/Flags-at-half-staff-for-fallen-Marine>



## Flags at half-staff for fallen Marine

***Smith was killed by roadside bomb in Afghanistan***

Updated: Monday, 01 Feb 2010, 5:23 PM EST

Published : Monday, 01 Feb 2010, 5:23 PM EST

- Mark Parrotte
- Posted by: Eli George

Flags are flying at half-staff across New York State in honor of a southern tier Marine.

The remains of 19-year-old Lance Corporal Zachary Smith returned to Hornell on Saturday. He was killed in Afghanistan.

A wake at the Dagon Funeral Home on Church Street continues until 6 p.m. on Monday, February 1st and will resume on Tuesday from 2 p.m. until 6 p.m.

A funeral service will be held Wednesday at St. Ann's Church.

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Syracuse, NY

**SOUTHERN TIER**

**Updated** 02/01/2010 11:18 PM

Link [http://news10now.com/southern-tier-news-1115-content/all\\_news/southern\\_tier/494967/calling-hours-held-for-fallen-marine](http://news10now.com/southern-tier-news-1115-content/all_news/southern_tier/494967/calling-hours-held-for-fallen-marine)

## Calling hours held for fallen Marine

By: Vince Slomsky



HORNELL, N.Y. -- Hundreds lined the streets in Hornell Monday to say a final goodbye to a fallen hero. Calling hours for Lance Corporal Zachary Smith were held at Dagon's Funeral Home in the city.

Smith was killed last weekend in Afghanistan by an improvised explosive device. He was 19.

The line of people paying their respects to the fallen Marine stretched out the door and down the street all throughout the day.

Those who know the family say it's just another testament of how much Smith will be missed.

"It shows what a great kid Zach was and his family. He was probably the happiest kid I've ever known," said Pete Peters, a family friend.

"It's a wonderful thing and I hope it makes, I don't think it's going to change their feelings about the loss of their son, but, you know, there's no other way to look at it. And he certainly did come home to the Village of Hornell," said Ed Bouffard, a family friend.

The calling hours will continue Tuesday from 2 to 6 p.m. Smith will be laid to rest Wednesday following a funeral service at St. Ann's Church at 10 a.m.

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<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/35163200/>

## Remains of Local Marine Return Home



WKBW-TV

updated 7:49 a.m. ET, Tues., Feb. 2, 2010

The remains of a local marine who was killed recently while serving in Afghanistan arrived back home on Saturday. After arriving at the Rochester airport the body of Lance Corporal Zach Smith, 19, was taken on a procession to his hometown of Hornell. An improvised explosive device is being blamed for his death. Smith was a 2008 graduate of Hornell High School.

Calling hours for Lance Corporal Smith are tentatively scheduled for Monday and Tuesday from 2:00-6:00 p.m. at Dagon's funeral home in Hornell. His funeral scheduled for Wednesday morning at 10:00 at St. Ann's church in Hornell. The funeral will be followed by a private burial service and then a public reception at the Knights of Columbus.

## SCHOOLS CLOSED IN HORNELL FOR ZACH SMITH FUNERAL

February 02, 2010 05:01:00

### Many teachers and students likely to attend

Because so many teachers and students at Hornell High requested permission to attend the funeral of Lance Cpl. Zach Smith, all public schools in Hornell will be closed all day Wednesday. That includes St. Ann's School. The funeral Mass will be offered at 10AM at St. Ann's Church.

Zach, who graduated in 2008 from HHS, was well known among students and teachers alike according to a spokesman for the school. Therefore, it was deemed appropriate to close all schools for the entire day.

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<http://www.wivb.com/dpp/military/marines/Fallen-Marine-will-be-laid-to-rest>

## Fallen Marine will be laid to rest

### *Lance Corporal Zachary Smith was killed overseas*

Updated: Wednesday, 03 Feb 2010, 6:48 AM EST

Published : Wednesday, 03 Feb 2010, 6:48 AM EST

- Judy Moore
- Posted by: Emily Lenihan

A fallen Marine from the southern tier will be laid to rest.

Lance Corporal Zachary Smith, of Hornell, was killed while serving in Afghanistan.

Funeral services will be held Wednesday morning, at St. Ann's Roman Catholic Church, in Hornell.



Syracuse, NY

Updated 8:15 AM Wednesday, February 3, 2010

## Funeral for fallen Marine in Hornell

By: Web Staff



[http://news10now.com/cny-news-1013-content/top\\_stories/495094/funeral-for-fallen-marine-in-hornell](http://news10now.com/cny-news-1013-content/top_stories/495094/funeral-for-fallen-marine-in-hornell)

HORNELL, N.Y. -- Hundreds are expected this morning as Hornell prepares to say farewell to its fallen hero.

The funeral service for Lance Corporal Zachary Smith is being held at 10 this morning at St. Ann's Church. The 19-year-old was killed in Afghanistan by a roadside bomb.

Tune to News 10 Now for coverage of Smith's funeral throughout the day.

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[http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/35218576/ns/local\\_news-rochester\\_ny/#storyContinued](http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/35218576/ns/local_news-rochester_ny/#storyContinued)

## Hornell Marine laid to rest

WHEC-TV

updated 1 hour, 38 minutes ago

Funeral services are being held this morning in the Southern Tier for a 19-year-old U.S. Marine killed in Afghanistan.

Lance Corporal Zachary Smith was killed last month by a roadside bomb.

Four buses filled with family and friends arrived at a Hornell church in Steuben County with the casket for this morning for the services. The church is overflowing with people that there will be at least 100 to 200 people that will be standing outside the church.

The funeral mass was set to begin around 10 a.m.

He was the son of New York State Trooper Christopher Smith.



# CanisteoValleyNews.com

## ZACH SMITH'S FUNERAL

<http://www.canisteovalleynews.com/index.php/Local/local-news/11564.html>

February 03, 2010 12:00:00

St. Ann's Church in Hornell was overflowing with family, friends and wellwishers of Lance Corporal Zach Smith. U.S. Marines and New York State Police were also present for the funeral. The funeral mass was said by Father Peter Angalaare, the sermon was given by Father Shawn DeMaria, who recalled the life and times of the 19 year old marine who died in action in Afghanistan.

During the sermon, Father DeMaria told a story about how Smith, while working in his high school years at Wegman's in Hornell, paid for someone's grocery bill. "How about the woman...an elderly woman, who couldn't find her checkbook, to pay for the groceries? What did Zach do? Takes out his debit card and paid for them."

Father DeMaria also quoted the Gospel of St. John. "There is no greater love than to lay down ones life for ones friends, Zach did just that," Father DeMaria said.

Smith was married to the former Anne Deebs, who survives.

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# CanisteoValleyNews.com

## HORNELL PAYS FINAL RESPECTS TO A MARINE HERO WHO DIED IN COMBAT

February 03, 2010 12:00:00



### Community gathers to mourn Lance Cpl. Zach Smith.

St. Ann's Church in Hornell was overflowing with family, friends and wellwishers of Lance Corporal Zach Smith. U.S. Marines and New York State Police were also present for the funeral. The funeral Mass was offered by Father Peter Angalaare, the sermon was given by Father Shawn DeMaria, who recalled the life and times of the 19 year old marine who died in action in Afghanistan.



**During the sermon, Father DeMaria told a story about how Smith, while working in his high school years at Wegman's in Hornell, paid for someone's grocery bill. "How about the woman...an elderly woman, who couldn't find her checkbook, to pay for the groceries? What did Zach do? Takes out his debit card and paid for them."**

Father DeMaria also quoted the Gospel of St. John. "There is no greater love than to lay down ones life for ones friends, Zach did just that," Father DeMaria said.

**Smith's former football coach Gene Mastin lauded Smith's character and gave several examples of "toughness" that he had seen him display on and off the field. Hornell Mayor Shawn Hogan said that Smith went to Afghanistan not as a warrior but as a peacemaker, and that he was there to help make the world a better place. Both Zach Smith's brother and mother spoke as well. His mother Kim thanked the community for its outpouring of support and explained what a blessing it was to be the mother of such a wonderful son.**

Monday and Tuesday, thousands visited the Dagon Funeral home to offer condolences---many waiting as much as two hours in the cold along Church and Genesee Streets before entering the funeral home.

Smith was married to the former Anne Deebs, who survives.



<http://www.whec.com/news/stories/S1398258.shtml?cat=566>

## Hornell Marine laid to rest

Posted at: 02/03/2010 10:12 AM | Updated at: 02/03/2010 12:14 PM



Funeral services were held this morning in the Southern Tier for a 19-year-old U.S. Marine killed in Afghanistan.

Lance Corporal Zachary Smith was killed last month by a roadside bomb.

Four buses filled with family and friends arrived at a Hornell church in Steuben County with the casket for this morning for the services. The church was filled to capacity leaving at least 100 to 200 people to stand outside the church.

Smith's mother was presented with the Purple Heart that Zach earned the day he was killed.

During the service Zach's mother spoke. She said, "We have had such an outpouring of love from you (community). Zach was only on this earth for 19 years but he made a difference." While clutching his dog tags and looking up she said, "I am truly blessed. Zach I know you can hear me. I love you and thank you for all that you have given me these last 19 years."



Afterwards, his brother spoke. He said, "I idolized him for his bravery and courage. He touched the life of every person he met. Zach made the ultimate sacrifice. I will forever be indebted to him. I love you, I miss you Zach."

The two-hour sermon was delivered by Father Sean DeMaria. He said, "Zach is. I don't want to hear past tense. He lives. He's here, right by your side."

Zach was the son of New York State Trooper Christopher Smith.

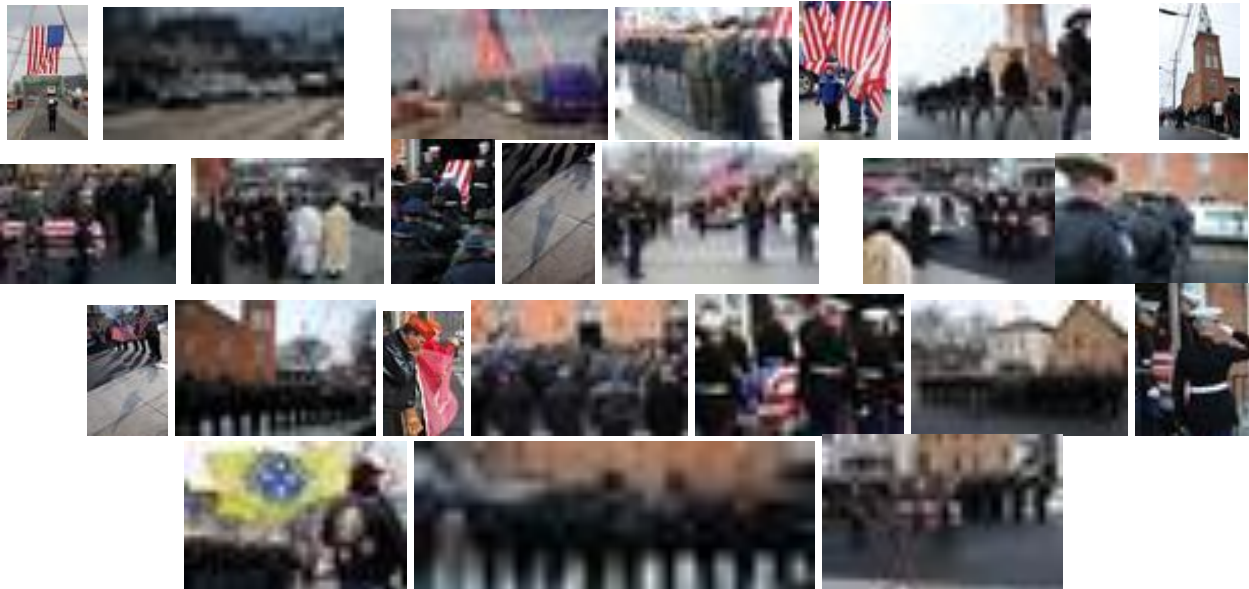


## Hornell mourns the loss of Marine Lance Cpl. Zachary Smith



*By Lynn Brennan*

### Photos



By Justin Head  
The Evening Tribune  
Wed Feb 03, 2010, 02:26 PM EST

Hornell, N.Y. -

A sorrow without compare.

Hundreds filled St. Ann's Church this morning to say goodbye to their fallen hero, U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Zachary Smith. For more than two hours mourners remembered Smith as a son, husband and brother, and also as a cherished friend.

The U.S. Marines honored him as well, awarding him a Purple Heart on behalf of President Barack Obama and the Marine Corps for the ultimate sacrifice to his country.

There was no room to even stand in the church. Waiting areas, aisles, confessionals, chapels, outside steps, and even changing areas were packed with attendees. When Smith's family and friends offered words of remembrance almost everyone in the building wept, some unable to control forceful tears, shaking and clutching loved ones.

People from all over the region came to the church on Erie Avenue to pay respect to the first Hornell casualty of war since Vietnam. On the way onto the church, Christopher Smith, Zachary's father, saluted as his son's coffin was carried into the church.

"You know that this is not normal for a mother to speak at her son's funeral, but I know that the love our family has is not normal," said Kim Smith during her eulogy.

"On April 2, 1990, Chris and I were given this beautiful baby boy to add to our family. Zach, as most of you know, was a very unique person. He always had time for everybody and he truly enjoyed life. Zach was a precious kid that God has given us. The gift of being a mother is one that I will cherish forever. I never knew how much my children could teach me. I learn every day from them and I will still learn from them," she said.

Smith's brother, Nathaniel, 23, said his fallen sibling was a great man.

"Since he joined the Marines, not only have I idolized him for his great courage, but for also the way he lived life. Zach is the epitome of carpe diem. He seized every moment ... He gave more than any person I know and touched the lives of every person he met, which is the main reason we are all here today.

"Zach made the ultimate sacrifice. I will forever be indebted to him, not only as my brother, but now my hero. We love you and we will miss you, Zach. I'm honored to call him my brother."

Kim Smith thanked the community for its support and said that Zach's wife Anne, who he married six months ago in the same church, will always be a part of the Smith family.

Heartfelt words about the 2008 Hornell High School graduate continued, with those speaking sharing their memories of a man they had come to appreciate, admire and respect.

Presiding over the ceremony was Father Peter Anglaaere, who was assisted by fathers Paul Schnacky, Sean DiMaria, James Jaeger, John Cullen, Mark Brewer, and Deacon Robert McCormick. Rev. DiMaria gave an eloquent and profound homily that included memories of Zach

paying for an elderly woman's groceries at the Hornell Wegmans — where he once worked — and his tendency to help the “underdog.”

After the homily, the fallen Marine's favorite hymn, “Be Not Afraid,” filled the ears of those grieving.

Anglaaere finished his remarks and prayers by telling attendees to ask, “What has Zach taught me?”

Those speaking talked about Smith's character, recalling what a loving, compassionate, thoughtful, sincere, loyal, respectful, dignified and humorous person he was.

Hornell Mayor Shawn Hogan and Gene Mastin, HHS athletic director and varsity head football coach, also offered words of remembrance.

“The tragic death of this great young man, this death should be a defining moment in our lives. Zach knew the value of a kind word, a gentle gesture ... Through the example of Zach, sometimes in our lives, we can live in his example in peace, justice and mercy ... and we'll all live in a world that will make us happy, “ said Hogan. “This has been a profoundly difficult time for this community and for all who had the pleasure of knowing and meeting this wonderful, special young man. He had a lasting impact on so many people.”

Many talked of Smith's “infectious smile.” Hogan said, “Everybody had a Zach story.”

Mastin finished the remarks from family and friends, explaining how privileged he felt getting to know Smith.

Trooper Daniel Brown sang a solo of “Amazing Grace” and the Hornell High School choir performed several songs accompanied by the Our Lady of the Valley Resurrection Choir.

Dozens of local officials were present, as well as Congressman Eric Massa, D-Corning, and Sen. George Winner, R-Elmira. Also, more than a hundred state police officers attended, offering support to the Smith and Deebs families.

After the ceremony, family members attended a private burial at St. Mary's Cemetery in the Town of Fremont.

Smith enrolled in the Marines his senior year, following the footsteps of a uncle, and was killed Jan. 24 on one of the very first days of patrol in southern Afghanistan. He had been assigned to 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, II Marine Division, Regional Combat Team 7, Marine Expeditionary Brigade and was deployed from Camp Lejeune, N.C.



Sean Dobbin • Staff writer • February 3, 2010

More than 500 people gathered at St. Ann's church in Hornell, Steuben County, to say good-bye to U.S. Marine Zach Smith, who was killed in [Afghanistan](#) on Jan. 24.

