



## Corporal ZACHERY McCORMACK



Killed: 30 December, 2009  
Kandahar, Afghanistan

Date of Birth:

Place of Birth:

Age: - 21

Military Service: - Service Number  
- Loyal Edmonton Regiment, 4 PPCLI

Family: - mother Amande, father Robin, two younger sisters Courtney and Isabelle  
- engaged to Nicole

Cpl. McCormack was serving with the Provincial Reconstruction Team and was killed with three other Canadian soldiers and a Canadian reporter. He was killed in an attack by an improvised explosive device on their armoured vehicle during a patrol. "Zach, as he was known to his friends and family, was a gentle soul, cared deeply about his family, leaving his mother Armande, father Robin, younger sister Courtney, and younger sister Isabelle and fiancé Nicole missing their one and only Zach," said a short statement released Friday by the army on behalf of the family.

From Afghanistan, McCormack e-mailed his wrestling coach in Sherwood Park, with plans to return to the sport when he got back to Canada. Glenn Purych said Thursday he never knew what drew

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McCormack -- a scrappy 21-year-old who wrestled "smart" -- to the sport as a child, a teenager and an adult. But he is certain that pride and loyalty drew McCormack to military reserve duty in high school, then Afghanistan earlier this year. He took pride in wrestling at different championship tournaments, like nationals. He had a pride, a pride in his country," Purych said. "And he liked being a soldier."

McCormack was among four Canadian soldiers and a Canadian journalist killed in Afghanistan Wednesday. "He made the choice, he enlisted. Being in the reserves, they don't call you like you have to go," Purych said. "He made the choice to go." McCormack was a member of the Salisbury Wrestling Club throughout junior high and high school, then as an adult.

He graduated from Salisbury Composite High School in Sherwood Park in 2006, and he was engaged to be married to a woman who is from a small town called Legal, just north of Edmonton. "He was a good, solid teammate kind of kid," Purych said. "He was quiet, but was very friendly when you would talk to him and (he) had subtle, good jokes ... Athletes come smart and sometimes they come not so smart. He was smart. He approached (wrestling) logically and technically. "Purych said McCormack, who was trained as an electrician, was analytical and compassionate. "He had a calm within himself as an athlete," he said. "He was there to try to make a more peaceful world and I think he would want us to understand that he gave his life for those virtues. I hope his legacy lives on."

McCormack's friend and teammate, Jack Bond, said the soldier was a "good guy, mild-mannered." "Even as an adult, he wrestled at 50 kilos. He was a small guy," Bond said, describing McCormack as about five-foot-three and tough. "I knew he was always sort of interested in (the military). He did a lot of paintball and stuff like that," Bond said. "He was a quiet guy, he just kind of went out there and got the job done." McCormack was a reservist infantryman with the Loyal Edmonton Regiment, based at the Jefferson Armoury in Edmonton. The military said Thursday he joined the Canadian Forces in 2006, and this was his first deployment.