

Narrative Page

NARRATIVE TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF

THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL WITH "V" DEVICE

TO

SERGEANT NIKOLAS R. RAMIREZ

Sergeant Nikolas R. Ramirez, United States Army, distinguished himself by heroic action to the United States as a Team Leader in 3rd Platoon, Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, Task Force Devil Strike, Train, Advise, Assist Command - South, Afghanistan in support of Operation FREEDOM'S SENTINEL

On 2 August 2017, 3rd Platoon, A Co 2-504th PIR was returning from an advising mission in Kandahar City, heading South on Highway 4. Sergeant Ramirez was the vehicle commander for the fourth vehicle in the convoy (BH24) when a vehicle borne improvised explosive device, driven by a suicide bomber, pulled next to the driver's side of BH24 and detonated. The detonation caused his vehicle to flip to its side and it immediately caught fire. Due to the blast, Sergeant Ramirez and five other Paratroopers were wounded.

Sergeant Ramirez suffered from multiple injuries to include second degree burns, a fractured skull, and a shattered hand.

Despite being subjected to open flame, Sergeant Ramirez checked the status of his driver, Specialist Harris, only to realize that he had been killed and could not be freed from his restraint. Directly after checking on Specialist Harris, Sergeant Ramirez exited the burning vehicle through the windshield escape exit. Once out of the vehicle, Sergeant Ramirez realized that his gunner, Sergeant Todd, was trapped and seemingly unconscious in the gunner turret.

Despite the imminent danger to himself and his significant injuries, Sergeant Ramirez returned to the burning vehicle and attempted to free Sergeant Todd from the mangled gunner's turret. While trying to free Sergeant Todd, Sergeant Ramirez's broken arm quickly began to go numb and lose function, however he remained with Sergeant Todd in the gunner's turret as ammunition began to cook off. With the help of a Local National, Sergeant Todd was freed from the burning vehicle after numerous attempts. Following the rescue of Sergeant Todd, additional Soldiers arrived to help extract remaining casualties, and Sergeant Ramirez was escorted to triage for his injuries.

Sergeant Ramirez demonstrated extreme personal courage in spite of his significant injuries and at a complete disregard for his own personal safety; he returned to a severely damaged vehicle engulfed in flame, thick with smoke and filled with exploding ordnance in order to aid his wounded fellow Paratrooper. His actions exemplify the finest traditions of military service, a Paratrooper's selfless devotion to his comrades, and a leader's overwhelming dedication to his men.

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