Father Sean DiMaria delivered the homily where he discussed Zach's desire to become a Marine and recounted a story of Smith paying for an older woman's groceries after she had lost her debit card.

Smith's mother Kim, his brother Nate, Hornell Mayor Shawn Hogan and football coach Gene Mastin also offered words of remembrance.

Smith, a 2008 graduate of Hornell High School, was the community's first military casualty in the ongoing conflicts in [Iraq](#) and Afghanistan, according to Hogan, also a neighbor and family friend. He was one of three Marines killed Jan. 24 in Helmand Province.

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February 4, 2010

<http://www.newsranner.com/display-article/?eUrl=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.democratandchronicle.com%2Farticle%2F20100204%2FNEWS01%2F2040345%2F1002%2FNEWS&eSrc=Democrat+and+Chronicle+-+Rochester+NY&eTitle=U.S.+Marine+Lance+Cpl.+Zachary+Smith+laid+to+rest+in+Hornell>



*State Trooper Christopher Smith, second from left, puts his hand on his heart as his son's coffin is placed in a hearse before being transported from St. Ann' Church in Hornell to St. Mary's Cemetery in Fremont. (LYNN BRENAN The Evening Tribune)*



<http://www.wcbs880.com/pages/6279516.php?contentType=4&contentId=5521628>

<http://www.cbs6albany.com/news/mourned-1270767-afghanistan-six.html>



**timesunion.com**

## NY Marine killed in Afghanistan mourned

<http://www.timesunion.com/AspStories/story.asp?storyID=896683#ixzz0eWKm5BgW>

Associated Press



Last updated: 3:44 p.m., Wednesday, February 3, 2010

HORNELL, N.Y. -- Six months after Zachary Smith's wedding, his family gathered in the same church in western New York to pay tribute to the 19-year-old Marine killed by a roadside bomb in Afghanistan.

Lance Cpl. Smith's loved ones described him as generous and fun-loving. His widow, Anne, was among hundreds of relatives and friends at his funeral Wednesday at St. Ann's Church in Hornell.

On Jan. 24, Smith became the first war casualty since Vietnam to hail from Hornell, a town of 9,000 some 70 miles south of Rochester. He was awarded a Purple Heart on behalf of President Barack Obama and the Marine Corps.

His father, Christopher Smith, is a state trooper who works as a school resource officer in the Canaseraga (kan-uh-ser-AH'-gah) Central School.



Syracuse, NY

Video Link [http://news10now.com/cny-news-1013-content/top\\_stories/495094/funeral-for-fallen-marine-in-hornell](http://news10now.com/cny-news-1013-content/top_stories/495094/funeral-for-fallen-marine-in-hornell)

February 3, 2010 Updated 3:45 PM

## Funeral for fallen Marine in Hornell

By: Vince Slomsky

*The City of Hornell says goodbye to one of its own. The funeral for Lance Corporal Zachary Smith took place Wednesday at St. Ann's Church. The fallen marine was killed Jan. 24 while serving in Afghanistan. Our Vince Slomsky was at the funeral Wednesday morning and joins us now from the Elmira/Corning newsroom with more.*

HORNELL, N.Y. -- It was an emotional day in the City of Hornell as hundreds came out yet again to pay their final respects to their fallen hero.

Zach Smith was a son, a husband, and a brother to his family but he was also a friend to everyone in the community.

The funeral was held at St. Ann's Church, but there simply was not enough room for everyone who came out to show their support. Cameras were not allowed inside the church, but we were able to attend the service.

His mother and brother spoke as well as his high school football coach and Mayor Shawn Hogan. They reflected back on the memories of the young man who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

Mayor Hogan perhaps said it best during his speech when he said, "Everyone has a Zach story or a Zach memory."

"Zach was just happy go lucky, you know? You could be outside in this cold right now and he's having a great time. You could be, no matter what you're doing you're always having a fun time and you always had a smile on your face if you're next to Zach. Good times and bad times," said Adam Dwyer, friend.

"He literally would put himself before anyone else, or before himself, and that's just the type of person he was and we're all so blessed to be able to spend 19 years with him," said Eric Davidson, friend.

Zach was also honored with the Purple Heart for sacrificing his life for our freedom.





Rochester, NY

[http://www.13wham.com/news/local/story/Hornell-Community-Bids-Farewell-to-Marine/2Wtuq\\_wGZEKwEc3\\_fSGV6Q.csp](http://www.13wham.com/news/local/story/Hornell-Community-Bids-Farewell-to-Marine/2Wtuq_wGZEKwEc3_fSGV6Q.csp)

## Hornell Community Bids Farewell to Marine



Reported by: [Stacey Pensgen](#)

Email: [spensgen@13wham.com](mailto:spensgen@13wham.com)

Last Update: February 3, 2010 5:29 pm



Hornell, N.Y. -- Wednesday was a sad day for members of the Hornell community. Friends and family of Zach Smith gathered at St. Anne's Church in his hometown, to bid him farewell.

The 19-year-old was killed a week and a half ago by a roadside bomb in Afghanistan, just a month after he was deployed. His friends say they always figured he would serve in the Marines, but seeing him today was surreal.

Brett Maiello joked, "We've always called him jughead, so it's just a matter of time before he came to jarhead."

"It was so unreal. Calling hours just hit home. You hear about it. You hear about the people dying every day and come back from war. You really don't realize it until you actually see them right in front of you. It's the hardest thing to see," says friend Josh Canfield.

He was the son of a State Trooper, and leaves behind his parents, older brother, little sister, and his wife, Anne.

<http://www.whec.com/news/stories/S1398258.shtml?cat=566>

## Hornell Marine laid to rest

Posted at: 02/03/2010 10:12 AM | Updated at: 02/03/2010 6:45 PM

By: Berkeley Brean | WHEC.com



He was a Marine, husband, son and brother. Today, a local hero was laid to rest today with full military honors.

was buried in his hometown of Hornell. Corporal Smith was killed by an IED in Afghanistan in January. He was 19 years old.

At the service this morning, Smith's mother spoke and his young widow was presented with Smith's Purple Heart.

"Just think of Zach, of how he was and it's how you have to live from now on." Eric Davidson was a high school football teammate and one of the hundreds inside the church. "I played next to him for two years and he literally would put himself before anyone else or for himself and that was the type of person he was."

Cameras were not allowed inside but during the sermon, Father Sean DiMaria said, "Zach is. I don't want to hear past tense. He lives. He's here, right by your side."

Zach's mother Kim spoke and said, "I am truly blessed. Zach I know you can hear me. I love you and thank you for all that you have given me these last 19 years."

Steve Smith -- a childhood friend -- was inside to hear it. "I thought it was picture perfect. It took a lot of courage and we're all standing by her and the family and everybody so, it took a lot of courage and we all love her for it."



Marine's carried smith's casket out of the church. His body was put back into the hearse and eventually delivered to the cemetery followed by four busloads of family and friends.

Davidson said, "He was a great kid and like someone said before, if you have a son you want him to be like Zach"

Smith's father is a New York State trooper so along with the Marine Honor Guard, there were dozens of troopers standing at attention outside the church. A trooper sang "Amazing Grace" and there was wonderful singing by the Hornell Choir.

News 10NBC reporter Berkeley Brean said was one of the most stirring funeral masses he has been to for a fallen Marine.



Elmira – Corning, NY

Reported by: Naveen Dhaliwal

Email: [ndhaliwal@wetmtv.com](mailto:ndhaliwal@wetmtv.com)

Last Update: 2/03 8:53 pm

<http://www.wetmtv.com/news/local/story/Hundreds-Say-Final-Farewell-to-Fallen-Marine-in/eOafYloeF0KOi3EOdDdXZA.aspx?rss=127>

File (AP) (WETM TV)

HORNELL - Family, friends and people from all over Upstate New York said their final goodbyes to Marine Zack Smith on Wednesday.

Some of Smith's schoolmates say seeing the 19 year old's coffin was the toughest part.

The flagged draped coffin of Lance Corporal Zach Smith arrived at St. Anne's church. Hundreds lined up to say their last goodbye to the Smith. Smith was a 2008 graduate of Hornell High school. Some of his classmates are quite shaken by his death.

"It was so unreal. The calling hours just hit home. You hear about people dying everyday at war, but when it's at home, you actually don't realize it until you see them right in front of you," says Josh Canfield.

Dozens of law enforcement officer saluted Smith's coffin as it arrived at the church. Smith's father, Christopher Smith, is a New York State Trooper. Smith was deployed to Afghanistan a month ago for the first time. He was killed a week and a half ago by a homemade bomb.

"He was known for his positive attitude and love for life," says James Hess, friend.

"There was never a dull moment with Zach. Every moment was the best moment," says Brett Maiello, friend.

"All throughout high school, he's been one of the guys who makes you laugh and when playing basketball he comes up with random jokes," says Canfield.

Many in the Hornell community say Smith was a wonderful young man. His friends describe him as a person of honor, courage, and commitment.

"I'm glad I got to see him again. It's hard, but at least he came home," says Maiello.

"We all know that God is taking care of him and is giving strength to the Smith family and he will be missed," says Hess.

Smith is survived by his wife Anne, parents, and a brother and sister. A private burial took place Wednesday afternoon at St. Mary's Cemetery.



Corning, NY

<http://www.the-leader.com/news/x231974140/Remembering-a-precious-kid>

## Remembering 'a precious kid'



By LYNN BRENNAN

**PHOTO BY LYNN BRENNAN/ EVENING TRIBUNE** Soldiers carry the casket of fallen U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Zachary Smith into St. Ann's Church in Hornell Wednesday morning.

[Photos](#)



By Justin Head

Hornell Tribune

Wed Feb 03, 2010, 11:51 PM EST

Hornell, N.Y. -

Hundreds of mourners filled St. Ann's Church Wednesday morning to say goodbye to their fallen hero, U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Zachary Smith. For more than two hours, they remembered Smith as a son, husband and brother, and also as a cherished friend.

The U.S. Marines honored him as well, awarding him a Purple Heart on behalf of President Barack Obama and the Marine Corps for the ultimate sacrifice the 19-year-old gave to his country.

There was no room to stand. Waiting areas, aisles, confessionals, chapels, outside steps and even changing areas were packed. When Smith's family and friends offered words of remembrance almost everyone in the building wept, some unable to control their tears, shaking and clutching loved ones.

People from all over the region came to the church on Erie Avenue to pay respect to the first Hornell casualty of war since Vietnam. Christopher Smith, Zachary's father, saluted as his son's coffin was carried into the church.

"You know that this is not normal for a mother to speak at her son's funeral, but I know that the

love our family has is not normal,” said Kim Smith during her eulogy.

“Zach, as most of you know, was a very unique person. He always had time for everybody and he truly enjoyed life. Zach was a precious kid that God has given us,” she said.

Smith’s brother, Nathaniel, 23, said his younger brother was a great man.

“Since he joined the Marines, not only have I idolized him for his great courage, but for also the way he lived life. Zach is the epitome of carpe diem. He seized every moment,” he said. “He gave more than any person I know and touched the lives of every person he met, which is the main reason we are all here today.”

Kim Smith thanked the community for its support and said that Zach’s wife, Anne, whom he married six months ago in the same church, will always be a part of the Smith family.

Heartfelt words about the 2008 Hornell High School graduate continued, with those speaking sharing their memories of a man they had come to appreciate, admire and respect.

Presiding over the ceremony was Fr. Peter Anglaaere, who was assisted by the Revs. Paul Schnacky, Sean DiMaria, James Jaeger, John Cullen, Mark Brewer and Deacon Robert McCormick. The Rev. DiMaria gave a homily that included memories of Zach paying for an elderly woman’s groceries at the Hornell Wegmans – where he once worked – and his tendency to help the “underdog.”

Hornell Mayor Shawn Hogan and Gene Mastin, HHS athletic director and varsity head football coach, also spoke.

“The tragic death of this great young man, this death should be a defining moment in our lives,” Hogan said. “This has been a profoundly difficult time for this community and for all who had the pleasure of knowing and meeting this wonderful, special young man. He had a lasting impact on so many people.”

Mastin finished the remarks from family and friends, explaining how privileged he felt getting to know Smith.

Trooper Daniel Brown sang “Amazing Grace” and the Hornell High School choir performed several songs accompanied by the Our Lady of the Valley Resurrection Choir.

Dozens of local officials were present, as well as U.S. Rep. Eric Massa, D-Corning, and state Sen. George Winner, R-Elmira. More than a hundred state police officers attended.

After the ceremony, family members attended a private burial at St. Mary’s Cemetery in the Town of Fremont.

Smith enrolled in the Marines his senior year, following the footsteps of an uncle, and was killed Jan. 24 on one of the very first days of patrol in southern Afghanistan. He had been assigned to 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, II Marine Division, Regional Combat Team 7, Marine Expeditionary Brigade and was deployed from Camp Lejeune, N.C.

<http://www.stargazette.com/article/20100203/NEWS01/2030354/1113>

# Hornell community mourns 19-year-old Marine killed in Afghanistan

## *Smith remembered as generous, fun-loving*

Staff and wire report • February 3, 2010, 7:00 pm

HORNELL -- Six months after Zachary Smith's wedding, his family gathered in the same church in western New York to pay tribute to the 19-year-old Marine killed by a roadside bomb in Afghanistan.

Lance Cpl. Smith's loved ones described him as generous and fun-loving.

His widow, Anne, was among hundreds of relatives and friends at his funeral Wednesday at St. Ann's Church in Hornell.

On Jan. 24, Smith became the first war casualty since Vietnam to hail from Hornell, a town of 9,000.

He was awarded a Purple Heart on behalf of President Barack Obama and the Marine Corps.

His father, Christopher Smith, is a state trooper who works as a school resource officer in the Canaseraga Central School District.

In addition to his wife and father, other survivors include his mother, Kim, older brother Nate and younger sister Grace.

U.S. Department of Defense officials said Smith was one of three Marines killed Jan. 24 "while supporting combat operations" in Helmand province, Afghanistan.

Smith was assigned to 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Smith, a 2008 graduate of Hornell High School, was deployed to Afghanistan and had been overseas about one month when he was killed.

He enlisted in the Marines while still in high school and left for training in the summer of 2008.

Family friend Gene Mastin, who is also the athletic director for the Hornell City School District, described Smith as an outgoing, comical and caring young man, who was also a gifted athlete. Smith was on the Hornell football and golf teams throughout high school.



**Buffalo, NY**



Video Link: <http://www.wivb.com/dpp/news/military/Local-Marine-is-laid-to-rest-in-Hornell>

## **Local Marine is laid to rest in Hornell**

### ***Final goodbye at St. Ann's Church***

Updated: Wednesday, 03 Feb 2010, 10:19 PM EST

Published : Wednesday, 03 Feb 2010, 10:19 PM EST

- Meghan Backus

A local casualty from the war on terror was laid to rest on the southern tier. Meghan Backus takes us to the Hornell funeral of Marine Lance Corporal Zachary Smith.

Friend Alex Flint said, "There's nothing you can say or do to get past this."

It was the final goodbye. Hundreds of people crowded into St. Ann's Church in Hornell to honor and celebrate Marine Lance Corporal Zachary Smith. Family, police, members of the military, veterans and many friends attended.

"He was just the nicest kid you'll ever meet. He didn't have anything negative to say ever about anything about anyone. He just had the kindest heart," said Flint,

Hometown friend Caitlin McAneney said, "He was probably one of the funniest kids I knew."

Those same sentiments echoed inside the church during the funeral. There were tears but also smiles. Speaking of her son, Smith's mother said, "Zach always had time for everybody and truly enjoyed life."

And his brother said, "He gave more than any person I know. Zach made the ultimate sacrifice."

"They showed a lot of strength and courage going up there. It really hit everybody hard, but I'm glad they did it," commented Flint.

Zach's family also thanked the community for supporting them. The Marine is Hornell's first casualty from the wars in Afghanistan or Iraq.

Hornell resident John Halpenny said, "This will change the history of the community forever."

And no doubt, Zach's death has changed the lives of those closest to him. This was goodbye, but he will not be forgotten.

"All you can do is remember all the memories you had with him and all the good times and just thank the men and women who are still serving for us today," said McAneney.



[Allegany](#) \* [Cattaraugus](#) \* [Chemung](#) \* [Livingston](#) \* [Potter](#) \* [Steuben](#) \* [Tioga](#) /

<http://ttl.v.pricelessinteractivemedia.com/headline1.html>

## ***A city mourns her fallen son***

Wednesday, 03 February 2010

Written by [Rob Price](#)



HORNELL – Funeral services for Marine Lance Corporal Zachary Smith, the first Hornellian to die in combat since the Vietnam War, were held today, a cold gray western New York morning, in Hornell.

