

*Remarks for the
Funeral of Sgt. Jonathan W. Lambert
June 8, 2003*

The tragedy of a young man taken from us in the prime of life can be difficult for us to comprehend. Sergeant Jonathan Lambert was in the prime of his life, serving his country in a conflict to bring an end to terrorism, to protect Americans, to protect his family.

Jonathan made the ultimate sacrifice – a sacrifice made by hundreds of thousands of Americans before – a dear price paid in the name of all the citizens of this land. For that, we are grateful.

And yet, we grieve the loss of a son, a husband, a father, and a friend. To the Lambert family – Jonathan’s wife and daughter, Betty and Kinsey Jade; to his parents, Becky and Johnny; to his sister, Misty; and to his grandmothers, Maylene and Marie – know that the people of Mississippi share your grief.

Our grief, however, is tempered by the celebration of a life well-lived, a life committed to the service of family and country. In a letter to his hometown paper, Jonathan wrote of the job he was doing with his fellow Marines in Iraq.

“We know that this is more than a job, we do it for our children, grandchildren, friends and family,” he wrote. He knew his job as a Marine was dangerous, but he also knew why he was doing it. Jonathan Lambert embodied the spirit of America, the spirit that calls us to serve one another and defend the freedoms that make our nation great.

Today, his spirit is both with us and with God. We know his pain is over, and with time our pain will subside – but never completely. There will always be a void in the lives of the Lambert family, but it will be filled one day. They will be with Jonathan again.

The 7th chapter of the Revelation to John gives us a sense of hope and a sense of peace in our sorrow today. It reveals to us the joy and the comfort we will one day have, the joy and comfort felt now by Jonathan.

Beginning in the 15th verse, it reads: “Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night within his temple; and he who sits upon the throne will shelter them with his presence. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water; and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

Jonathan Lambert has served and he has sacrificed, and he is at the springs of living water. His work will be remembered by a grateful state and nation – and his life will be forever in the hearts of his family and friends.

God bless you, Sergeant Jonathan Lambert – and may God bless the people and the nation you served.