

GEORGE
MONSOOR

AND
ROSE REA



DEFEND US IN BATTLE

THE TRUE STORY
of MA2 Navy SEAL
Medal of Honor Recipient
MICHAEL A. MONSOOR

FOREWORD BY
DR. DONALD C. WINTER,
FRMR. SECRETARY OF THE NAVY



A PDF COMPANION TO THE AUDIOBOOK

Defend Us in Battle

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AWARDS

The President of the United States in the name of The Congress takes pride in presenting the MEDAL OF HONOR posthumously to

MASTER-AT-ARMS SECOND CLASS (SEA, AIR AND LAND)
MICHAEL A. MONSOOR
UNITED STATES NAVY

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as an Automatic Weapons Gunner for Naval Special Warfare Task Group Arabian Peninsula, during the Battle of Ramadi, Iraq, on 29 September 2006. As a member of a combined SEAL and Iraqi Army sniper overwatch team, he was tasked with providing early warning and stand-off protection in support of Task Force Red Currahee in an insurgent held sector of Ramadi. Petty Officer Monsoor distinguished himself by his exceptional bravery in the face of grave danger and a determined enemy. In the early morning, enemy insurgents began to execute a coordinated assault on the team's rooftop position. Snipers thwarted the enemy's initial attack by killing two insurgents, but the enemy continued to assault, engaging the team with a rocket-propelled grenade and effective small-arms fire. Despite the increase in enemy activity, Petty Officer Monsoor and his team refused the idea of abandoning their position, which at this point provided crucial protection for the western flank of American troops. He took up a position with his machine gun between two teammates on an outcropping of the roof, from which the three SEALs were able to maximize their coverage of the area most vulnerable to enemy attack. While the SEALs vigilantly watched for enemy movement, an insurgent threw a hand grenade from an unseen location, which bounced off Petty Officer Monsoor's chest and landed in front of him. He instantly identified the immediate danger to his teammates, who were located just feet from the grenade. Although he could have escaped the blast, he instead chose to protect his fellow SEALs. Unhesitatingly, and with complete disregard for his own life, he threw himself onto the grenade, and absorbed the force of the explosion with his body, saving the lives of two teammates and preventing probable injury to another. Petty Officer Monsoor's undaunted courage, selfless nature, and unwavering devotion to duty in the face of certain death reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life for his country.



THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350-1000

The President of the United States takes pride in presenting the
SILVER STAR MEDAL posthumously to

MASTER-AT-ARMS SECOND CLASS (SEA, AIR AND LAND)
MICHAEL A. MONSOOR
UNITED STATES NAVY

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action against the enemy as Platoon Machine Gunner, Naval Special Warfare Task Group - Arabian Peninsula, Task Unit Ramadi, Iraq on 9 May 2006. Petty Officer Monsoor was the Platoon Machine Gunner of an overwatch element, providing security for an Iraqi Army Brigade during counter-insurgency operations. While moving toward extraction, the Iraqi Army and Naval Special Warfare overwatch team received effective enemy automatic weapons fire resulting in one SEAL wounded in action. Immediately, Petty Officer Monsoor, with complete disregard for his own safety, exposed himself to heavy enemy fire in order to provide suppressive fire and fight his way to the wounded SEAL's position. He continued to provide effective suppressive fire while simultaneously dragging the wounded SEAL to safety. Petty Officer Monsoor maintained suppressive fire as the wounded SEAL received tactical casualty treatment to his leg. He also helped load his wounded teammate into a High Mobility Multi-Purpose Wheeled Vehicle for evacuation, then returned to combat. By his bold initiative, undaunted courage, and complete dedication to duty, Petty Officer Monsoor reflected great credit upon himself and upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

For the President,

Secretary of the Navy



COMMANDER
NAVAL SPECIAL WARFARE COMMAND

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the
BRONZE STAR MEDAL posthumously to

MASTER-AT-ARMS SECOND CLASS (SEA, AIR AND LAND)
MICHAEL A. MONSOOR
UNITED STATES NAVY

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

For heroic achievement in connection with combat operations against the enemy as Task Unit Ramadi, Iraq, Combat Advisor for Naval Special Warfare Task Group - Arabian Peninsula in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM from April to September 2006. On 11 different operations, Petty Officer Monsoor exposed himself to heavy enemy fire while shielding his teammates with suppressive fire. He aggressively stabilized each chaotic situation with focused determination and uncanny tactical awareness. Each time insurgents assaulted his team with small arms fire or rocket propelled grenades, he quickly assessed the situation, determined the best course of action to counter the enemy assaults, and implemented his plan to gain the best tactical advantage. His selfless, decisive, heroic actions resulted in 25 enemy killed and saved the lives of his teammates, other Coalition Forces and Iraqi Army soldiers. By his extraordinary guidance, zealous initiative, and total dedication to duty, Petty Officer Monsoor reflected great credit upon himself and upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

The Combat Distinguishing Device is authorized.

For the President,

J. MAGUIRE
Rear Admiral, United States Navy
Commander, Naval Special Warfare Command