Hundreds of mourners lined the streets around St. Ann’s Church, awaiting the arrival of Smith’s body from a local funeral home. Four tour buses were parked at the funeral home to ferry family members and close friends to the church.

Scores of state police, firefighters and other public safety servants stood at attention as the hearse pulled in front of the church. Smith’s father, Christopher Smith, is a New York state trooper.

Smith saluted his son as a Marine Corps honor guard lifted the casket from the hearse and slowly carried it into the church. Then he and his wife led family members into the church, following the funeral detail. The service followed.

Prior to the arrival of the funeral cortege, hundreds of people stood in line waiting to enter the church. Inside, mourner joined in song and the strains of “The Battle Hymn of the Republic” and “America the Beautiful” could be heard on the street.

Smith was killed Jan. 24 while on patrol in Afghanistan. Nineteen years old, he was a 2008 graduate of Hornell High School. He is survived by numerous family members, as well as his wife of six months, Ann Deeks Smith, his high school sweetheart.





**Elmira, New York**

<http://www.weny.com/News-Local.asp?ARTICLE3864=9151143>

## Local Hero is Laid to Rest (VIDEO)

Kelsie Smith

February 3, 2010

HORNELL - The tolling of bells was the only sound throughout Hornell this morning, as the community gathered to pay their last respects to a fallen hero.

"It's really tough getting through something like this," said Steven Smith, Zach's friend since childhood, "especially something that hasn't happened to too much of us or too much of the community."

Nineteen-year-old Lance Corporal Zachary Smith was killed on January 24th by a roadside bomb, just 39 days after being deployed to Afghanistan.

"We're all so blessed to be able to have spent 19 years with him," said Eric Davis, Zach's friend and former teammate.

It was standing room only at St. Anne's Church today, New York State Police, Veterans, the Marine Corps, Servicemen, friends, family and strangers braved the cold, waiting to say goodbye to Zach. In the church his mother told of the son she loved for 19 years.

"Zach was a precious gift that God gave us," said Kim Smith, Zach's Mother.

Zach's brother, Nate Smith, told the congregation how Zach touched every person he met, including him.

"Zach made the ultimate sacrifice," said Nate, "I will be forever indebted to him and now my brother in my hero." Lance Corporal Smith received the Purple Heart today from his fellow marines.

"We can all learn how to be better, more caring, loving and respectable people by reminiscing the memories of Zach," said his friend Adam Dwyer.

"He was a great kid," said Davison, "and like someone said before, if you have a son you want him to be like Zach."

Lance Corporal Zachary Smith was laid to rest at St. Mary's Cemetery with full military honors.



[Click To Play](#)

# U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Zachary Smith laid to rest in Hornell

Sean Dobbin • Staff writer • February 4, 2010

The words came easily for some, less so for others, but each person who spoke was able to recount some of their most vivid memories of the young man who had touched them so deeply.

Zach buying a Jeep on [eBay](#).

Zach playing lineman for the Hornell High football team against kids 100 pounds bigger.

Zach paying for the groceries of an elderly woman who couldn't find her [credit](#) card.

By the end of the ceremony, more than 500 people had gathered in St. Ann's Church in Hornell, Steuben County, to say goodbye to U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Zach Smith, who was killed in [Afghanistan](#) on Jan. 24.

A 2008 graduate of Hornell High School, the 19-year old Smith was the community's first casualty in the ongoing conflicts in [Iraq](#) and Afghanistan.

"He had a lasting impact on so many people," said Hornell Mayor Shawn Hogan, who was also a neighbor and family friend to the Smiths. "His caring, his humor ... he was just one of God's special gifts, always looking to give."

Smith is survived by his wife Anne, his parents Christopher and Kim, his older brother Nate, and his younger sister Grace, all of whom were in attendance on Wednesday morning.

"Even though he would never admit to it, when we were younger, he looked up to me ... I was his hero," said Nate Smith. "I believe my brother is now my hero."

The ceremony's most powerful moment came when Kim Smith stepped to the podium. Acknowledging that it was unusual for a mother to speak at her son's funeral, she called herself "truly blessed" to have had a son like Zach.

Then, fighting through tears, she turned to her son's young widow and said that she would be "our daughter-in-law forever."

"You are so loved by our entire family," said Kim Smith. "You will always be a part of our family."

Smith was one of three Marines killed in Helmand province, Afghanistan. He enlisted in the Marines while still in high school and started training in the summer of 2008. He had been overseas for about one month when he was killed.

A number of U.S. Marines were on hand at the funeral, as well as a handful of New York State Troopers, who are colleagues of Christopher Smith. After the ceremony, families and friends gathered at the Hornell Knights of Columbus to continue sharing their memories of the young man.

"Did you ever know someone who cared more about people than Zach Smith?" said Gene Mastin, Smith's high school football coach. "He didn't even have to know you, he always wanted to help."

Said Mastin: "On a cloudy winter day, when somehow, someplace out of nowhere, the sun comes out, and instantly, things are brighter and warmer: that was Zach."

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## Photos of the Day: February 4, 2010



[http://photos.syracuse.com/post-standard/2010/02/marine\\_funeral\\_afghanistan\\_1.html](http://photos.syracuse.com/post-standard/2010/02/marine_funeral_afghanistan_1.html)



### ***Marine Funeral Afghanistan***

Added by [Nicholas Lisi / The Post-Standard](#) on February 4, 2010 at 7:20 AM

A Marine honor guard carries Lance Cpl. Zach Smith into St. Ann's Church in Hornell, N.Y., Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2010. Smith was killed in Afghanistan, Jan. 24, 2010. (AP Photo/The Evening Tribune, Lynn Brenan)

This photo is part of the following galleries: [Photos of the Day: February 4, 2010](#)



<http://www.eveningtribune.com/news/x1582409152/Congressman-Massa-forwards-legislation-to-have-Hornell-Post-Office-named-for-Lance-Cpl-Zachary-Smith>

## **Congressman Massa forwards legislation to have Hornell Post Office named for Lance Cpl. Zachary Smith**

By Justin Head  
The Evening Tribune  
Fri Feb 05, 2010, 12:30 PM EST

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**Hornell, N.Y. -**

**Congressman Eric Massa has announced that he is pushing for federal legislation to have the Hornell Post Office named after fallen U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Zachary Smith.**

**Smith, 19, a 2008 Hornell High School graduate, was killed Jan. 24 supporting Operation Enduring Freedom in the Helmand province of Afghanistan.**

**“It is but a small gesture to have Zachary’s name memorialized for all time and attach to an institution governed by a country he loved so much,” said Massa in a prepared statement released to The Tribune this morning.**

**Joseph Racalto, chief of Massa’s staff, said the legislation has already picked up significant support.**

**“It will be introduced when I get back to D.C, probably Wednesday or Thursday next week I’ll drop the bill off,” said Racalto. “We are trying to get the entire New York state delegation on board with this legislation, all 29 members. I think we have 15 so far that have agreed to support it.”**

**Recent news reports have surfaced detailing how Smith lost his life in a moment of heroism while supporting the defense of his combat unit, an act that resulted in the award during his funeral Wednesday of a Purple Heart and also the move by Massa for renaming the post office.**

**According to an article by Jason Gutierrez that appeared on the Agence France-Presse (AFP) Web site, Smith’s unit, the Marines 1st Battalion, 6th regiment, was engaged in a foot patrol near the insurgent-saturated area of Marjah, when 30 to 40 militants “ambushed them just as they neared a cluster of homes.”**

**The article was based on an interview with First Lieutenant Aaron MacLean following an emotional Marine memorial service at a forward operating base in Afghanistan.**

**Maclean said that Smith and another Marine who died coming to his aid, Sgt. Daniel Angus, 28, of Thonotosassa, Fla., were providing cover fire for other Marines when the circumstances turned tragic as remotely-controlled explosive devices, known as IEDs, were triggered.**

**MacLean told AFP the battle went on for at least three hours.**

Buffalo, NY

<http://www.wkbw.com/news/local/83571767.html>

## Area Soldier Laid to Rest



**By WKBW Directors**

Story Published: Feb 4, 2010 at 3:00 PM EST

Story Updated: Feb 4, 2010 at 3:00 PM EST

HORNELL, NY (WKBW) -- Family and friends gathered in Hornell this week to pay their final respects to a fallen Marine.

### Multimedia

- [Watch The Video](#)

19-year-old Lance Corporal Zach Smith was laid to rest at Saint Ann's Church in his home town of Hornell, NY.

Smith was killed by an Improvised Explosive Device last month while serving in [Afghanistan](#).



## HORNELL POST OFFICE MAY BE NAMED FOR ZACH SMITH

February 05, 2010 02:35:00

### Congressman Massa to introduce legislation.

Congressman Eric Massa (D-29) is introducing legislation to rename Hornell's post office to honor Lance Corporal Zach Smith who was killed in action in late January in Afghanistan. Smith was laid to rest on Wednesday at a packed funeral mass attended by hundreds of family and friends in St. Ann's Church.

It is estimated that over 3,000 people paid respects to his family during calling hours Monday and Tuesday at the Dagon Funeral Home. The fallen Marine was 19 and leaves behind a widow, his parents and a sister and brother.

### The New York Times

<http://www.legacy.com/nytimes/soldier/Story.aspx?PersonId=139292161>



BROUGHT TO YOU BY: **Chicago Tribune** Saturday, February 06, 2010

<http://www.legacy.com/chicagotribune/Soldier/Story.aspx?PersonId=139292161>

Lance Cpl Zachary Smith



**Age:** 19

**Hometown:** Hornell, NY

**Date of Death:** 1/24/2010

**Incident Location:** Helmand  
Province,  
Afghanistan

**Branch of Military:** Marines

**Rank:** Lance Cpl

**Unit:** 1st BN, 6th  
Marine Regt, 2nd  
Marine Division,  
II Marine  
Expeditionary  
Force

**Unit's Base:** Camp Lejeune,  
North Carolina

[View/Sign Guest Book](#)

— MOVING TRIBUTES —

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20100202/wl\\_asia\\_afp/afghanistanunrestusmarinesmemorial\\_20100202055824](http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20100202/wl_asia_afp/afghanistanunrestusmarinesmemorial_20100202055824)

## Marine deaths underline US struggle in Afghanistan



*AFP/File – US Marines pay tribute to Sergeant Daniel Angus and Lance Corporal Zachary Smith who were killed on January 24, 2010*

*Photo by Jason Gutierrez Jason Gutierrez – Tue Feb 2, 12:58 am ET*

**February 06, 2010    Agence France-Presse**

**CAMP FIDDLER'S GREEN, Afghanistan (AFP) –** The incident, deadly and tragic as it was, rated only one short sentence on the official NATO website.

The violent deaths of Marine Sergeant Daniel Angus, 28, and Lance Corporal Zachary Smith, 19, on January 24 underscore how quickly things can go from bad to worse in the frontline battle against the Taliban in southern Afghanistan.

Angus was a Marine squad leader on a patrol in the outskirts of Marjah, a Taliban stronghold in Helmand province in what was to have been a routine show of force ahead of a major push weeks away.

The Marines had previously gone into the area, where they faced potshots from Taliban snipers, but were never under serious threat.

The day, however, would turn into one of the bloodiest suffered by the Marines 1st Battalion, 6th regiment since they deployed in December in the first wave of President Barack Obama's promised surge.

The death toll of foreign soldiers fighting in Afghanistan under US and NATO command hit 44 in January -- the highest for that month since the war began more than eight years ago -- compared with 25 in January 2009.

The number of Americans who died last month in the conflict was almost double the number for January last year, at 29 compared with 15, according to the [icasualties.org](http://icasualties.org) website, which keeps a running tally.

Three more foreign troops died on Monday, NATO reported.

The United States and NATO deploy 113,000 troops in Afghanistan, with another 40,000 due over the course of the year as part of a renewed strategy that emphasises development and the "reconciliation" of Taliban fighters.



**Most of the incoming troops will be deployed in Helmand, which along with neighbouring Kandahar province has been the hub of the insurgency since the Taliban regime was removed from power in late 2001.**

**On January 24, First Lieutenant Aaron MacLean led his unit on a foot patrol near insurgent bastion Marjah, expected to be the scene of a major offensive this month.**

**MacLean's unit is among the first Marines outfits sent into Helmand since the surge was announced.**

**"Suddenly we were taking shots from three sides, they tried to get to our rear but were not successful," he said, describing the fateful day.**

**About 30-40 Taliban militants, possibly backed by foreign fighters, ambushed them just as they neared a cluster of homes, he said.**

**"The day that Daniel and Zachary died, the platoon was in an area which is known to harbour a large number of the enemy," MacLean said during an emotional memorial service rarely seen by the public at a forward operating base.**

**Angus and Smith were tasked to move to another area and provide cover for Marines flat-bellied on the dust.**

**An expert rifleman, Smith was fending off enemy fire when he stepped on a remote-controlled bomb, known as an IED, or improvised explosive device, which threw him metres (yards) into the air.**

**"Without regard for his own safety and shouting for other Marines to watch out for a secondary bomb, Angus rushed to Smith's side and ordered his men away knowing full well the risk," he said.**

**"He died instantly from the blast," he said.**

**The three-hour firefight, MacLean said, proved the Taliban were adapting to the Marine strategy and were well entrenched in Marjah, a poppy growing region where victory could give Washington its first vindication for the fresh surge.**

**"That is the nature of the beast," MacLean said. "Marine infantrymen are aggressive by trade and things can go from bad to worse out here."**

**Angus, 28, left behind a wife and daughter, and Smith his high school sweetheart whom he had just married before deploying.**

**Both were honoured in an emotional ceremony on January 30 and were posthumously awarded the purple heart for combat heroism.**

**Their rifles, helmets, boots and dog tags were displayed, as one by one weeping colleagues paid their respects under the searing noonday sun and a 21-gun salute followed as a mournful Christian hymn played over speakers.**

**Acknowledging the men's ultimate sacrifice, Lieutenant Colonel Calvert Worth told his men to stick to their mission and celebrate the lives of the two young troops, describing Smith as just an "average American kid".**

**© Copyright 2010 Agence France-Presse.**



Video Link:

[http://news10now.com/watertown-north-news-1052-content/top\\_stories/495547/hornell-post-office-may-be-renamed-to-honor-fallen-marine](http://news10now.com/watertown-north-news-1052-content/top_stories/495547/hornell-post-office-may-be-renamed-to-honor-fallen-marine)

02/07/2010 09:26 PM

## **Hornell Post Office may be renamed to honor fallen Marine**

By: Vince Slomsky



HORNELL, N.Y. -- Lance Corporal Zachary Smith, 19, was killed two weekends ago while serving as a marine in Afghanistan. He was a 2008 graduate of Hornell High School. Massa says it would be a lasting tribute to the young man.

"I have been in contact with the family and sought their permission and they have granted us the opportunity to name at the federal level the post office in Hornell after Lance Corporal Zach Smith and it's going to be an incredibly emotional honor to do so," he said.

A funeral service was held for the fallen hero this past week at St. Ann's church in Hornell.



US

[http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2010/02/08/ap/national/main6186222.shtml?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+CBSNewsTheEarlyShowBooks+%28CBS+News%3A+The+Early+Show%3A+Books%29](http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2010/02/08/ap/national/main6186222.shtml?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+CBSNewsTheEarlyShowBooks+%28CBS+News%3A+The+Early+Show%3A+Books%29)

Feb. 08, 2010

**ABRIDGED ARTICLE**

## **US Troops Killed In Afghanistan And Africa**

### ***US Troops Who Have Died While Serving In Afghanistan And The Horn Of Africa***

(AP) Marine Cpl. Jamie R. Lowe

—

**Marine Lance Cpl. Zachary D. Smith**

Everyone speaks highly of Zach Smith in his hometown, Hornell, N.Y.

"He always lifted everyone's spirits," says a former employer. "He was the funniest kid I ever met," says a childhood friend.

His former football coach heaped on the most praise.

"They don't come any better," Hornell High School athletic director Gene Mastin said. "If Hornell ever had a favorite son it was probably Zach Smith. He was universally liked. Everything about him was good."

Given his widespread popularity, Hornell residents took it hard when they learned the 19-year-old Marine lance corporal died in combat Jan. 24 in Helmand province, Afghanistan. Just a year and a half out of high school and six months into his marriage, Smith had only been in Afghanistan for a month when he was killed. He was assigned to Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii

Smith's death is a big loss for the community, said Mayor Shawn Hogan, who is neighbors with Smith's family.

"You often hear about these brave young men dying, and it's always somebody else's brother or son," Hogan said. "Now this is something we have to cope with."

