



**Major Paul R. Syverson III**  
**Class of 1989**  
**United States Army**

While a student at John Hersey High School, Paul Syverson was involved in NJROTC, National Honor Society, Orchestra, and was a member of the 1987 State Championship Football Team. Paul went on to the Virginia Military Institute, and after graduating served in the 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. Having served with distinction in the Field Artillery, Major Syverson volunteered for Special Forces. In 1998, Paul was assigned as a Team Leader for Operational Detachment Alpha 591 in 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion. He led his detachment on several deployments throughout the Middle East, including operations IRIS GOLD, DESERT FOX, and DESERT SPRING. During the invasion of Iraq in the spring of 2003, Major Syverson's leadership allowed 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Special Forces Detachments to advance towards Baghdad without ever experiencing a shortage of critical supplies.

Paul's awards and decorations include the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, The Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Joint Service Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Joint Meritorious Unit Award, the National Defense Service Award, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Kosovo Commendation Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the NATO Medal, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Expert Infantryman Badge, the Pathfinder Badge, the Senior Parachutist's Badge, and the Special Forces Tab.

Major Syverson was killed on June 16, 2004, at a U.S. base north of Baghdad where he stopped to purchase equipment for fellow soldiers from the 5<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group. Insurgents killed him and another soldier in what was described as a rocket attack at Camp Anaconda in Balad, Iraq. Major Syverson made the ultimate sacrifice by giving his life for his country and the pursuit of democracy and freedom.