Sgt. 1st Class Joshua Zachary Beale 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne)

Sgt. 1st Class Joshua Z. Beale, a Special Forces weapons sergeant, assigned to 1st Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne), died January 22, 2019, of wounds sustained from small arms fire while engaged in combat operations in Uruzgan Province, Afghanistan.

Beale, 32, a native of Carrollton, Virginia, graduated from Old Dominion University in 2008 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in 2011 and attended basic training and the U.S. Army Airborne School, Fort Benning, Georgia.

Beale graduated from the Special Forces Qualification Course in 2013 and was subsequently assigned to 3rd SFG (A). He was on his fourth overseas tour, and third tour to Afghanistan, when he was killed.

His military education includes the Advanced Leader Course, Special Forces Sniper Course, and U.S. Army Ranger School.



His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal (2OLC), Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Overseas Service Ribbon, NATO Medal, , Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Special Forces Tab, Ranger Tab, Parachutist Badge and Combat Infantry Badge.

Beale was posthumously promoted to Sgt. 1st Class and awarded the Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart, and Meritorious Service Medal.

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