He leaves behind his wife, Anne Smith, parents, Chris and Kim Smith, brother, Nate Smith and sister, Grace Smith.

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<http://www.wcax.com/global/story.asp?s=11955586>



[http://www.marinecorpstimes.com/news/2010/02/ap\\_post\\_office\\_marine\\_smith\\_020910/](http://www.marinecorpstimes.com/news/2010/02/ap_post_office_marine_smith_020910/)



Division of The Hearst Corporation, Albany, NY

<http://www.timesunion.com/AspStories/story.asp?storyID=898637>

## Effort begins to name NY post office after Marine

Associated Press

Last updated: 7:00 a.m., Tuesday, February 9, 2010

HORNELL, N.Y. -- An effort is under way to have an upstate New York post office named after a 19-year-old Marine recently killed in action in Afghanistan.

Congressman Eric Massa of Corning is pushing for federal legislation to have the Hornell Post Office named after Cpl. Zachary Smith, who was killed by a roadside bomb last month.

Smith's funeral was held last week in his Steuben (stoo-BEHN') County hometown, located 70 miles south of Rochester.

The post office in Scio (SYE'-oh) in neighboring Allegany (al-leh-GAY'-nee) County is named after Marine Cpl. Jason Dunham, who died in Iraq in 2004 when he used his helmet to shield squad members from a hand grenade.

The 22-year-old Dunham was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor in January 2007.

Read more: <http://www.timesunion.com/AspStories/story.asp?storyID=898637#ixzz0f4fEO12s>



<http://content.usatoday.com/topics/article/Places,+Geography/Countries/Iraq/01IHdFd1voftP/1>

## Iraq

3h 11m ago [WCAX](#)

### [Effort begins to name NY post office after Marine](#)

HORNELL, N.Y. (AP) - An effort is under way to have an upstate New York post office named after a 19-year-old Marine recently killed in action in Afghanistan. Congressman Eric Massa of Corning is pushing for federal legislation to have the Hornell Post...

February 13, 2010

## Marines continue incursion in Marja, Afghanistan

*Working in partnership with Afghan soldiers, U.S. Marines are undertaking a major operation to flush out insurgents and allow the Afghan government to reassert control over an area in southern Afghanistan called Marja.*



**Feb. 13**

A member of the Charlie Company of the 1st Battalion of the 6th Marine Regiment heads into the field with the obituary of a fellow Marine strapped to his helmet. Charlie Company is clearing a road to Marja of makeshift bombs to allow other troops to advance.  
Andrea Bruce-The Washington Post

This Story

[4 NATO troops die in Marja offensive](#)

Article | KABUL -- The sixth day of the military offensive in southern Afghanistan proved the deadliest so far as four NATO troops were killed in bombings and gun battles during the painstaking push to take back a Taliban stronghold.



<http://militarytimes.com/valor/marine-lance-cpl-zachary-d-smith/4474000/>

## **Marine Lance Cpl. Zachary D. Smith**

Died January 24, 2010 serving during Operation Enduring Freedom

19, of Hornell, N.Y.; assigned to 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C.; died Jan. 24 while supporting combat operations in Helmand province, Afghanistan.

4 Marines die in Helmand combat ops

Staff and wire report

Four Marines died over the weekend during combat operations in Helmand province, Afghanistan, the Defense Department announced Jan. 26.

Lance Cpl. Jeremy M. Kane, 22, of Towson, Md., died Jan. 23. A reservist, he was assigned to the 4th Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, out of Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Sgt. Daniel M. Angus, 28, of Thonotosassa, Fla.; Lance Cpl. Timothy J. Poole, 22, of Bowling Green, Ky.; and Lance Cpl. Zachary D. Smith, 19, of Hornell, N.Y. died Jan. 24.

Angus and Smith were assigned to 1st Battalion, 6th Marines, out of Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Poole was assigned to 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines, out of Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii. He joined the Corps in June 2007 and reported to Kaneohe Bay in December 2007. He was deployed to Iraq in 2008 and 2009, returning to Kaneohe in March.

More detailed information of the incidents was not immediately available.

Townpeople come together to mourn Smith

*The Associated Press*

HORNELL, N.Y. — Six months after Zachary Smith's wedding, his family gathered in the same church in western New York to pay tribute to the 19-year-old Marine killed by a roadside bomb in Afghanistan.

Lance Cpl. Smith's loved ones described him as generous and fun-loving. His widow, Anne, was among hundreds of relatives and friends at his funeral Feb. 3 at St. Ann's Church in Hornell.

On Jan. 24, Smith became the first war casualty since Vietnam to hail from Hornell, a town of 9,000 some 70 miles south of Rochester. He was awarded a Purple Heart on behalf of President Obama and the Marine Corps.

His father, Christopher, is a state trooper who works as a school resource officer in the Canaseraga Central School.

Left behind wife, parents, 2 siblings

*The Associated Press*

Everyone speaks highly of Zach Smith in his hometown, Hornell, N.Y.

“He always lifted everyone’s spirits,” says a former employer.

“He was the funniest kid I ever met,” says a childhood friend.

His former football coach heaped on the most praise.

“They don’t come any better,” Hornell High School athletic director Gene Mastin said. “If Hornell ever had a favorite son it was probably Zach Smith. He was universally liked. Everything about him was good.”

Given his widespread popularity, Hornell residents took it hard when they learned the 19-year-old lance corporal died in combat Jan. 24 in Helmand province, Afghanistan. Just a year and a half out of high school and six months into his marriage, Smith had only been in Afghanistan for a month when he was killed. He was assigned to Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii

Smith’s death is a big loss for the community, said Mayor Shawn Hogan, who is neighbors with Smith’s family.

“You often hear about these brave young men dying, and it’s always somebody else’s brother or son,” Hogan said. “Now this is something we have to cope with.”

He leaves behind his wife, Anne Smith, parents, Chris and Kim Smith, brother, Nate Smith and sister, Grace Smith.

Number of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom casualties as confirmed by U.S. Central Command: [5356](#)



The Hall of Valor includes [636](#) citations related to actions during the Global War on Terror.

It has a total of [35290](#) valor award citations.





## New 'Y' gym will honor fallen Marine

By Justin Head

Tue Mar 09, 2010, 11:07 AM EST

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Hornell, N.Y. -

When the Maple City's much-awaited \$7 million Hornell Area Family YMCA building is complete, the gym will honor the late U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Zachary Smith of Hornell.

Smith, 19, enrolled in the Marines his senior year of high school and was killed Jan. 24 by an explosive device during a fiery firefight with militants on one of his first days of patrol in Afghanistan's Helmand province.

The Hornell YMCA board of directors voted in February to dedicate the gym in the new facility to Smith for paying the ultimate sacrifice to his country, and as a way to comfort a respected and active family in the Hornell community.

"It's something the board felt strongly about doing in remembrance of Zach's youthful spirit ... not in memory of his tragic death, but in celebration of his wonderful life," said Mike Davidson, a YMCA board member.

"Chris practically grew up at the Y. He was a Y guy, to put it like that. He was involved with the basketball league and also worked here during his high school years ... His whole family has been active with the Y ... The gym at any YMCA is a hub for activity and we thought it would be the perfect place to celebrate his life and remember his youthful spirit. And those are the thoughts we had with the board's unanimous approval and with (Zach's) parents' blessing, of course," he said.

Mark Morrissey, YMCA executive director, said the Smith family have been long time volunteers at various YMCA events.

"All of the Smiths have been active in the Y. When it comes time for Gus Macker Nate (Smith's brother) and Chris (Smith's father) were out taping the streets and Grace, his sister, was part of our child care program, and Kim (Smith's mother) was active with our Maple City Challenge. They are all very active and continue to be," said Morrissey.

Morrissey said while the exact name of the gym has not been decided, it will include Zachary Smith's name.

"We are certainly going to seek the family's input. They were very honored to know their son will be remembered this way," said Morrissey.

According to a YMCA press release, final stages of financing for the new building are coming together and a groundbreaking is targeted for early April.

The project will start with the construction of the main building, located to the south of the current building. Once completed, Y operations will move to the new building and part of the old property will be used to build the new pool.

According to the Department of Defense, Smith was assigned to the Marine's 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, and was deployed from Camp Lejeune, N.C. Smith was posthumously awarded a Purple Heart on behalf of President Barack Obama and the Marine Corps.

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<http://www.eveningtribune.com/news/x1526476036/Medals-of-Valor-reflect-service-of-a-fine-young-man>

Hornell, NY

## **Medals of Valor reflect service of 'a fine young man'**

By Justin Head Mon Mar 22, 2010, 11:18 AM EDT

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Hornell Elks Lodge No. 364 awarded Medals of Valor to the wife and family of U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Zachary Smith during a private Sunday ceremony.

Smith, 19, a 2008 Hornell High School graduate, was killed in action Jan. 24 supporting Operation Enduring Freedom in the Helmand province of Afghanistan. He was the first Hornell area casualty of war since Vietnam.

Mayor Shawn Hogan, an Elks member, recalled how Smith touched the lives of everyone who knew him and said he was a "fine young man.

"If we all could emulate Zach in some small way we would live in a much better world," said Hogan. "It's difficult to say anyone is that special, but this young man was that special."

It was the first time the Hornell lodge has issued a Medal of Valor, according to Elks Exalted Ruler Howard Nisbet.

"We have many, many veterans' programs and many, many children's programs and youth programs. Those are our two main focuses as Elks," he said, adding, "This is a ceremony you don't want to have to do because you know you have lost a young man or woman that has gone away too early."

Nisbet said after the ceremony that Zachary's father, Christopher Smith, an Amity-based state trooper, has been a member of the Elks for more than 20 years and the Deeks family has been generous in donations over the years.

"To honor someone who has fallen in the line of duty is a part of our obligation and we find it a privilege to try to bring comfort for the family and to let them know that there is people outside their family and outside

their close circle of friends that care. Everyone knows what a happy kid Zach was ... He was a wonderful young man,” said Nisbet.

Nisbet presented two medals, one to Zach Smith’s wife, Anne Deeks, and another to Christopher and Kim Smith, his parents.

Lou Withiam, the New York State Elks Association state veterans chairman, gave a statement about the association’s support for service members during war times and a brief history of the Medal of Valor.

The Hornell United Presbyterian Church choir sang Zachary Smith’s favorite hymn: “Be not Afraid.”

After the ceremony, those present attended a reception on the first floor of the lodge.

Smith has been posthumously awarded the Purple Heart for combat heroism and federal legislation is in the works to have the U.S. Post Office renamed in his honor.

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[Hornell-Post-Office](http://www.eveningtribune.com/news/x1089264791/Bronx-rep-takes-over-mission-to-rename-Hornell-Post-Office)

[http://www.eveningtribune.com/news/x1089264791/Bronx-rep-takes-over-mission-to-rename-](http://www.eveningtribune.com/news/x1089264791/Bronx-rep-takes-over-mission-to-rename-Hornell-Post-Office)

## **Bronx rep takes over mission to rename Hornell Post Office**

By Justin Head

The Evening Tribune

Mon Apr 12, 2010, 01:30 PM EDT

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Hornell, N.Y. -

A downstate congressman has taken over a project close to the heart of Hornell.

Congressman Joseph Crowley, D-7, of the Bronx recently agreed to sponsor federal legislation to have the Hornell Post Office named after fallen U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Zachary Smith.

Former 29th District Rep. Eric Massa announced in early February that he was pursuing the bill, but progress has slowed since Massa resigned, leaving many issues up in the air.

“Joe’s a great member of the delegation and I’m thrilled he agreed to do it,” said Joseph Racalto, chief of staff for the 29th District office. “And he agreed to do it enthusiastically. It’s not like we were twisting his arm ... It’s a tricky process having another member of Congress take over a bill. I believe the next step is he has to announce he is taking over sponsorship of the bill to the House floor.”

Crowley said he wanted to support the bill because of Smith’s heroism and a certain phone call.

“I wanted to make sure that Zachary Smith, a much-admired member of the Hornell community, is honored for his heroism and the ultimate sacrifice he made in service of the United States,” said

Crowley in an e-mail. “I also wanted to honor Zachary’s family, and after my conversation with his father, felt this was just the right thing to do.

“Zachary was a much-loved athlete, Marine, son, brother and husband. I believe it is incumbent on all Americans to honor our fallen heroes, especially someone as impressive as Zachary,” said Crowley.

Racalto said he has been in contact with the Smith family to make sure they knew the bill wasn’t on the back burner.

“This has been one of our priorities,” said Racalto.

The chief of staff said that all 28 members of the state’s delegation support the bill and he expects no complications with getting it approved.

Crowley said that when Congress convenes again, he’ll be ready to push forward.

“After we seek co-sponsors and the legislation is introduced, it will need to be considered and approved by the entire Congress. I can’t predict a time frame, but it’s important that we make every effort to make this happen,” he said.

Smith, 19, a 2008 Hornell High School graduate, was killed Jan. 24 by an explosive device during a battle with militants on one of his first days of patrol. He died supporting Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan’s Helmand province.

According to the Department of Defense, Smith was assigned to the Marine’s 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, and was deployed from Camp Lejeune, N.C. Smith was posthumously awarded a Purple Heart on behalf of President Barack Obama and the Marine Corps.

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<http://www.eveningtribune.com/news/x1042535051/Gillibrand-forwards-effort-to-honor-Zach-Smith>

## Gillibrand forwards effort to honor Zach Smith

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The Evening Tribune

Thu Apr 15, 2010, 09:54 AM EDT

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Hornell, N.Y. -

Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand introduced legislation Wednesday that would rename the Post Office in Hornell after Marine Lance Cpl. Zachary Smith.

“Zachary Smith is truly a hometown hero,” Sen. Gillibrand said in a release. “He made the ultimate sacrifice for our country, serving with honor, integrity and dignity. Naming the Hornell Post Office after him will honor his legacy in his community.”

Congressman Joseph Crowley, D-7, of the Bronx recently agreed to sponsor the federal legislation.

Crowley said he wanted to support the bill because of Smith’s heroism and after a certain phone call.

“I wanted to make sure that Zachary Smith, a much-admired member of the Hornell community, is honored for his heroism and the ultimate sacrifice he made in service of the United States,” said Crowley in an e-mail. “I also wanted to honor Zachary’s family, and after my conversation with his father, felt this was just the right thing to do.

“Zachary was a much-loved athlete, Marine, son, brother and husband. I believe it is incumbent on all Americans to honor our fallen heroes, especially someone as impressive as Zachary,” said Crowley.

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Smith, 19, a 2008 Hornell High School graduate, was killed Jan. 24 by an explosive device during a battle with militants on one of his first days of patrol. He died supporting Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan’s Helmand province.

According to the Department of Defense, Smith was assigned to the Marine’s 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, and was deployed from Camp Lejeune, N.C. Smith was posthumously awarded a Purple Heart on behalf of President Barack Obama and the Marine Corps

Sunday, May 2, 2010

## Inside Congress

### Inside Congress

## S.3200: To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 23 Genesee Street in Hornell, New York, as the 'Zachary Smith Post Office Building'.

[Full Text of the Bill »](#)

To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 23 Genesee Street in Hornell, New York, as the 'Zachary Smith Post Office Building'. (Introduced in Senate)

S 3200 IS

111th CONGRESS  
2d Session  
**S. 3200**

To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 23 Genesee Street in Hornell, New York, as the 'Zachary Smith Post Office Building'.

**IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES**

**April 14, 2010**

Mrs. GILLIBRAND introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

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### **A BILL**

To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 23 Genesee Street in Hornell, New York, as the 'Zachary Smith Post Office Building'.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

## SECTION 1. ZACHARY SMITH POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) Designation- The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 23 Genesee Street in Hornell, New York, shall be known and designated as the 'Zachary Smith Post Office Building'.

(b) References- Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the 'Zachary Smith Post Office Building'.

**Sponsor:** Kirsten Gillibrand, D-NY

**Cosponsors:** 0

**Introduced:** April 14, 2010

**Committees:** Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

### Related Bills

- May 02, 2010
- [H.R.4665: To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 23 Genesee Street in Hornell, New York, as the "Zachary Smith Post Office Building".](#)
- May 02, 2010
- [H.R.5051: To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 23 Genesee Street in Hornell, New York, as the "Zachary Smith Post Office Building".](#)

### Last Action

#### Description

April 15, 2010

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs referred to Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services, and International Security.

April 15, 2010

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs referred to Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services, and International Security.

April 13, 2010

Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.



