

# NEWS RELEASE

## Clarion Area Chamber of Business & Industry

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### CLARION HOSPITAL "TOURNAMENT OF LEAVES" GRAND MARSHAL

The Clarion Area Chamber of Business & Industry is proud to announce the grand marshal for the Clarion Hospital Tournament of Leaves Parade.

The late Sergeant Joseph M. Garrison, a 2002 graduate of Redbank Valley High School, will be honored as the grand marshal of the 2011 Clarion Hospital "Tournament of Leaves" Parade that will be held on Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

While attending Redbank Valley High School he participated in football, track, and wrestling. Sergeant Garrison excelled in the sport of wrestling throughout his junior and senior years and also participated in off-season tournaments for NHACA, AAU, and MAWA. He was a huge Miami Dolphins and Penn State football fan and enjoyed watching the Pittsburgh Penguins.

During his senior year Joseph was impacted by the events of September 11<sup>th</sup> and decided to become a Marine. He entered the delayed enlistment program in February 2002 and left for Boot Camp in August 2002 after graduation to start his journey as a Marine.

He served for nine years which included five tours of duty. His first deployment was a sea service deployment to Japan aboard a Navy ship in 2003-2004. He served 4 tours in Afghanistan: 2004-2005, 2006, 2009, and 2011.

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Sergeant Garrison received the following awards: Purple Heart, Navy and Marine Corp. Commendation Medal with Combat Distinguishing Device; Navy and Marine Corp. Achievement Medal (Gold Star in lieu of 2<sup>nd</sup> award); Combat Action Ribbon with 1 Star; Joint Meritorious Unit Award; Navy Unit Commendation; Marine Corp. Good Conduct Medal; National Defense Service Medal; Afghanistan Campaign Medal with 3 Stars; Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal; Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; Sea Service Deployment Ribbon with 4 Stars; NATO Medal-ISAF Afghanistan.

Sergeant Garrison earned squad leader as part of the 2/8 Battalion Fox Company. While on patrol during his fourth deployment in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, during Operation Enduring Freedom, Sergeant Garrison instructed his men to move to safety while he advanced on foot to investigate an IED. The IED was remotely detonated which resulted in Sergeant Garrison's death on June 6, 2011.

We need to remember and honor all of our service men and women who dedicate their lives each day so that we can be free.

Sergeant Garrison will be missed by many and is truly an American Hero. He will be represented in the parade by his mother Natalie, sister Judy and her husband Seth, his brother Jacob, nephew Rylan, niece Adalyn, and fellow marines.