



**The Chris Moon Memorial Project:
Honoring an American Hero**



Chris Moon was an outstanding multi-sport student athlete who graduated from THS in 2007.

Chris was on the varsity golf team his Sophomore and Junior years, played Freshmen football and was a member of the varsity football team his Senior year, and played baseball all 4 years. He was on the varsity baseball team his Sophomore, Junior and Senior years.

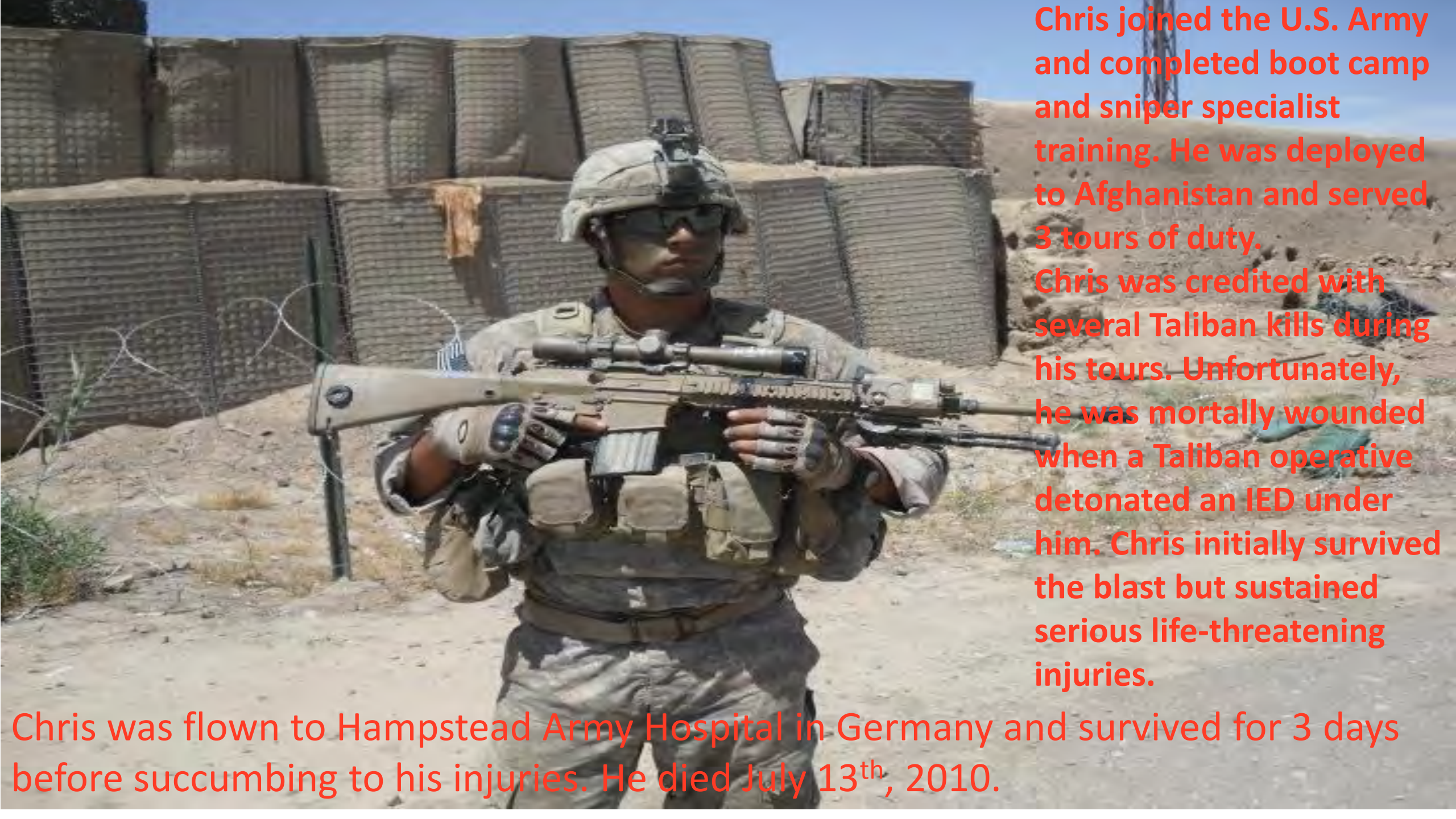


While Chris was a gifted athlete and was successful in every sport he played, it was baseball Chris excelled in the most. He was an outstanding centerfielder and pitcher with a gifted arm, as well as a great hitter. He received numerous awards including Southern Arizona player of the year as a Senior. He was drafted by the Atlanta Braves MLB team out of high school, but Chris chose to attend the University of Arizona on a baseball scholarship instead.