# Massa scandal delays Marine's tribute

By [JONATHAN ALLEN](#) | 5/10/10 7:49 PM EDT



Former Rep. Eric Massa (D-N.Y.) resigned in early March amid allegations that he sexually harassed male aides. *AP*

## **POLITICO 44**

The House is set to act Tuesday to ensure that the final legislative honor for a dead 19-year-old Marine won't be derailed by the sex scandal that forced the bill's sponsor to resign.

Rep. Joe Crowley reintroduced legislation last week that would name a post office in Hornell, N.Y., after Lance Corporal Zachary Smith. The first version of the bill had stalled because it was drafted by ex-Rep. Eric Massa, who resigned in early March amid allegations that he sexually harassed male aides.

It was an incident at Smith's Feb. 2 funeral that prompted Massa's top aides to alert House leaders — and ultimately the ethics committee — of accusations that Massa had acted improperly toward members of his own staff.

Massa's chief of staff was told that the congressman had invited a young bartender at Smith's wake to a rendezvous in Buffalo — nearly two hours away — according to news accounts.

Massa introduced the bill to name the post office after Smith on Feb. 23. But that version essentially died when he resigned amid an ethics investigation on March 5.

Crowley revived it last Thursday under a new bill number, and it will now get a hearing on the House floor under expedited rules that require a two-thirds majority for passage.

“A 19-year-old Marine lost his life, and it’s something that the whole delegation was behind,” said a senior aide to Crowley. “I don’t think his family or memory should be stained by Eric Massa’s behavior.”

Read more: <http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0510/37039.html#ixzz0pdYHACVt>

House Session, Part 1

# ZACHARY SMITH POST OFFICE BUILDING

May 11, 2010



Towns, Edolphus U.S. Representative  
[D] New York

## TRANSCRIPT

MR. SPEAKER, ON BEHALF OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT  
00:15:46 AND GOVERNMENT REFORM, IT IS WITH A HEAVY HEART THAT I PRESENT  
H.R. 5051 FOR CONSIDERATION.

THIS MEASURE DESIGNATES THE UNITED STATES POSTAL BUILDING  
00:15:59 LOCATED AT 23 GENESEE STREET IN HORNELL, NEW YORK, AS THE  
ZACHARY SMITH POST OFFICE BUILDING.

ON JANUARY 24, 2010, WHILE ON PATROL IN SOUTHERN AFGHANISTAN,  
00:16:15 LANCE CORPORAL ZACHARY SMITH, A MARINE, BASED OUT OF CAMP  
LEJEUNE, MADE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE FOR HIS COUNTRY.

HE HAS BEEN AWARDED A PURPLE HEART BY PRESIDENT OBAMA FOR HIS  
00:16:37 SELFLESS SERVICE.

ZACHARY SMITH WAS BORN ON APRIL 2, 1990, TO HIS PARENTS,  
00:16:44 CHRISTOPHER AND KIM SMITH, IN HORNELL, NEW YORK, WHERE HE  
LIVED ALONG WITH HIS BROTHER AND SISTER.

NATHAN YELL AND GRACE SMITH -- NATHANIEL AND GRACE SMITH.  
00:16:58  
00:17:04 HE GRADUATED IN 2008.

FULFILLING HIS LIFELONG ADDRESS THE HOUSE FOR ONE MINUTE,  
00:17:07 ZACHARY ENLISTED IN THE MARINES WHILE STILL IN HIGH SCHOOL.

AFTER GRADUATION, ZACH LEFT FOR BASIC TRAINING BUT NOT BEFORE  
00:17:16 MARRYING HIS HIGH SCHOOL SWEETHEART, ANN.

00:17:24 THEY WERE WE HAD ON JULY 25, 2009, AND ZACH COMPLETED BOOT CAMP AT PARIS ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA, BEFORE GOING ON TO GRADUATE FROM THE MARINE CORPS SCHOOL OF INFANTRY.

00:17:37 DESCRIBED AS A GIFTED ATHLETE BY FRIENDS, ZACH WAS ON THE HORNELL HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL AND GOLF TEAMS THROUGHOUT HIS FOUR YEARS OF HIGH SCHOOL.

00:17:48 HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE TWIN HICKORY GOLF CLUB AND ALSO THE HORNELL GOLF CLUB.

00:17:53 HE ENJOYED WATCHING SPORTING EVENTS AND HE ESPECIALLY LIKED TO ROOT FOR THE NEW YORK GIANTS AND THE NEW YORK YANKEES.

00:18:00 AND THE SYRACUSE ORANGEMEN.

00:18:03 HE WAS ALSO A MEMBER OF OUR LADY OF THE VALLEY PARISH AND ALSO PART OF THE ST. ANNE'S CHURCH.

00:18:16 THOSE WHO KNEW HIM SAY HE WAS A GENUINE, HUMOROUS AND OUTGOING YOUNG MAN WHO ENTHUSIASTICALLY EMBRACED LIFE.

00:18:26 HE ALWAYS CARED MORE FOR OTHERS THAN HE DID FOR HIMSELF AND WOULD GO OUT OF HIS WAY TO HELP ANYONE WHO NEEDED HIS HELP.

00:18:34 THE WORLD WOULD BE A BETTER PLACE IF IT HAD MORE YOUNG MEN LIKE ZACH.

00:18:41 HIS SERVICE TO HIS COUNTRY IS AN EXAMPLE WE ALL SHOULD FOLLOW.

00:18:47 AND WE OWE HIM A DEBT OF GRATITUDE FOR HIS SERVICE AND HIS SACRIFICE.

00:18:53 PLEASE JOIN ME IN HONORING ZACH'S MEMORY BY SUPPORTING THIS BILL.

00:18:59 THE PEOPLE OF HORNELL WILL BE REMINDED OF ZACH'S COURAGE AND VALOR EVERY DAY AS THEY PASS BY THE POST OFFICE BUILDING NAMED IN HIS HONOR.

00:19:13 H.R. 5051 WAS INTRODUCED BY THE GENTLEMAN FROM NEW YORK, REPRESENTATIVE JOSEPH CROWLEY, ON APRIL 15, 2010.

00:19:20 THE MEASURE WAS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM WHICH ORDERED IT REPORTED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT ON MAY 6, 2010.

00:19:29 THE MEASURE ENJOYS THE SUPPORT OF THE ENTIRE NEW YORK STATE DELEGATION.

00:19:36 I THANK THE GENTLEMAN FOR INTRODUCING THE BILL, AND I AM SURE IT MEANS A GREAT DEAL TO LANCE CORPORAL SMITH'S FAMILY AND HIS FRIENDS.

00:19:44 I ALSO THANK THE GENTLEMAN FROM CALIFORNIA, CONGRESSMAN ISSA, AND ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE, ESPECIALLY THAT WORKED TO MAKE THIS A REALITY.

00:19:57 OF COURSE, MR. ISSA FOR HIS SUPPORT IN BRINGING THIS TO THE FLOOR AS WELL.

00:20:03 MR. SPEAKER, I URGE MY COLLEAGUES TO VOTE FOR THIS MEASURE, HONORING A FALLEN SOLDIER, WHO GAVE HIS LIFE FOR HIS COUNTRY, AND I RESERVE THE BALANCE OF MY TIME.

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, it is with a heavy heart that I present H.R. 5051 for consideration. This measure designates the United States postal building located at 23 Genesee Street in Hornell, New York, as the "Zachary Smith Post Office Building." On January 24, 2010, while on patrol in southern Afghanistan, Lance Corporal Zachary Smith, a marine with the 2nd Platoon, C Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Marines, based out of Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, made the ultimate sacrifice for his country. He had been awarded a Purple Heart by President Obama for his selfless service.

Zachary Smith was born on April 2, 1990, to his parents, Christopher and Kim Smith, in Hornell, New York, where he lived along with his brother and sister, Nathaniel and Grace Smith. Zach attended Hornell High School and graduated in 2008. Fulfilling his lifelong dream, Zachary enlisted in the Marines while still in high school. After graduation, Zach left for basic training, but not before marrying his high school sweetheart, Anne Deebs. They were wed on July 25, 2009, and Zach completed boot camp at Parris Island, South Carolina, before going on to graduate from the Marine Corps School of Infantry.

Described as a gifted athlete by friends, Zach was on the Hornell High [Page: H3283] School football and golf teams throughout his 4 years of high school. He was a member of Twin Hickory Golf Club and also Hornell Golf Club. He enjoyed watching sporting events and especially liked to root for the New York Giants, the New York Yankees, and the Syracuse Orangemen. He was also a member of Our Lady of the Valley Parish and a communicant of St. Ann's Church. Those who knew him say he was a genuine, humorous, and outgoing young man who enthusiastically embraced life. He always cared more for others than he did for himself and would go out of his way to help anyone who needed his help.

The world would be a better place if it had more young men like Zach. His service to his country is an example we all should follow, and we owe him a debt of gratitude for his service and his sacrifice. Please join me in honoring Zach's memory by supporting this bill. The people of Hornell will be reminded of Zach's courage and valor every day as they pass by the post office building named in his honor.

H.R. 5051 was introduced by the gentleman from New York, Representative Joseph Crowley, on April 15, 2010. The measure was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which ordered it reported by unanimous consent on May 6, 2010. The measure enjoys the support of the entire New York State delegation. I thank the gentleman for introducing this bill, and I'm sure that it means a great deal to Lance Corporal Smith's family and his friends. I also thank the gentleman from California, Congressman Issa, and all the members of the committee, especially, that worked to make this a reality and, of course, Mr. Issa for his support in bringing this measure to the floor today as well.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote for this measure honoring a fallen soldier who gave his life for his country.

I reserve the balance of my time.

## House OKs post office change



**By Lynn Brennan**  
[The Evening Tribune](#)

Posted May 12, 2010 @ 09:18 AM  
Hornell, N.Y. —

The Hornell Post Office got one step closer to a name change Tuesday.

According to the website for the bill sponsor, Rep. Joseph Crowley, D-7, of the Bronx this morning, the House of Representatives passed H.R.5051 Tuesday to designate the United States Postal Service located at 23 Genesee St. in Hornell as the Zachary Smith Post Office Building. A similar bill was introduced to the Senate by Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand in April.

“I don’t foresee any roadblocks in the Senate, it’s pretty much a done deal,” said Joe Racalto, chief of staff in the 29th Congressional District. “To Mr. Crowley’s credit, he stepped up to the plate, he’s been absolutely fantastic.”

According to Racalto, the next step is to raise the necessary funds to rename the building, a task he is working with Hornell Mayor Shawn Hogan to accomplish. Racalto said the cost of changing the name of the building is not yet known, but he is going to be reaching out to veterans organizations and community members in the near future for help.

Lance Cpl. Zachary Smith, 19, a 2008 Hornell High School graduate, was killed Jan. 24 by an explosive device during a battle with militants on one of his first days of patrol supporting Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan’s Helmand province.

According to the Department of Defense, Smith was assigned to the Marine’s 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, and was deployed from Camp Lejeune, N.C. Smith was posthumously awarded a Purple Heart on behalf of President Barack Obama and the Marine Corps.

## Hornell post office closer to being named after fallen marine

<http://www.whec.com/news/stories/S1557555.shtml?cat=565>

Posted at: 05/13/2010 7:49 AM

He gave his life in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and now a post office in Hornell is one step closer to being renamed after a fallen marine. On Tuesday, the House of Representatives passed a bill to rename the post office on Genesee Street in Hornell as the Zachary Smith post office.

The 19-year-old was killed in Afghanistan in January. A similar bill was also introduced to the Senate in April. If approved, Corporal Smith would be the third marine from western New York to have a post office named after him.

For more Rochester, N.Y. news go to our website [www.whec.com](http://www.whec.com).

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**Buffalo, NY**



<http://www.wivb.com/dpp/military/PO-to-change-name-to-fallen-Marine>

## P.O. to change name to fallen Marine

***One step closer after house passed bill to rename***

Updated: Friday, 14 May 2010, 5:28 PM EDT

Published : Friday, 14 May 2010, 5:28 PM EDT

- Mark Parrotte
- Posted by: Eli George

HORNELL, N.Y. (WIVB) - A western New York post office is a step closer to changing its name in honor of a fallen Marine.

The house passed a bill to rename the Hornell Post Office after Zachary Smith. He made the ultimate sacrifice on the front lines of Afghanistan in January and posthumously received a purple heart.

Copyright WIVB.com



<http://www.wetmtv.com/news/local/story/Hornell-Post-Office-Name-Change/nL81p1z5YEKI15cAV7sN5g.csp>

Reported by: Naveen Dhaliwal  
Email: [ndhaliwal@wetmtv.com](mailto:ndhaliwal@wetmtv.com)  
Last Update: 5/18 4:45 pm

HORNELL - A push to rename the Hornell [post office](#) after a local fallen marine cleared a major hurdle on Tuesday.

The Senate Committee on Homeland Security passed legislation needed to rename the Genessee Street post office in honor of Lance Corporal Zachary Smith.

Smith, a 2008 graduate of Hornell High School, was killed by a roadside bomb in January while serving overseas in Afghanistan. He was serving his first term.

The bill now awaits full senate approval before the name can be changed.

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## EveningTribune.com

<http://www.eveningtribune.com/news/x2084253917/Hornell-Post-Office-closer-to-becoming-the-Zachary-Smith-Post-Office>

### Hornell Post Office closer to becoming the Zachary Smith Post Office

**By Tyler Briggs**

[The Evening Tribune](#)

Posted May 19, 2010 @ 01:15 PM

Hornell, N.Y. —

The Hornell Post Office is even closer to becoming the Zachary Smith Post Office, according to U.S. Sens. Kirsten Gillibrand and Charles E. Schumer. They announced the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs passed legislation Tuesday to rename the post office in honor of fallen U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Smith.

This comes just a week after the House of Representatives passed a similar bill to rename the 23 Genesee St. facility.

Progress on the bill was slowed after former 29th District Rep. Eric Massa, who introduced it in February, resigned. But things have picked up since Congressman Joseph Crowley, D-7, of the Bronx agreed to sponsor the House version in April.

Tuesday's approval by the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is a step forward for the bill, Gillibrand and Schumer said in a release, paving the way for its consideration on the floor of the Senate.

Both senators vowed to get it passed in short order. Once the bill passes the full Senate, it will go to the president for signature.



<http://www.eveningtribune.com/lifestyle/x884185607/Whats-happening>

[The Evening Tribune](#)

Posted May 20, 2010 @ 08:43 AM

Hornell, N.Y. —

## MUSIC/PERFORMANCES

**HHS Choir and Jazz Concert** — 5:30 p.m. Saturday in the Hornell High School auditorium. A song Chris van Leeuwen wrote in memory of U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Zachary Smith, titled “Reflection,” will be performed. Doors will open at 5 p.m.



<http://www.weny.com/News-Local.asp?ARTICLE3864=9153787>



### A Family Remembers Its Fallen Hero

Jane Park May 20, 2010

HORNELL-- It's been almost four months since the Smiths received news of 19-year-old Lance Cpl. Zachary Smith's death.

The emotional wounds are still fresh.

“We're doing O.K., we have our moments,” said Zach's father, Chris. “I won't say this crying stopped or the feelings have stopped.”

“This is the worst thing that can ever happen to a parent and I could not get through this without all the support,” said Zach's mother, Kim.

Piles of support - cards, letters and gifts - prove Zach was well loved in his community.

“One of his friend's mothers – almost like a second mother – called him an angel on Earth,” Kim reminisced. “And I thought, ‘Zach? He's my middle child, he's my little devil,’ but he was such a good boy, always determined, made a huge difference.”

Zach married his high school sweetheart, Anne, who admits it took some time for Zach to win her heart.

“He would prank phone call me,” Anne said.

“One day I actually hung out with him, that's when I realized he was an awesome person, when I actually hung out with him, when he wasn't just the goofy Zach Smith. He was sweet too, he had a sweet side,” she added.

“Everything I do I think of him, if it's about him, it's 10 times worse,” said Nate, Zach's older brother. “A second doesn't go by where I don't think about him.”

When the post office is renamed, the Smiths will visit proudly. It won't be painful. It will be a standing reminder of a spirit who loved his family, represented his community and served his nation.

“We made every minute count,” said Kim.

“I wouldn't change a thing,” she added.

“Someday we'll all be together, and I can't wait for that big, six-foot-three hug again.”

The legislation to rename the post office is expected to pass, but the effort doesn't end there. The next step is to raise funds for the name change.



<http://blip.tv/file/get/Wenytv-AFamilyRemembersTheirFallenMarine270.flv.jpg>



<http://www.weny.com/News-Local.asp?ARTICLE3864=9153856>

[Back](#)

## Hornell Post Office Will Bear Marine's Name (VIDEO)

Jane Park

May 26, 2010

A Hornell post office will bear the name of a fallen marine.

