

Star 35 - West

Army Sergeant. 1st Class James D. Priestap



Sergeant Priestap was a platoon leader for his Army National Guard unit in Baghdad, Iraq. He was assigned to the 46th Military Police Company, 759th Military Police Battalion in Kingsford, Michigan. Sgt. Priestap was among 60 members of his unit, which was deployed to Iraq on July 9, 2006. They had trained in Fort Dix, New Jersey for six weeks before heading into the combat zone.

Sergeant Priestap was on duty at Checkpoint 17 where he was distributing food and water to Iraqi Police when he was shot and killed on the 23rd day of November which was Thanksgiving Day by a sniper bullet to the heart. Just minutes before Sergeant Priestap had been smiling and giving candy to the kids in the area.

Jim had a huge heart and would do absolutely anything for his soldiers under his command said one of the members of his unit. It has also reported that Jim was the type of guy everybody liked and that he always had a smile on his face.

His star was placed by his friend Retired Sergeant Major Tom Polino on November 17th, 2016.