



Born: August 21, 1975 in Iowa

Died: February 27, 2005 in Karbala, Iraq

2nd Lt. Richard B. Gienau of Peoria, Illinois was a 1994 graduate of Tripoli High School. Growing up, he loved to play with Army toys. Known best by his middle name, Brian, he enjoyed working with children and he taught Sunday school at church. He was hard working and goal oriented. Whatever he was doing, he set his heart to it and he always accomplished it. Brian enlisted in the United States Navy in 1994, serving as an avionics mechanic. after that enlisted was up, he signed on with the Iowa Army National Guard in 1999. He went on to graduate from the University of Northern Iowa in 2003. He enjoyed the military and was continuously figuring out ways to make it easier for his men. He was the recipient of the Bronze Star and Purple Heart. He leaves, his son, Keenan, his mother, Debbie Way, his father Richard and his girlfriend, Katie Allen. His sister Amanda died at the age of 14 in a car crash near Tripoli. Brian was killed at age 29 when an improvised explosive device hit his military vehicle in Ramadi, Iraq. In August of 2009, a sculpture was created by Will Overstreet, in honor of the fallen soldier and was dedicated to 2nd Lt. Richard B. Gienau, the 2003 University of Northern Iowa graduate. The 4-by-4-foot structure, which stands outside West Gymnasium, also recognizes other UNI men and women serving their country.

Army

National Guard

224th Engineer Battalion

Burlington, Iowa