The U.S. Senate passed a bill to rename the Genesee Street post office to the Zachary Smith Post Office.

19-year-old Lance Cpl Zachary Smith died in combat in Afghanistan in January. The House passed an identical bill last month.

"It just makes you proud. It might be tough but it makes you proud. I don't believe it's anything above and beyond what it should be. I really think he deserves everything he gets," said Smith's father, Chris Smith.

The legislation now heads to President Obama for his signature.



[Click To Play](#)

## Smith Post Office bounces back to House

### ***Senate version needs new vote, then on to White House***

**By Tyler Briggs**

[The Evening Tribune](#)

Posted May 27, 2010 @ 11:00 AM

Hornell, N.Y. —

The U.S. Senate passed S.3200 late Tuesday, a bill that would change the name of the Hornell Post Office to the Zachary Smith Post Office.

“That hurdle has been cleared. It passed the Senate, which is good,” Joe Racalto, former chief of staff for the 29th Congressional District, said.

Progress on the bill was slowed after former 29th District Rep. Eric Massa, who introduced it in February, resigned. But things have picked up since Congressman Joseph Crowley, D-7, of the Bronx agreed to sponsor the House version in April.

The House passed its own version of the bill, H.R.5051, earlier in the month.

But the bill the Senate passed was Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand’s version, Racalto said. That means the House must now pass the Senate’s bill before moving forward.

“It’s the same bill,” Racalto said of each version to change the name of the post office on Genesee Street in Hornell. “If the Senate would have voted on the House version, it would have been done. Now it goes back to the House (for a vote). As soon as they do that, it’s off to the White House.”

Racalto is unsure of when the House may bring S.3200 up for vote, but said it’d be just a matter of days after that happens until it’s moved to the White House for the president’s signature.

“I don’t expect it to be too long,” he said. “We’re just waiting for one more vote. It could be tonight, it could be tomorrow.”

Racalto said he’s working with the Postmaster General’s office on the cost of the name change.

“The cost is minimal. It’s just the cost of putting Zach Smith Post Office building on front of it,” he said.

He believes the name change takes effect as soon as Obama signs off on it, and won’t fall under the 60- to 90-day grace period of most laws.

## HC Hunger Coalition donates to veterans war memorial



*By Rob Juteau*

*The Herkimer County Hunger Coalition presented a \$2,000 donation to the city's veterans war memorial project Thursday. Pictured, from left, are hunger coalition founder R.J. Lenarcic, Mayor Robert Peters, city Treasurer David Petkovsek, city Clerk Kira Andrilla and hunger coalition director Greg Riddle. Andrilla and Petkovsek also serve as directors for the hunger coalition.*

By Rob Juteau  
The Times  
Sat May 29, 2010, 08:02 AM EDT

Little Falls, N.Y. -

The city's veterans war memorial project is moving forward.

The monument, to be unveiled during an 11 a.m. ceremony on Saturday, Aug. 7, in Eastern Park, will pay tribute to the men and women of Little Falls who served their country in the armed forces, and was the recent beneficiary of a \$2,000 donation from the Herkimer County Hunger Coalition.

The money was raised as a result of a May 22 golf tournament held in honor of Marine Lance Corporal Zachary Smith, of Hornell, at Little Falls Municipal Golf Course.

Smith was killed in action in Afghanistan in January.

"The coalition has shared the proceeds of previous tournaments with other charities, including the American Red Cross of the Mohawk Valley last year," hunger coalition founder R.J. Lenarcic said

Thursday. “We’re honored, especially during this time of year, to support the city’s efforts to create a veterans memorial, and we were honored to have held the event in Lance Cpl. Smith’s memory.”

“I thank Ray and the hunger coalition for their generosity,” said Mayor Robert Peters. “The veterans memorial is something that is close to my heart, and I appreciate the coalition’s goodwill.”

The mayor also extended his thanks to Feldmeier Equipment, which will donate the flag poles that will surround the granite monument and bear the flags of the various branches of the U.S. military.

“I appreciate Feldmeier Equipment’s decision to come forward and offer to donate the flag poles, a donation that will save the city a considerable amount of money,” said Peters. “These businesses, organizations and individuals did not have to take it upon themselves to donate their resources to our project, and that is why I am so thankful for the community support that we have received.”

“We’re appealing to the public to remember Monday those who have made the supreme sacrifice for their country with a moment of silence, and to consider doing a community project in their memories,” said Lenarcic, who is also involved with the Fallen Stars Memorial Project, which honors the men and women of New York state who died while serving in the military in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Peters said the city’s Department of Public Works will pour a sidewalk leading to the memorial in Eastern Park, and that residents will be able to purchase pavers to pay tribute to their loved ones.

“There is still some work left to be done, but we are on schedule for the unveiling,” he said, adding that a special invitation will be extended the veterans living in Little Falls who were detained as prisoners of war. “We have veterans in our city who were POWs, a fate that I would wish on no man, and it would be an honor to have them there sitting in the front row as we unveiled the monument. In fact, it would be an honor to have all of our veterans in attendance.”

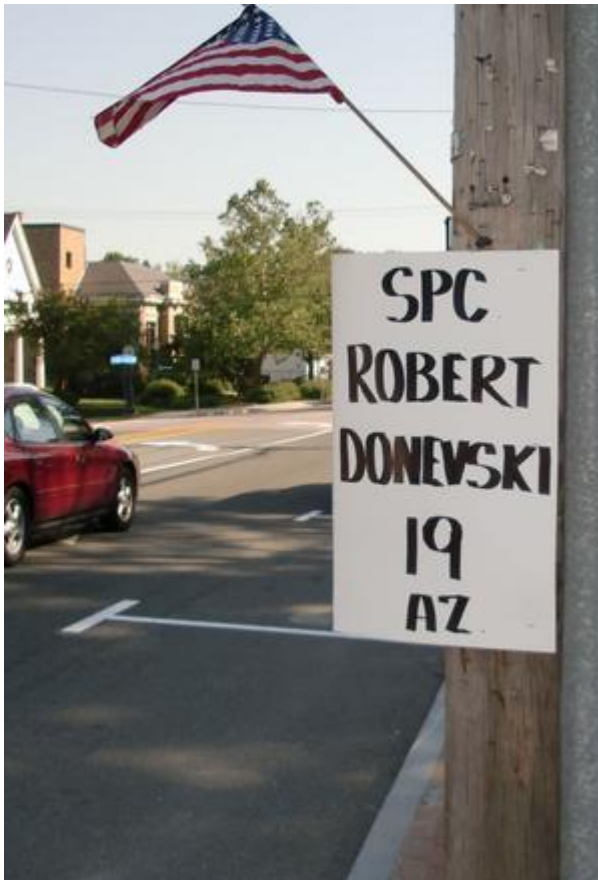
The mayor said volunteers are needed to serve as members of the rifle guard for the ceremony.

“This duty is usually performed by members of our American Legion, but a number of our Legion members are getting a little older, so we are looking for younger veterans and servicemen to help us by performing this task,” he said, adding that they must be at least 21 years of age. “Personally, I think it would add to the ceremony if a few of our active duty servicemen who recently returned home from duty, or who are home on leave, could serve in the rifle guard.”

<http://www.metrowestdailynews.com/news/x644095839/Spitz-The-stories-behind-the-signs-in-Holliston>

## **Spitz: The stories behind the signs in Holliston**

### **Photos**



[Purchase this Photo](#)

Daily News/Wicked Local photo by Allan Jung

### **Signs have been posted around Holliston to remember veterans.**

**By Julia Spitz/Daily News staff**

[The MetroWest Daily News](#)

Posted May 30, 2010 @ 12:00 AM

Names on the monument in front of Town Hall are familiar: Kingsbury and Snow, Phipps and Fecteau, Damigella, Butler and Kurzontowski.

The name a few feet from the tribute to Holliston's veterans is less familiar, but no less worthy of honor.

WO-2 David Markland 31 UK was on his eighth operational tour of duty as a member of Britain's Corps of Royal Engineers when he was killed by an improvised explosive device, or IED, in Afghanistan on Feb. 8.

The plain sign noting his rank (warrant officer class 2), name, age and home is the same as all the others that have become familiar sights in the weeks before Veterans Day and Memorial Day.

Bobby Blair, former American Legion Post 47 commander, and a host of volunteers have hung them on utility poles throughout the town 14 times in the past seven years.

The signs and flags are a simple tribute to those who paid the ultimate price in Iraq and Afghanistan since the last time the signs were hung, but behind every sign is a story.

These are the stories told downtown today.

L/Cpl Carlos Aragon 19 Utah, whose sign is a few feet from the Superette on Washington Street, was on foot patrol in an Afghan village when he stepped on a homemade bomb and was killed instantly March 1. He was born in Mexico and came to Utah with his family as a young boy. Teachers at Mountain View High School in Orem remembered his shoulder-length curly hair as well as his straight A's. "He was a gentle, nice kid" who loved '70s rock music, they told the young Marine's hometown paper, the Deseret News.

**L/Cpl Timothy Poole 22 KY is by the Central Burying Ground. L/Cpl Zachary Smith 19 NY is down the street, at the corner of Hollis Street. On Jan. 24, the Marines lost their lives together while on a counterinsurgency operation with the Afghan National Security Forces.**

**Poole, a native of Jacksonville, Fla., served two deployments in Iraq before going to Afghanistan. He had wanted to be a Marine since the age of 4, the Union-Leader reported, a decision he made after going to a Marines-sponsored Toys for Tots party with his father.**

**Smith, a member of the football and golf teams at Hornell High School in New York, married his wife, Anne, last July.**

Sgt. Daniel Angus 28 FL, the father of a 2-year-old daughter, always said, "Don't let her forget who her daddy is," his wife, Bonnie, told knoxnews.com. "And I won't." Angus was the third Marine killed in the Jan. 24 blast in the Helmand Province. He had been deployed twice to Iraq.

SFC Ian Gelig 25 Calif., whose sign is across from Smith's at the Hollis Street intersection, "made us laugh, made us smile and kept us from falling apart," a fellow 82nd Airborne Division paratrooper told KHTS News after Gelig was killed in Afghanistan on March 1.

Capt. Paul Pena 27 TX, whose sign is near the town hall, was a West Point graduate and Eagle Scout born in San Antonio. He was named "best all around student" by his high school's honor society. The Bronze Star was among the dozen medals he earned during his six years of Army service. He died of wounds suffered when enemy forces attacked his unit with an IED Jan. 19 in Afghanistan.

SFC Michael Shannon 52 PA died of a heart attack while serving in Afghanistan. The Army Reservist, a correction officer with a master's degree in criminal justice, was known for his dry sense of humor. He leaves a wife and three children in Canadensis, Pa. His sign hangs in front of the First Congregational Church.



SPC Anthony Paci 30 MD, whose sign is posted near the Gulf station, also leaves a wife and three children. The Bethesda native was killed when his military vehicle rolled over in Gereshk, Afghanistan, on March 4. He was trying to avoid hitting a family of civilians, his father told a Washington TV station. The Army specialist was posthumously promoted to sergeant.

Sgt. Vincent Owens 21 ARK, died March 1 in Paktika Province, Afghanistan, from wounds suffered in combat. The Army sergeant who earned 12 medals during his service in Iraq and Afghanistan was remembered as a gifted student who enjoyed riding motorcycles and playing soccer and football. He leaves a wife and stepson in Fort Smith, Ark.

SPC Robert Donevski 19 AZ was the son of a Vietnam veteran. "During a battle, he was always the guy up front. He got shot saving his buddies" in a gun battle in Afghanistan, his brother told The Gazette. The Peoria, Ariz., native joined the Army in 2008, over the objections of his mother and brother. He was an amateur boxer and a fan of the Phoenix Suns and the Buffalo Bills.

T/Sgt. Anthony Campbell 35 KY is the sign in front of St. Mary's. The Air Force Reservist from Florence, Ky., was an officer with the Cincinnati Police Department. He died Dec. 15 of wounds from an IED in Helmand Province, and leaves his wife and three children, Jordan, Ryker and Devin.

Army Sgt. Matthew Tiller 35 KY was killed by a roadside bomb in Pakistan on Feb. 3. Sluss-Tiller was the son of a special-needs teacher who "was always eager to do whatever he needed to do to serve his country," a friend told The Independent. He was married to his high school sweetheart and was the father of a 3-year-old girl.

T/Sgt. Adam Ginett 29 NC told his mother "I don't go out there on the battlefield with a gun and shoot anybody. I find these bombs that are going to take someone else's life. I'm saving people's lives, not taking them," she told the Raleigh News and Observer after the Air Force technical sergeant was killed by an IED blast near Kandahar Airfield on Jan. 19.

The pole in front of Fiske's bears the sign for RM Andrew Fentiman 23 UK along with a small Union Jack. The rifleman had studied mechanical engineering at the University of Leicester before his tour of duty. He was killed on foot patrol in Helmand Province on Nov. 15.

Nearby is L/Cpl. Darren Hicks 29 UK, who had paraded at Buckingham Palace as a member of the Coldstream Guards. He was killed by an explosion in Afghanistan on Feb. 11.

Behind every sign is a story worth hearing.

Behind every sign is a long list of people grieving the loss of someone they loved and admired.

Behind every sign is a man or woman who deserves our gratitude and our respect, whether his or her name is familiar or not.

*(Julia Spitz can be reached at 508-626-3968 or [jspitz@cnc.com](mailto:jspitz@cnc.com). Check [metrowestdailynews.com](http://metrowestdailynews.com) for the Spitz Bits blog.)*

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<http://www.weny.com/News-Local.asp?ARTICLE3864=9153929>

## Hornell Family Celebrates Memorial Day In Honor of Their Fallen Marine (VIDEO)

Jane Park

May 31, 2010

HORNELL-- When Chris and Kim Smith woke up, they knew they had to face the day.

"This morning was extremely difficult for both of us," Kim said.

They went through the motions, put up the flags and walked to the parade. But everything meant more this year.

"It was just a day off for a lot of people – though not for me, I would always just enjoy myself after work – there's a lot more meaning to it. These aren't just people that were killed, these are friends and family," Chris said.

Zach's little sister Gracie marched with her girl scout troop in the Hornell parade. This year, she got to hold the flag.

Kim placed the Gold Star wreath in remembrance of Zach at the monuments during the memorial service.

"I actually thought it would be an easy job," Kim said. "But I got that wreath in my hand and I felt like I had a part of Zach with me."

Older brother Nate helped plant a flowering pear tree in the back yard; the scouts got the credit.

Later, a caravan to Zach's burial site, where a lot of visitors had already left their mark.

"True friends, true community, it's a good thing," Chris said. "People worry about it being too much for us. I don't know if it is or if it isn't, but it's nice to know that he was that well liked."

"His birthday, his death date, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Veterans Day means so much more to us," Kim said.

Gracie's closing remarks: "He did the ultimate sacrifice and I just wanted to remember him, I always will."



[Click To Play](#)

# Youth football hornell ny

<http://fairtrade-advocacy.org/manager/cat.php?q=youth-football-hornell-ny>

## **Zach Smith Memorial Youth Soccer tourney slated in behalf of July 18 ...**

Jun 29, 2010...Hornell Evening Tribune - The Zach Smith Memorial Youth Soccer Tournament ...  
Hornell Evening Tribune | 85 Canisteo St. Hornell, NY 14843 ...

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<http://www.whec.com/news/stories/s1677022.shtml>

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## **Friend of fallen Marine returns home from Afghanistan**

Posted at: 07/30/2010 11:05 PM | Updated at: 07/31/2010 10:15 AM



A Marine from Canadice is home from Afghanistan tonight, but it is a bittersweet homecoming.

His friend, Lance Corporal Zach Smith of Hornell, was in the same battalion and was killed by an IED in a Taliban stronghold in January.

Family and friends at the Rochester airport greeted Lance Corporal David Coon. It was the same flight Lance Corporal Smith was supposed to have come home on.

Coon was in the Helmand province of Afghanistan for more than 200 days and survived three IEDs.

We asked him about the recent surge in violence and about losing fellow Marines.

“It hurt, it did. But that's the risk that we had to take, and we took them. We did lose Marines. It was horrible but I think that we did good things over there and that the losses were horrible but I think they were not in vain,” said Lance Corporal Coon

Coon will have three weeks at home before he returns to Camp Lejeune, North Carolina for one more deployment.