Chris attended the U of A and worked out with the Wildcats baseball team in the Fall of 2007. He played with the team during the Fall scrimmage season of his Freshman year at the U of A.



However, at the end of his Freshman Fall semester, Chris informed Head U of A baseball coach Andy Lopez that he wished to rescind his scholarship and was leaving school to fulfill his childhood dream of serving his country as a member of the United States Armed Forces.



Chris joined the U.S. Army and completed boot camp and sniper specialist training. He was deployed to Afghanistan and served 3 tours of duty.

Chris was credited with several Taliban kills during his tours. Unfortunately, he was mortally wounded when a Taliban operative detonated an IED under him. Chris initially survived the blast but sustained serious life-threatening injuries.

Chris was flown to Hampstead Army Hospital in Germany and survived for 3 days before succumbing to his injuries. He died July 13th, 2010.

Chris's sacrifice has been compared to Pat Tillman's. In fact, he has been called the high school/college version of Pat Tillman. Both gave up a lot to serve our country. Pat Tillman gave up a lucrative NFL contract with the Arizona Cardinals. Chris gave up a baseball scholarship and even a potential major league baseball career. Both paid the ultimate price for their service.



The Arizona Cardinals erected a life-sized statue of their fallen American hero. We feel it is incumbent on Tucson High School to do the same for our fallen hero, Chris Moon.



Pat Tillman Memorial statue located in front of University of Phoenix Stadium in Glendale, Arizona

Working with Chris's Goldstar parents, Brian and Marsha Moon, we commissioned Ann LaRose, a local Tucson artist, to develop a memorial statue design that would honor Chris as both a THS baseball student-athlete, and also as a United States military soldier. She created this design which was enthusiastically approved by the Moon family. The cost of the statue project was quoted as \$60,000. We began to fundraise for the project, initially setting up a "GO Fund Me" page website which raised approximately \$3,500.

CHRIS MOON



MEMORIAL

Our fundraising efforts received a huge boost in 2014 when Legacies Alive, a national 501c3 non-profit organization, committed to help with funding the memorial statue project. Founded by U.S. Army veteran Mike Viti, Legacies Alive is dedicated to helping families and friends of fallen soldiers erect memorials for them in their hometowns across America. Legacies Alive has contributed nearly \$30,000 to our fundraising efforts to date! <http://www.legaciesalive.com>

Combined with our other fundraising efforts, such as the Chris Moon Memorial Golf Tournament held annually in July/August at the Omni National Golf resort,

<https://www.facebook.com/events/554275764743715/> we are proud to announce the Chris Moon Memorial Statue Project is now fully funded!

Chris Moon's Memorial Statue Project is now underway! Last Summer, Chris's Goldstar Mom Marsha flew to Denver, Colorado to give her final approval of Chris's likeness in our artist's clay rendering, which is now currently at the foundry preparing for the bronze to be casted into the mold made from the clay rendering!



Our artist's design also includes this 3 dimensional bust of Chris in his military dress uniform with the American flag lovingly draped around him. She even included eagle feathers and a traditional medicine pouch to pay homage to Chris's Navajo ancestry!



This bust is designed to be hung on a granite wall which will also serve a backdrop for Chris's stand-alone THS baseball statue. It will also be cast in bronze.

Speaking of that granite wall; it was not included in the artist's project cost. We needed to provide that ourselves. Where to find a huge slab of granite that could virtually stand on its own?



The answer? Via an on-line auction! I located this beautiful pink granite slab and after consulting Marsha Moon decided to bid on it. It is 9 feet tall by 6 feet wide and 2 feet thick. Estimated weight: 17,000 pounds! I was informed I was the winning bidder with a bid of \$162.00! We were able to get it transported from the auction site in Chandler to Tucson for \$1600.00. It currently sits at Cherry Field awaiting final installation!



The statue is expected to be delivered and installed in time for a grand un-veiling in conjunction with the Chris Moon Memorial Baseball Tournament in March 2017. Thanks to all of our fundraising sponsors, including Legacies Alive and Rick Perrault with American Legion baseball, and of course all of our willing donors!

Finally, we would like to thank TUSD administration, including Director of Interscholastics Herman House, Asst. Superintendent Dr. Abel Morado, Dr. Sanchez and the Superintendent's Leadership Team, and the TUSD Governing Board for approving our project to honor our very own American hero, Chris Moon!

Thank you for your Support!
The Chris Moon Memorial Project Team

Mike Boese MS ATC - Head THS Athletic Trainer

Oscar Romero - Head THS Baseball Coach

Gary Lewis - THS Physical Education Instructor

Landyn Lewis - Omni National Resort Golf Pro

Brian and Marsha Moon - Gold Star Parents