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California Department of Veterans Affairs

VETERANS NEWS

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NEWS FROM THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT AFFAIRS

SILVER STAR AWARDED TO CPL. ERIC G. PIOTROWSKI

SACRAMENTO -- On a cold December night a few days ago, California Department of Veterans Affairs Undersecretary Roger Brautigan joined an excited and proud family in their home to surprise Cpl. Eric G. Piotrowski with an official presentation of the Silver Star he deservedly was awarded for his actions during Operation Desert Storm.

“I was honored to be able to present Cpl. Piotrowski with the Silver Star Medal for his actions while serving our country in Kuwait,” said Brautigan. “The highlight of the evening was to surprise Eric in front of his loving wife, his children, and the many family members and friends who gathered to celebrate the occasion. I was deeply moved while reading Eric’s citation for it detailed the dedication, commitment, and courage he demonstrated 16 years ago.”

*Undersecretary Brautigan presents the Silver Star Medal to Cpl. Eric G. Piotrowsk
picture are the Corporal's wife Jennifer and son Gregory.*

CPL. PIOTROWSKI'S CITATION READS AS FOLLOWS:

Page 2

**The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the
SILVER STAR MEDAL to**

**CPL. ERIC G. PIOTROWSKI
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS**

for service as set forth in the following CITATION:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action against the enemy while serving as the Platoon Sergeant and as the Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge of his Universal Fire Support Vehicle with 3 1st Force Reconnaissance Company, 1st Marine Division from 24 to 2 February 1991. Corporal Piotrowski led his platoon, navigated for the Battalion, and controlled supporting arms well forward of the lead elements throughout Operations DESERT STORM.

On 24th February 1991 at the second breach site, he maintained his forward exposed position, making targets, suppressing the enemy with direct fire, and controlling artillery fires in spite of heavy in-direct fire, which caused shrapnel damage to his vehicle. Corporal Piotrowski's superior actions reduced the enemies' resistance to fight and allowed the breaching forces to move forward. During an Iraqi counter-attack on 25 February 1991, he exposed himself to direct enemy fire while providing suppressive fires to cover an anti-tank team, which was maneuvering to destroy an Iraqi T-62 tank.

On the night of 26 February 1991, during an attack on Iraqi defenses around the Kuwait International Airport, Corporal Piotrowski returned through enemy positions, totally disregarding his personal safety, to guide separated elements of the unit back to the battalion position. By his bold leadership, wise judgment, and complete dedication to duty, Corporal Piotrowski reflected great credit upon himself and upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service.

For the President,

/s/

Henry L. Garrett, III
Secretary of the Navy

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