**H.R.5051**

***To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 23 Genesee Street in Hornell, New York, as the "Zachary Smith Post Office Building".***

**Signed by President.**

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## EveningTribune.com

<http://www.eveningtribune.com/sports/x279155410/Red-Raiders-Dream-Team-places-20th-in-Cooperstown>

### **Red Raiders' 'Dream Team' places 20th in Cooperstown**

#### ***Hornell squad honors Zach Smith at opening ceremonies***

**By Staff reports**

[The Evening Tribune](#)

Posted Aug 18, 2010 @ 05:00 PM

Cooperstown, N.Y. —

The 2010 edition of the Hornell Raiders Cooperstown Dream Team posted a stand-out performance this summer at the Cooperstown American Youth Baseball Hall of Fame tournament.

The group of local 11 and 12-year-old baseball players finished the tournament with a 5-1 record, which was good enough to place them in 20th out of a field of 103 teams from all over the United States and Canada.

The team displayed a knack for hitting the long ball, smacking 25 home runs in the six games of play. Arkport native Brandon Stephens led the way with nine dingers, while Tyler Melko (Eckland), Danny Madden (Corning), Matt Pierce (Painted Post), John Daley (Eckland), Sam Dagon (Hornell), Brooks Vertoski (Corning) and Ryan Walker (Horseheads) also got in on the home run parade during the tournament.

Individually, Hornell native Colin Eveland finished seventh out of 103 competitors in the Golden Arm competition, the first time a Hornell Raider has ever made it to the finals.

While the team was putting on a display of baseball excellence on Cooperstown's Dreams Park, they also made sure to take time perform a Hall of Fame of a good deed.

The opening ceremonies at the Cooperstown Dreams Park always begin with a speech about heroes in the family, the community and in America's favorite past time. This year, Hornell head coach Bill Harkenrider and assistants Mike Yanni and Jason Vogt thought it would be a perfect time to ask the Dreams Park director to honor such a person from the Hornell baseball family.

The Hornell Raiders Cooperstown Dream Team retired jersey No. 11, which was worn by Zachary Smith in 2002. The Marine Lance Cpl. lost his life in January serving our country in the Helmand province of Afghanistan.

Smith's parents, Chris and Kim, and wife Anne were given the No. 11 home and away jerseys upon the team's return home from the tournament.

The Hornell Raiders Cooperstown Dream Team has been competing since 1996. The team will be entering its 16th year of play in 2011.

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## Canisteo Valley News.com

<http://www.canisteovalleynews.com/index.php/Local/local-news/13357.html>

### **Post Office Will Be Named After Zach Smith On Thursday**

August 28, 2010 06:39:00

#### **Hornell Post Office To Be Dedicated To Fallen Marine On September 2nd**

On Thursday, September 2, at 3:30 p.m., the Hornell Post Office, located at 23 Genesee Street, Hornell, will be dedicated to Lance Corporal Zach Smith.

The Family of Zachary Smith, U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, Joseph Racialto, the former Massa worker who helped get the project through congress, Shawn Hogan, Mayor of Hornell, and Gregory Persichilli, Postmaster of Hornell, will be there for the event. "The United States Postal Service is privileged to have the name and spirit of Zachary Smith forever associated with our Hornell Post Office," said Postmaster Gregory Persichilli.

Marine Lance Corporal Zachary Smith was a 2008 graduate of Hornell High School. Smith died on Jan. 24, 2010 while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Legislation to designate the Hornell Post Office building as the "Zachary Smith Post Office Building" was signed into law by President Obama on August 3, 2010.

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## Hornell post office name change Thursday



## ***U.S. senator, family part of ceremony***

**The Hornell Post office will be renamed after Lance Marine Cpl. Zach Smith, a Hornell native killed in Afghanistan in January.**

Lynn Brennan

**By Justin Head**

[The Evening Tribune](#)

Posted Aug 30, 2010 @ 09:54 AM

Hornell, N.Y. —

The Hornell post office will be officially named for fallen U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Zachary Smith this week.

A ceremony unveiling a plaque that will mark the official renaming of the building as the Zachary Smith Post Office will be held by the U.S. Postal Service and Sen. Kristen Gillibrand's office at 3:30 p.m. Thursday. The Smith family, Joseph Racalto of the 29th Congressional District, Hornell Mayor Shawn Hogan, Gregory Persichilli, postmaster of Hornell, and several dignitaries will be on hand for the event.

"The United States Postal Service is privileged to have the name and spirit of Zachary Smith forever associated with our Hornell post office," said Persichilli, in a prepared release.

A replica plaque will be unveiled designating the facility. A finished plaque will be permanently mounted inside the post office lobby.

Smith died Jan. 24 supporting Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan's Helmand Province. He was assigned to 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, II Marine Division, Regional Combat Team 7, Marine Expeditionary Brigade and was deployed from Camp Lejeune, N.C.



Smith was a 2008 Hornell High graduate. He is survived by his parents, Kimberley and Christopher Smith, his wife Anne, his brother Nate and his younger sister Grace.

Smith was posthumously awarded a Purple Heart on behalf of President Obama and the Marine Corps. President Obama signed a bill designating the building name change Aug. 3.

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ithacajournal.com

<http://www.theithacajournal.com/article/20100831/NEWS01/8310391/1126/news/Gillibrand-in-Dryden-Thursday>

stargazette.com

<http://www.stargazette.com/print/article/20100831/NEWS01/8310391/Gillibrand-in-Dryden-Thursday>

## Gillibrand in Dryden Thursday

August 31, 2010, 11:20 pm

Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., will start her statewide agricultural listening tour at 1 p.m. Thursday at the Jerry Dell Farm, 276 Simms Hill Road.

According to an announcement Tuesday, Gillibrand is the first New Yorker to serve on the Senate Agriculture Committee in nearly 40 years, and she plans to [focus](#) on a broad range of agricultural issues important to New York in the next farm bill.

In addition, Gillibrand will address small business issues before the Tompkins, Cortland and Tioga county chambers of commerce at 11:30 a.m. at the Ramada Inn and Conference Center, 2 River St. in Cortland. She also plans stops at 10 a.m. at the Onondaga County Courthouse in Syracuse and at 3:30 p.m. in Hornell to dedicate the Genesee Street [Post Office](#) in honor of Marine Lance Corporal Zachary Smith, who was killed in combat in January in Afghanistan.





<http://www.whec.com/news/stories/S1725936.shtml?cat=565>

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## Local post office renamed in honor of fallen soldier

Posted at: 09/02/2010 2:35 AM



He gave his life serving his country and now a local soldier will be honored.

Later today officials will rename the post office on Genesee Street in Hornell to honor Lance Corporal Zachary Smith. A plaque will be unveiled at 3:30 p.m. at the Hornell Post Office, officially renaming it the Zachary Smith Post Office Building.

Smith, of Hornell was killed in January and was just 19-years-old.

For more Rochester, N.Y. news go to our website [www.whec.com](http://www.whec.com).



<http://www.stargazette.com/article/20100902/NEWS01/9020341/1113/Ceremony-today-to-rename-Hornell-Post-Office>

## Ceremony today to rename Hornell Post Office

September 2, 2010, 10:00 am

A formal ceremony will be held at 3:30 p.m. today at the Hornell [Post Office](#) at 23 Genesee St. to dedicate the building in honor of Marine Lance Cpl. Zachary Smith who died Jan. 24 while serving in Afghanistan.

The legislation designating the Zachary Smith Post Office Building was signed into law by President Barack Obama on Aug. 3.

Scheduled to attend today's ceremony are: the Smith family; Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y.; Joe Racialto, representing the 29th Congressional District office; Hornell Mayor Shawn Hogan, and Gregory Persichilli, postmaster for Hornell.

## Hornell post office dedicated to fallen U.S. Marine Zachary Smith today



Catherine Leyden

**Gene Mastin, Hornell High athletic director, gives remarks during a ceremony dedicating the Zachary Smith Post Office Building while a U.S. Marine color guard and the Smith family look on in the background.**

**By Justin Head**

[The Evening Tribune](#)

Posted Sep 02, 2010 @ 07:46 PM

Last update Sep 02, 2010 @ 07:49 PM

Hornell, N.Y. —

They'll know the name.

As of Thursday, this generation as well as generations to come will forever know the name of U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Zachary Smith, the fallen Hornell soldier who gave his life defending this country.

More than 500 people — local leaders, dignitaries, area politicians and friends and family members — lined the sides of Genesee Street Thursday afternoon as the Hornell Post Office's name was officially changed to the Zachary Smith Post Office Building.

Smith, a 19-year-old 2008 Hornell High School graduate, was killed Jan. 24 by an explosive device during a battle with militants on one of his first days of patrol. He died supporting Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan's Helmand province.

"I'm very honored to look and see the community that has helped Kim and I, and Nate and Grace and Anne, get through these times. We couldn't do it without you," said Christopher Smith, Zachary's father and a state trooper.

"Kim and I will try to walk the dog down the street and I spend more time waiving at cars than anything else and that's an honor," he said. "People don't understand that if they don't live in a community like this. I just want to say thank you to everybody because I guess I love living here.

This past seven months, to be honest with you, it's just been hell, and each one of you has made it a little easier and I can't imagine what hell would have been like without you there to help me."

A temporary plaque was unveiled designating the facility, and two American flags, one from the Marine Corps and another from the Veterans of Foreign Wars, were presented to his wife, Anne Smith. A permanent plaque will be mounted inside the post office lobby in weeks to come.

The dedication finalizes a months-long effort to honor the fallen Marine, who was remembered for his infectious smile, strong sense of loyalty to friends and family, respectful ways and commitment to his country.

U.S. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., co-sponsored a bill for the dedication with Congressman Joseph Crowley, D-7, of the Bronx. Gillibrand spoke with emotion as she thanked the Smith family for permitting the dedication and she praised their courage for being strong in a time of great loss.

"We owe a great debt of gratitude to every man and women who has served, who is serving now and has served before us," said Gillibrand. "We also owe a great deal of gratitude to the families. When we look at the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan who has paid the price of these wars really? Who has made the sacrifices? It's the men and women serving and their families."

Smith was posthumously awarded a Purple Heart medal on behalf of President Barack Obama and the Marine Corps.

Legislation to designate the building was signed into law by President Obama on Aug. 3.

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<http://www.wetmtv.com/news/local/story/Hornell-Post-Office-Renamed/lyNU5463SECIOyRR7x4fJw.csp>

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Reported by: Brittini Smallwood

Email: [bsmallwood@wetmtv.com](mailto:bsmallwood@wetmtv.com)

Last Update: 9:54 pm

Hornell, N.Y. - Hornell's post office was renamed after a local fallen hero. On Thursday, the building was dedicated in honor of Zachary Smith.

On Thursday, Genesee Street was filled with hundreds of people as a plaque was unveiled naming the structure as the Zachary Smith Post Office building.

Zach's family, friends and U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand spoke during the event.

One thing people kept saying was "Thank you Zach for fighting for our freedom and that he'll never be forgotten".

"Zach was probably the most selfless person I've ever known" said Gene Mastin, Smith's Coach at Hornell High School.

"He was a funny kid and a great son" said Christopher Smith, Zach's Dad. "I went from being the father that teaches as an example, to passing the torch to himself. He became a friend, a great friend".

Renaming the building was no small feat. According to a Post Office representative, in the past five years, only three people in Western New York have had a post office named after them. Thursday Smith became the fourth. .

U. S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand said it's rare for Congress to vote on such legislation.

In August, President Barack Obama signed it into law.

"Today is a very sad day, but it's also a day of pride because we are memorializing a young man who did great things in a very short life" said U. S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY).

Lance Corporal Smith fought as a marine in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Smith was killed in January by a roadside bomb.

Smith's wife of six months, Anne received two military flags in Zach's honor.

Smith's father spoke on behalf of the family and thanked the community for all of their support.

"I love living here. To be perfectly honest, it's been hell these past couple of months, but every one of you has made it just a little bit easier" said Smith.

Today the community not only celebrated the life of Zach Smith, but honored the death of their fallen hero.

As for Smith's plaque, it will be placed in the lobby of the post office and will remain there forever.



(Evening Tribune)



<http://www.13wham.com/news/local/story/Hornell-Post-Office-Named-After-Lance-Cpl-Zachary/noniWt5LmEeLXTvxPz1m6A.csp>

## Hornell Post Office Named After Lance Cpl. Zachary Smith



[Slideshow](#)

Published: 9/03/2010 9:19 am

Updated: 9/03/2010 9:42 am

Hornell, NY - The legacy of a local marine lives on in his hometown. Lance Corporal Zachary Smith was killed by a roadside bomb in Afghanistan in January. He was just 19.

The post office on Genesee Street in Hornell has been re-named in Smith's honor.

A plaque will be placed in the lobby. Smith's father, a New York State Trooper, said he always knew his son would become a hero.

"I went from being the father that teaches as an example, to passing the torch to him," Zach's father Christopher Smith said. "He became a friend, a great friend. Both of my boys are great friends. He's an American hero. Everyone should know about Zach Smith."

Smith had been deployed for just a month when he was killed.

# EveningTribune.com

## Hornell retiring Zach Smith's No. 56

### Photos



Lynn Brennan

### Zachary Smith

By Derrick Balinsky

[The Evening Tribune](#)

Posted Oct 07, 2010 @ 08:56 AM

Hornell, N.Y. —

Gene Mastin has a dozen or so photos hanging on the wall of his office located in the guidance wing of Hornell High School. From family to football, nearly every aspect of the veteran head coach's life are represented throughout the still frames. Of the pictures, however, none may be more significant than the two of Lance Cpl. Zach Smith hanging above a quotation from Winston Churchill.

"Success is not final, failure is not fatal, it is the courage that counts," Churchill said.

"Those pictures were up about a year before all of this happened. I don't know," Mastin said when asked how such a strong bond with Smith was formed. "Bonds between coaches and some players probably are second only to bonds between fathers and brothers and players. You work in such a close capacity with some of these kids with something that is very important to both.

"I think players completely invest themselves in something such as playing football and Zach was one of those players. It's comparable to the way that coaches invest themselves and you end up sharing something in that. Also, you have to keep in mind that Zach never played on a sectional



championship or a state championship team. That just didn't happen when he was here. Even so, a great bond develops with players who rise up to the challenge that is presented to them.

"Putting all of that aside, I think my personal bond with Zach is one of the 10 strongest with any kid over the 35 years that I've been in coaching," Mastin went on. "I don't know how it got there, it just did. It came about before he was killed in Afghanistan, before he joined the Marines. I don't know how it happened, it just did. I guess you could say that coaches, not just in football but in all sports, get really invested in players and they do in return also. Sometimes you become life-long friends."

Smith, 19, died in combat in late January while serving his country with the United States Marine Corps in Afghanistan, becoming the first casualty of war for the Hornell area since Vietnam. Smith was posthumously awarded a Purple Heart on behalf of President Obama and the Marine Corps.

Friday evening the fallen Marine's football jersey will be retired at halftime. Smith's framed No. 56 will then be hung next to Larry Gleason's No. 28 — the only other retired jersey number in the history of HHS athletics — in the lobby of the Hornell High School gymnasium.

"Zach was one of the greatest kids that's ever been around," Mastin said. "It's going to a special night for everyone here because he was special, special in every way — special as a football player, special as a student and just a great kid in the community. As we saw during his funeral, his death impacted a lot of people. We wanted to honor his service and his sacrifice and the obvious way to do that was by retiring his jersey."

"The Marine Corps Honor Guard will be coming to town to be a part of the ceremony," Mastin said. "It will be a fairly short and simple ceremony, and will be done in a similar fashion to the way that Larry Gleason's. The two were very similar, in fact. They came from great families, they lost their lives in the line of duty and both were very well regarded and remembered by friends and peers. They obviously were tremendous representatives of our community."

Mastin concluded with a story pertaining to Gleason's jersey and hoped Smith's would have the same affect.

"In respect to Larry's," Mastin said, "I would bet that there have been at least a dozen times over the last few years that it's been there where I've been at a basketball game and I'd see somebody from another town looking at it and they'd ask, 'who was this?' It gives you a chance to tell the story of the kid and that's really the purpose of the entire thing. We don't want the sacrifice and the loss of these two to be wasted. We want their story to be immortal, we want the memory to live forever. With all of the other achievements down there — both academic and athletic — we want people to notice these for the great cost by which they came."

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<http://www.13wham.com/content/blogs/story/A-Marines-Father-Says-It-All/IIStqfwYvkSKMduIU6M62Q.cspX>

## A Marine's Father Says It All



Reported by: Sean Carroll

Email: [scarroll@13wham.com](mailto:scarroll@13wham.com)

Published: 5/03/11 - 9:03 am

Updated: 5/03/11 - 9:09 am

When I sent the email out to the newsroom a colleague sent me a reply moments later; "That says it all..." were her words. In just a few short words New York State Trooper Chris Smith may have summed up how hundreds and perhaps thousands of families of loved one's lost feel now that Osama bin Laden is dead.

