

Bonnors Ferry Herald, Thursday, Aug. 11, 2005

Bart Dersu Bartron, 24, died on July 29, 2005 from injuries he received in a head on collision at the south end of Boners Ferry on Highway 95. Funeral Services were held on Friday, Aug. 9, 2005 at 11 a.m. in the First Christian Church in Sandpoint.

Bart was born in the High Sierras of Bishop, California on June 24, 1981 to Fern and Glen Bartron. He and his family resided in California, Nev., Oregon and Sandpoint, where he graduated from Sandpoint High School in 2000.

He was home schooled for three years which helped him to become an avid reader. He loved J.R.R. Tolkien's works which he had read by age 11 with the aid of a college dictionary. He loved all things pertaining to fantasy and adventure, from King Arthur and Knights of the Round Table to Star Wars. He loved role playing and video games, snowboarding, paintball, and jousting with his friend.

His musical tastes ranged from classical to heavy metal and he was learning how to play bass guitar.

He was interested in other cultures and wanted to travel to Rome, Japan and Germany. He enjoyed getting tattoos and body piercings, dying his hair in wild colors and wearing clothing that made statements. He wanted to see how many people would actually be able to talk to him, and get to know him rather than immediately reject him because of their prejudices and fears. He hated hypocrisy, cruelty, corruption, greed and intolerance and he was not afraid to speak his mind. He was very entertaining to his friends, he kept them on their toes, never quite knowing what to expect next and not wanting to miss out on something he might say or do.

He enlisted into the Army on Dec. 30, 2004, where he excelled in all his training. He became the platoon guide in basic training. He was currently stationed at Fort Richardson, Alaska, with the C. Co. Task Force 1-501 Airborne as 12 Fox-fire Coordination Specialist ("FIST"er). During obstacle training in basic, his unit buddies would yell, "Do the little Buddah, Hart!" which he would then perform the karate kid crane stance across the beam walk of the confidence course. While on a training exercise down in Australia he was affectionately given the honorary title of "Demon Monkey" for his tenacity by members of his unit and he loved the Army Ethos (Ethics). His Company Commander said that, "He was a great young leader, who had unlimited potential and a great attitude." His Battalion Commander said that, "He was a proud young American Soldier and an inspiration to us all."

His awards and decorations include: His paratrooper (Jump) Wings, Expert Rifle Badge, Combat Infantry Badge. His awards include Army Commendation Medal, Good Conduct Medal (Posthumously), National Defense Medal, War on Terrorism and Sea Service Deployment Ribbons, respectively. He will be "Greatly missed" by his unit.

He was home on a two week leave and was able to see his 2-month-old baby daughter, Lyssa, for the first time since her birth, and to be with his beloved daughter, Kjestine, two years old, who was the light of his life. He and his girlfriend, Tabitha, had been visiting with many family and friends while he was home, including some of his friends who were also home on leave from other duty stations. He was slated to deploy to Afghanistan at the end of the year.

He is survived by his daughter, Lyssa R. Saunders, his parents, his sister, April Mooney (Justin) and 1 month old nephew, Gavin, Grandmother, Emma Lehman of Bishop, Calif., Grandfather, Don H. Bartron, Sr. of Hawaii, and a large extended family who loved him dearly.

Bart was cremated and his remains will be interred at the gravesite of Tabitha and Kjestine Saunders at the Pack River Cemetery.

Certo idem sum qui semper fu. ("Certainly I am the same as I always have been.")