

Michael Lane Stansbery

Funks way

Michael Stansbery, for those who know “Stan the Man,” the first thing that probably comes to mind is Anime, “Funks way,” and the camera man. The first time that I met Michael was in B Battery. I walked into the dayroom and there was Stansbery looking lost. I asked him who he was. He replied smartly back, “Stansbery.” I asked him what he was doing there, and he replied smartly again, “I don’t know, I just got here!” I finally asked him what battery he was assigned to again replied that he didn’t know. So I told him that he should probably go to battalion and that they would square him away. He just gave me a quick headshake and a nod and said yes! So I left and little while later I came back and there was Michael still sitting there with the same lost look as before.

I didn’t see Michael again until I got assigned to PSD. Not until then did I get to know the real Stansbery. Michael was a quiet guy who kept to himself and never had any complaints. Except the time that he had his wisdom teeth taken out at Kandahar Air Field a week after coming to Afghanistan. But who wouldn’t complain with a face as swollen as his was. We in PSD would be doing our thing after a long mission and there Stansbery would be sitting on his bed writing in his journal or watching his Anime until MG (SFC FLYNN) said, “Gents we need some Funks way in this tent!” Stansbery would always be the one in charge of tent maintenance. He switch from quiet Stansbery to let’s get the job done. He would task us all and we learned to respect his leadership skill in this way. Michael was also the PSD camera man. Since we left Fort Campbell, Stansbery had the camera out capturing the funny and sometimes crazy moments of the PSD.

Michael Stansbery was one of those guys if you told him to do something he would do it. He might give you a weird look at first, but he would get the job done with no complaints. He wouldn’t complain no matter how long or hot the mission was. When the rest of PSD expressed a little weakness there was Stansbery to strengthen our spirit and help us drive on. I can remember many times when he would be climbing over the walls in the orchards with his heavy automatic weapon and I would be motivated to climb it next after him with my light rifle.

I didn't know Michael Stansbery long, but I learned a lot about him in the couple months I was with him. Michael Stansbery was brave, he knew the risk every time he stepped outside the wire and he even waived his dwell time from his previous tour in Iraq to be with us in Afghanistan showing us his great selfless service to his comrades. His personal courage and unwavering determination and passion for all of us in PSD made him a big part of our lives and will be sorely missed. He brought a lot to us whether it was laughter or pulling security . He once said that he didn't think that his parents were proud of him. Well Stansbery I know they are proud of you! We are all proud of you here in TOP GUNS! We lost a great buddy and soldier on July 30 2010. But we didn't lose the spirit of you Stansbery and it keeps us going on our continuing missions ahead. And your sacrifice will not be forgotten. Give him hell as you used to say.

Our condolences go out to the Stansbery family. Your son was a great man! Stansbery I know you will be watching down on us keeping all of us safe. And as for me and CPL Wilkins as point men, we will always know that we are not alone because we have you by our side leading the way. And don't worry Stan the Man, we will keep that tent clean. There will always be Funks way. Michael Lane Stansbery, you will be greatly missed and Never Forgotten.

From all of us in PSD:

LTC David Flynn

SFC Robert Flynn

SSG Jason Hamilton

SGT Chris Hatton

SGT Matthew Hubbard

CPL Bobby Wilkins

CPL Anthony Gomez

SPC Mathew Leach

SPC Brian McGlaughin

PV2 Brian Burkhard

PV2 Richard Larson

PV2 Zachary Sisson

Akmal (Interpreter)