You should remember Trooper Smith's son. Lance Cpl. Zachary Smith. The 19 year-old Marine from Hornell was killed in January 2010 barely a month into his deployment to Afghanistan. He left behind a teenage widow...a juxtaposition of two words that will never sit right with me.

Trooper Smith wrote this in his reply to a media inquiry:

*At 11pm last night I was awoke from a phone call advising my family of the death.....I also had 3 text messages last night and a few more today. When I woke up this morning Zach was still gone...and he always will be. However, it did give me a moment of happiness, and I'll take any moment I can get, no matter how brief.*

The Smith family and so many other great American families like them have shouldered an unfair amount of the pain for our freedom over the past decade. Pain that lives with them every day and night.

Let's never forget that.

Sean Carroll, Reporter

## Bin Laden's killing hits home

By John Zick

[Corning Leader](#)

Posted May 03, 2011 @ 11:21 AM

Corning, N.Y. —

Chris Smith was asleep Sunday night when the phone rang. The hour of the phone call – 11 p.m. – suggested it was important.

On the other end of the line, the caller delivered news many Americans believed would never come: Osama bin Laden, the mastermind of the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks and the leader of al-Qaida, was dead at the hands of U.S. forces.

While millions celebrated the terrorist's demise, Smith couldn't help but think of his son, Marine Lance Cpl. Zachary D. Smith, who was killed 16 months ago in Afghanistan – bin Laden's adopted homeland and the primary battlefield in the war on terror.

"When I woke up (Mon-day) morning, Zach was still gone, and he always will be," said Chris Smith, a New York State Police trooper who lives in Hornell. "However, (bin Laden's death) did give me a moment of happiness, and I'll take any moment I can get, no matter how brief."

Like Smith, others directly affected by the terror attacks and the Afghanistan and Iraq wars that followed experienced strong emotions as they learned of bin Laden's death.

### **'Sense of relief'**

Corning Police Department Chief Sal Trentanelli and several other Corning police officers responded to New York City in the hours following the collapse of the Twin Towers. He witnessed the horror first-hand.

On Sunday night, Trentanelli got word of bin Laden's death via text message from a friend in the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.

"It was a sense of relief because we've had to demonstrate our will and resolve for 10 years," Trentanelli said. "When they (the news) started showing images of Ground Zero (Sunday night), you start thinking about what happened that day ... I think it just shows them (terrorists) we aren't going to forget. Sooner or later, they're going to pay for what they did."

### **'Heroism'**

Like Trentanelli, Horseheads Fire Department Chief Art Sullivan traveled to New York City in the wake of the terror attacks. He, too, recalled the devastation.

"When I first heard (of bin Laden's death), I thought back to my short time down at the World Trade Center, and the destruction he caused, and the loss of life, and those who lost family members, and the heroism that took place," Sullivan said.

Sullivan said the heroism extends to the men and women of the U.S. military.

“The other thing is, I can’t say enough about our armed services, for the job they do all the time, and for everything involved in getting the world’s most wanted criminal,” Sullivan added.

### **‘I couldn’t believe it’**

Retired Marine Cpl. Jimmy Inthanongsak, an Elmira native who now lives in Horseheads, was conducting field training when terrorist-controlled planes slammed into the Twin Towers, the Pentagon and a field in Shanksville, Pa. He didn’t hear about the attacks until sometime later.

When the war on terror extended to Iraq, Inthanongsak and his fellow Syracuse-based Marines helped lead the invasion. In their march to Baghdad, Inthanongsak’s unit lost a Marine -- Lance Cpl. Eric J. Orlowski, of Buffalo -- to accidental gunfire.

On Sunday night, Inthanongsak said he was in disbelief when he heard the news of bin Laden’s death.

“I couldn’t believe it was real,” Inthanongsak said. “When it was real, when I watched the president make the announcement, it felt like a lot of redemption.”

He also said he was especially proud of the men who raided bin Laden’s compound.

“The men and women of our military are a special type,” he said. “I have a sense of pride in those guys -- they have the right training and they followed orders. If anybody had had second thoughts, it wouldn’t have gotten done. Opinions don’t matter, orders do.”

### **‘I’m ecstatic’**

The war on terror is especially real to Karen Causer. One of her sons, Bath native Army Sgt. Brent Nadjadi, was injured last fall when an improvised explosive device mangled his vehicle in Konar Province, Afghanistan.

“I’m ecstatic,” Causer said after hearing the news of bin Laden’s death. “I hope this means they can all come home and we can put an end to this war.”

Nadjadi is still recovering from his injuries.

### **‘It might make it worse’**

Like Nadjadi, Army Spc. Elisha Baird, a Bath native, was injured last fall in Afghanistan when an IED exploded under his vehicle. He suffered his injuries nine years after the U.S. first invaded Afghanistan as part of the war on terror.

Baird and his father, Michael Baird, took the news of bin Laden’s death with a bit more reservation than some.

“(The Navy SEALs) were on a mission, and they accomplished it,” Elisha Baird said. “It probably won’t make things better. In fact, it might make it worse. bin Laden took advantage of his people’s desperation. But there’s always targets.”

Michael Baird said bin Laden’s death doesn’t change much.

“It doesn’t address the whole situation,” he said. “It’s a good thing they got him, but it doesn’t solve much.”

## Unveiling of Memorial for Hornell's Zachary Smith on Monday

By Staff reports

[The Evening Tribune](#)

Posted May 29, 2011 @ 01:24 PM

Hornell, N.Y. —

A memorial stone for Marine Lance Cpl. Zachary D. Smith will be unveiled at 2 p.m. Monday in front of the Zachary Smith Post Office building on Genesee St. in Hornell.

The 19-year-old Marine and Hornell native was killed on Jan. 24, 2010 by an explosive device during a battle with militants on one of his first days of patrol in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan's Helmand Province. Smith was posthumously awarded a Purple Heart.

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## Memorial unveiled for Hornell's Zach Smith

### Photos



Marine Lance Cpl. Zachary Smith's family listens during the memorial service for Smith outside the Post Office Monday afternoon. From left are Smith's father, Chris, his brother, Nate, sister, Grace, and mother, Kim.

By Andrew Poole

[The Evening Tribune](#)

Posted May 30, 2011 @ 05:02 PM

Hornell, N.Y. —

Upon President Abraham Lincoln's death, Secretary of War Edwin Stanton famously said Lincoln "belongs to the ages." Monday it was clear the same can be said of one of Hornell's favorite sons, fallen U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Zachary Smith.

Hundreds shook off the heat Monday for the unveiling of a memorial stone at the Zachary Smith Post Office Building commemorating Smith's sacrifice while serving during Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

Smith, 19, was killed by an explosive device during a battle with militants on Jan. 24, 2010 in the Helmand province in Afghanistan. It was one of his first days of patrol.

The ceremony drew friends, family — many wearing memorial shirts in honor of Smith — and politicians, including Congressman Tom Reed, state Senator Tom O'Mara, and Assemblyman Phil Palmesano.

Christopher Smith, the Marine's father, said he was appreciative of the support the community showed his family since his son's death.

"It's hotter than hell out here, and look at all these people. They could be anywhere. It's everyone's day off. It's the middle of the day, they could be with their families. But they're here," he said.

Hornell Mayor Shawn Hogan, who lives across the street from the Smith family, shared memories of the man he called the "goodwill ambassador of Wegmans," where Smith used to work.

"We, you people here, the war punched us in the belly (when Smith died)," said Hogan. "We knew the sorrows of war and the grief it leaves behind. Always remember, always thank, always care, and always honor the young men and women who serve."

Reed presented Chris Smith with a flag and thanked Zach Smith and his family for their sacrifice.

"We're here to celebrate a great life in Zach Smith, but it's a life that's not done. He's bringing us all together now," said Reed. "We are together to share with Zach, Chris, and Kim and say we'll never forget."

Joe Racalto, the former chief of staff for the 29th Congressional District and a friend of Chris Smith, said the memorial stone won't be set up outside the Post Office until several permits with the postmaster general are complete.

But while the memorial refers to the office as the "Zachary Smith Post Office Building," no nameplate has been posted on the outside of the building, and it isn't clear when, or if, Smith's name will ever be displayed.

Federal red tape prohibiting the posting of names and plaques on the outside of Post Office buildings has stalled the efforts to put Smith's name on the office, despite Congress officially naming it after Smith in 2010.

Congressman Tom Reed agreed to sponsor the "Zachary D. Smith Federal Buildings Memorial Act," which Racalto authored. The bill, if passed, would allow memorials and plaques to be posted on the outside of Post Offices by an act of Congress.

Chris Smith is hoping his son's name would eventually be on the outside of the building.

"I want it there. I don't know why. From day one, I thought it was going to be there. It's dedicated to him. He's my boy," he said.

Reed said he wasn't sure when the legislation would be approved.



[http://www.13wham.com/news/local/story/Hornell-s-Hero-Honored-Lance-Cpl-Zach-Smith/\\_TNTwrGonUORx9\\_PZf8YbA.csp](http://www.13wham.com/news/local/story/Hornell-s-Hero-Honored-Lance-Cpl-Zach-Smith/_TNTwrGonUORx9_PZf8YbA.csp)

## Hornell's Hero Honored: Lance Cpl. Zach Smith

Related Links

- [Hornell Post Office Named After Lance Cpl. Zachary Smith](#)
- [A Marine's Father Says It All](#)



Reported by: Sean Carroll  
Email: [scarroll@13wham.com](mailto:scarroll@13wham.com)  
Published: 5/30 6:33 pm  
Updated: 6:57 am

Hornell, N.Y. - Lance Corporal Zachary Smith was just 19-years-old when a roadside bomb in Afghanistan exploded, ending his life. In his hometown of Hornell, Smith is honored as a hero and as a young man who embodied the patriotic feelings of the entire community.

The Hornell post office not far from Smith's home was renamed last year in his honor thanks to an Act of Congress and the President's signature. Yet efforts continue to change a federal law that prohibits Smith's name from actually appearing on the outside of that red brick building. Currently nothing more than the city, state, and zip code are allowed to adorn the outside of a U.S. Post Office.

"It's classic Washington D.C. and what we're going to do is work with the Smith family and families across all of America to change it, so that we can put these names on the Post Offices so people can be remembered for generations to come," Rep. Tom Reed (R, New York) said of the law.

In front of that very post office, the community gathered to present Smith's family with a large plaque and again honor their son on this Memorial Day. Smith's father Chris is a New York State Trooper who said this holiday has taken on greater significance for him.

"It used be a day off, or as a Trooper, it used to be a day you'd get a lot of extra tickets because everybody's going a lot faster," Chris Smith said. "Everything is different, during the National Anthem now I look around to see who's got their hat on because it just gets under my skin and I see whose talking and who's not paying attention. Before I used to just look at the flag and not think of those things and now I do."

Thanks in large part to this tightly knit community, the Smith's continue to find ways to keep their son's memory alive.

"I learn everyday something new, how many people are affected by this," Kim Smith, Zach's mom said. "To know that there are 6,000 families out there--with just these two wars--that are affected and have to go to bed a different way and have to wake up a different way, and have to struggle through days just to get through them to get to the next day, and we have smiles on our face occasionally and it's Zach shining down making sure we're still functioning."

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<http://www.whec.com/news/stories/S2133551.shtml?cat=566>

## Hornell community honors local Marine killed in battle



<http://www.whec.com/news/stories/S2133551.shtml?cat=566>

This Memorial Day, the Town of Hornell will honor a young man from that community who died serving our country.

A memorial stone for Marine Lance Corporal Zachary Smith will be unveiled in a ceremony on Monday.

The ceremony will begin at 2 p.m. in front of the Hornell Post office, which was renamed in Smith's memory.

Smith was killed in 2010 during a battle with militants in Afghanistan. He was awarded a Purple Heart.

For more Rochester, N.Y. news, visit our website [www.whec.com](http://www.whec.com)

## EveningTribune.com

<http://www.eveningtribune.com/features/x724659906/Hundreds-line-street-for-Hornell-Memorial-Day-parade>

## Hundreds line street for Hornell Memorial Day Parade



**Marine Lance Cpl. Zach Smith's mother, Kim, places the Gold Star Mothers Wreath as part of the Memorial Day services on Broadway.**





**By Andrew Poole**

[The Evening Tribune](#)

Posted May 31, 2011 @ 08:58 AM

Hornell, N.Y. —

The sacrifices of veterans — and their families — were remembered and celebrated Monday during Hornell’s Memorial Day observance.

Hundreds lined Main Street in appreciation of veterans as fire trucks, military vehicles, and antique cars paraded through the Maple City, ending with the memorial services at the Veterans’ Monuments on Broadway. Hornell native and retired Air Force Lt. Col. Tom McCarthy was the guest speaker during the memorial services.

While the parade and service didn’t equal those of other cities in size and fame, said Hornell Fire Chief and Marine Corps veteran Dan Smith, it matched them in feeling.

“Today, across the nation, there are ceremonies taking place like ours. Ours isn’t as renowned as the one in Arlington, but the meaning is the same,” he said.

McCarthy said tributes to men and women in the military are most convincing in smaller communities, like Hornell.

“Let us recall, just how that price, burden, and hardship has been paid by soliders, sailors, air men, and Marines, that liberty is alive and well,” he said.

He also urged people not to get so wrapped up in their day-to-day lives that they can’t appreciate the sacrifices made in their defense.

“Don’t let it keep you from your obligation to honor the fallen. Take the day, hold their families dear, and remember the fallen. Make Memorial Day part of your everyday life,” he said.

Hornell Mayor Shawn Hogan urged people to re-connect with veterans and those currently serving and to understand the sacrifices they have made.

“Over the years, the numbers serving have dwindled to less than 1 percent of families having someone serving. I think we’ve become disconnected. It becomes white noise to many who don’t know anyone who’s serving. Don’t forget the sacrifices they and their families make,” he said.

Smith urged people to support the families of veterans and those currently serving, and to remember their sacrifices.

“It is important to remember that for every veteran that is gone, there is a family that mourns. No one values the cost of freedom more than veterans and their families,” he said. “This is a day for men and women who gave their lives in the name of freedom. Always remember, they gave up all their tomorrows for our todays.”

The memorial service featured wreath layings by service men and women and their families and performances by the Hornell High School choir.

Other speakers included Hornell High School salutatorian Trevor Nilson, who read John McCrae’s “In Flanders Field,” and valedictorian Ryan Puffer, who read Abraham Lincoln’s “Gettysburg Address.” Hornell American Legion Commander William Coleman also read General John Logan’s orders, written in 1868, regarding the observance of Memorial Day.

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4:18

### [In Memory of Zach Smith](#)

This video was made In Memory of **Zach Smith**. A graduate from **Hornell High School**, **Zach** became a Marine. He was on a mission in Afghanistan when a ...

by [Woodhull39](#) | 1 year ago | 21,357 views



7:04

### [In Memory of Lance Cpl. Zach Smith](#)

by [LynnBrennanPhotograp](#) | 1 year ago | 9,005 views



5:37

### [tribute to hornell marine](#)

RIP **Zach smith**, rest in peace marine.

by [starfreedomfighter](#) | 1 year ago | 884 views



1:21

### [USMC tribute. RIP Zach Smith](#)

this is a video to reconize the marines that serve for us. my freind jake, his cousin, **zach smith**, stepped on a road side bomb while serving. RIP ...

by [skiierdude43](#) | 11 months ago | 1,172 views



1:55

### [Saying Goodbye to a Fallen Hero](#)

was killed while serving his country in Afghanistan. ... "Vince Slomsky" **Hornell** marine **zach** "**zachary smith**" afghanistan war hero television news ...

by [vslomsky](#) | 8 months ago | 295 views



3:12

### [In memory of Lance Cpl. Zachary Smith](#)

Lance Cpl. **Zachary Smith** was killed in afganistan by a roadside bomb and i made this video in memory of him. RIP **zach** you are missed

by [acie9696](#) | 7 months ago | 150 views



2:44

### [Fallen Marine Live Bureau Wrap](#)

after the funeral services for fallen marine, Lance Corporal **Zachary Smith**. ... "Vince Slomsky" "**zach smith** marine" **hornell** television reporter ...

by [vslomsky](#) | 6 months ago | 92 views



6:49

### [zachsmithjersey.MPG](#)

Retiring Zach's Jersey Always in our Memories ... Forever in our Hearts ... We Will Never Forget ... Thank You! Zach: Husband, Son, Brother ...

by [HornellFootballCom](#) | 3 months ago | 383 views

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