

= Jared C. Monti =

Jared Christopher Monti ( September 20 , 1975 ? June 21 , 2006 ) was a Soldier in the United States Army who received the United States military 's highest decoration for valor , the Medal of Honor , for his actions in Afghanistan .

Monti was deployed with his unit when they were attacked by a group of enemy insurgents . When another Soldier was wounded , Monti attempted to rescue him three times and was killed in action . The President signed the authorization for Monti to receive the Medal of Honor and the medal was presented to his family in a ceremony at the White House in 2009 . It was the first Medal of Honor presentation during Obama 's presidency . Monti was the sixth person from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan to be awarded the Medal of Honor .

= = Early life = =

Monti was born in Abington , Massachusetts , on September 20 , 1975 , to Paul , a school teacher , and Janet Monti . He grew up in Raynham , Massachusetts and even as a child the adventurous character that would later earn him the Medal of Honor was , military . As a four @-@ year @-@ old , he disappeared from the backyard one day , and his mother found him later on hanging by the hood of his sweatshirt on the other side of the fence . On another occasion , a migraine headache kept him home from school , but he left the house and was later found climbing a tree . In 1994 he graduated from Bridgewater @-@ Raynham Regional High School at the age of 18 . Monti had two siblings , a sister , Nicole and a brother , Timothy .

= = Military service = =

After enlisting in the Army in March 1993 , he completed basic training and forward observer training at Fort Sill , Oklahoma and continued his training as a paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne Division . Monti , a fire support specialist , served as a staff sergeant and Fire Support Team sergeant with the 3rd Squadron , 71st Cavalry Regiment , 3rd Brigade Combat Team , 10th Mountain Division . Previous to his service in Afghanistan he was deployed to Kosovo , where he sustained injuries while sky diving . He rejected a medical discharge and reenlisted to deploy with his unit to Afghanistan in February 2006 , as part of Task Force Spartan .

= = = Medal of Honor action = = =

On June 21 , 2006 , Monti served as the assistant leader of a 16 @-@ man patrol and leader of a weapons forward observer team tasked with gathering intelligence in Gowardesh , Nuristan Province , in northeastern Afghanistan . The team established a small base on a ridge to support a larger Army operation in the valley below . When the larger operation was delayed , Monti 's team ran low on provisions . The helicopter that brought supplies revealed the team 's position .

That evening , the patrol was attacked by a group of at least 60 insurgents , who had established two positions on a wooded ridge about 50 @-@ yards above the patrol and attempted to outflank Monti and his team . The Americans took cover and returned fire , and Monti radioed for artillery and close air support . Enemy fire killed Staff Sergeant Patrick Lybert . Another Soldier , Specialist Brian J. Bradbury , was severely wounded and left lying in the open between the enemy and the team 's position . Staff Sergeant Chris Cunningham , leader of the patrol 's sniper team , called out that he was going to try to rescue Bradbury . Monti replied , " That ? s my guy . I am going to get him . "

Monti made three attempts to reach Bradbury . On his first , he advanced to within three feet of Bradbury before being forced back by intense machine @-@ gun and rocket @-@ propelled grenade ( RPG ) fire . His second try was similarly turned back and as the rest of his patrol provided covering fire , Monti advanced a third time but was struck by an RPG . Some news reports indicated that the explosion blew off both of his legs , but this is not supported by family accounts or military records . Monti attempted to crawl back towards cover . He is reported by comrades to have made

his peace with God and asked Sgt. Cunningham to tell his parents he loved them . Monti died moments later . At about the same time , the artillery and air support for which he had called began hitting the enemy position , killing 22 of the attackers and dispersing the rest .

SPC Bradbury subsequently died during his evacuation when the cable on the rescue hoist lifting him to a 159th Medical Company ( Air Ambulance ) helicopter broke . The fall also killed Staff Sergeant Heath Craig , 28 , a medic from Severn , Maryland .

= = Burial and Medal of Honor ceremony = =

Monti is buried in section 11 , site 38 of the Massachusetts National Cemetery in Bourne , Massachusetts . The Army posthumously promoted him to sergeant first class .

On July 24 , 2009 President Barack Obama signed the authorization for Monti to receive the Medal of Honor for this action . The medal was presented to the family by the President in a formal ceremony at the White House on September 17 , 2009 . Monti is the 3,448th recipient of the honor since the medal was established by the U.S. Congress during the American Civil War . Additionally , he is the second Medal of Honor recipient from the conflict in Afghanistan , after Navy SEAL Michael P. Murphy , who received the medal in 2007 .

= = Military awards = =

SFC Monti 's personal decorations include :

= = = Medal of Honor citation = = =

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty .

Sergeant First Class Monti distinguished himself at the cost of his life while serving as a team leader with the Headquarters and Headquarters Troop , 3d Squadron , 71st Cavalry Regiment in Nuristan Province , Afghanistan on 21 June 2006 . On that day , Sergeant First Class Monti was leading a mission to gather intelligence and to direct fires against the enemy in support of a squadron @-@ size interdiction mission . While at an observation position on top of a mountain ridge , Sergeant First Class Monti ' s sixteen @-@ man patrol came under attack by a superior force consisting of as many as 50 enemy fighters . On the verge of being overrun , Sergeant First Class Monti directed his patrol to set up a hasty defensive position behind a collection of rocks . He then began to call for indirect fire from a nearby support base ; accurately bringing the rounds upon the enemy who had closed to within 50 meters of his position . While still calling for fire , Sergeant First Class Monti personally engaged the enemy with his rifle and a grenade , successfully disrupting an attempt to flank the patrol . Sergeant First Class Monti then realized that one of his Soldiers was lying wounded and exposed in the open ground between the advancing enemy and the patrol ' s position . With complete disregard for his own safety , Sergeant First Class Monti moved from behind the cover of the rocks into the face of withering enemy fire . After closing within meters of his wounded Soldier , the heavy volume of fire forced Sergeant First Class Monti to seek cover . Sergeant First Class Monti then gathered himself and rose again to maneuver through a barrage of enemy fire to save his wounded Soldier . Again , Sergeant First Class Monti was driven back by relentless enemy fire . Unwilling to leave his Soldier wounded and exposed , Sergeant First Class Monti made another attempt to move across open terrain and through the enemy fire to the aid of his wounded Soldier . On his third attempt , Sergeant First Class Monti was mortally wounded , sacrificing his own life in an effort to save his Soldier . Sergeant First Class Monti ' s acts of heroism inspired the patrol to fight off the larger enemy force . Sergeant First Class Monti ' s immeasurable courage and uncommon valor were in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself , 3d Squadron 71st Cavalry Regiment , the 3d Brigade Combat Team , the 10th Mountain Division ( Light Infantry ) , and the United States Army .

= = Other honors = =

On January 13 , 2009 , Marc R. Pacheco submitted a petition to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to designate a state owned bridge in the town of Raynham as the SFC Jared C. Monti Bridge . The motion passed and the state Senate approved for the bridge to be renamed .

A call @-@ for @-@ fire training facility at Fort Sill , Oklahoma , where Monti trained , is named in his honor .

The former Pine Plains Fitness Center on Fort Drum has been renamed the Monti Fitness Facility in honor of SFC Jared C. Monti .

In May , 2013 , Connie Harrington , songwriter of Lee Brice 's number one country hit " I Drive Your Truck , " revealed that she wrote the song after listening to Monti 's father , Paul , on the public radio program Here & Now . It was Paul Monti 's answer to Here & Now when asked what he did to reconnect with his son 's memory .