

Good Neighbor

A Hero's Welcome — Paul Millbrandt returns home from Afghanistan

by Mary Coyle Sullivan

It was certainly a happy holiday in the Darien home of Paul and Linda Millbrandt when they welcomed home their son, 24 year old Illinois National Guard Specialist Paul Jr. after a one year deployment in Afghanistan. Excitement filled the air when the news came that Paul would be home for the holidays! His sister Melissa and brother Matthew were ecstatic to spend Christmas with their older brother, home safe and sound from serving as a Police Mentor and Combat Advisory in the northwest corner of Afghanistan.



Specialist Millbrandt pictured with medic and language assistants also known as interpreters. They play a vital roll in our success of the overall missions in Afghanistan. They are the language bridge between the American and the Afghan people on a daily basis.

Paul's parents could not be any prouder of their son and all his accomplishments. They were very apprehensive when he enlisted 6 years ago while a senior at Downers Grove South High School. Paul said he was not ready to go off to college and knew there was something more he needed to do. He wanted to make a difference and do something out of the norm. His fascination with GI Joes as a kid led him to explore the military and enlist to serve our state and country. While in Afghanistan Paul encountered real conflict and thankfully emerged unharmed. He also had first hand experience with helping the people in the villages and the youngest victims of the war, the children of Afghanistan. His group completed Humanitarian Missions to the villages and distributed food, clothing, shoes and school supplies. Some of the most basic needs are pure luxuries for the young and old in this war torn country.



*The Police mentoring team in order from top left to right
Top row: SSG Murphy , Navy core men HM2 Schinder
Second row: 1st LT. Longto (Team Chief); CLP. Adkins
Bottom row: SSG Anderson; Specialist Millbrandt*

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We salute all the brave men and woman serving and protecting our country both at home and abroad. Because of their brave and courageous efforts we can remain the home of the free and the brave!



All of the American Soldiers 08' to 09' that lived on the FOB (Forward Operating Base) that were mentors in the North West corner of Afghanistan. They mentored the ANA (Afghanistan National Army) and The ANP (Afghanistan national Police) on a daily basis.

Mom and Dad are amazed at how much Paul has matured and how determined he is now to earn his college degree and major in International Business. This will be possible with the college plan that allows all of Paul's college tuition to be paid for 100%. Paul has already earned college credit at College of DuPage during the time he was home working as a recruiter and honor guard prior to his deployment. Now he hopes to go to University of Illinois Chicago or De Paul to earn his bachelors degree.

Paul is truly and inspiration and role model for kids. His honor, courage and dedication has made him an outstanding citizen and Good Neighbor to all in Darien and nationwide.

***We are very proud of you
Paul Millbrandt and thank you
for your service!***



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