RICKY D.CONNER II
Honoree 2017 –IRAQ/AFGHANISTAN
US ARMY

Ricky Dane Conner, II was born in Austin, Texas 17 March 1981 as the eldest and only son of Ricky and Diane Conner. Conner, his parents and two sisters, later moved to the Texas panhandle He graduated from Pampa High School in 1999, the last class of the century. He attended West Texas A&M University in Canyon and graduated with a Mechanical Engineering degree from the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. After the bombing of the Twin Towers in 2001, Conner joined the US Army.
Ricky attended West Texas A & M before graduating from the University of Colorado and Colorado Springs.

Conner was assigned to 43rd Company, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, Combat Engineers “We Clear the Way” and stations at Fort Carson, Colorado when not deployed.

Years of Service, 2001-2010.
1st deployment, 2003-2004 3rd ACR Fort Carson, Co. - Iraq
2nd deployment, 2005-2006 3rd ACR Fort Carson, Co. - Iraq
3rd deployment, 2008-2009 4th Infantry Division Ft. Carson, Co. 2010 - Iraq/ Afghanistan
-Present Army National Guard.

Conner completed various training courses including Bradley fighting vehicle training, Combat Life Savers course, Leader OpNet certification, Primary Leadership Development course, Sniper training.

From his first deployment into the Middle East, Conner continuously distinguished himself by taking the fight to the enemy. On 15 November 2003, SPC Conner played an integral part of a highly successful raid on a suspected Mujahideen fighter who was responsible for attacks on Coalition Forces. As part of the main raid team, he helped clear, secure and search the house in less than 10 minutes. His squad seized a high-powered SKS sniper rifle, fused grenades, military clothing and multiple forms of identification which lead to the apprehension of four additional suspects. On 25 August 2003, during a route clearance from Al Habbaniyah to Al Fallujah, Conner displayed great courage and presence of mind when his platoon was ambushed on Route 10. Disregarding small arms, machine gun and RGP fire, Conner provided vital covering fire with his M249 SAW, both mounted and dismounted, providing a base of fire for the sake of evacuation of three litter urgent casualties.

On 14 August 2003, Conner and his platoon were under a large scale complex attack which resulted in severe injuries to three of the men in Conner's platoon. While traveling east towards Fallujah, insurgents attacked the M113 Armored Personal Carrier with an IED, followed by AK-47 and RPG fire. An RPG round pierced the back ramp of the APC hitting three men in the legs. As the fight intensified, Conner was one of the key soldiers laying down suppressive fire at the enemy. Like something out of a John Wayne movie, Conner held a weapon in each hand firing at the enemy. He had named his favorite weapons after his grandmothers - a Barrett .50 cal "Frances" (his fraternal grandmother, Frances Conner) and a M24 7.62 cal "Martha" (his maternal grandmother, Martha Leopold Goertz). Thanks to the efforts of Conner and other members of his platoon, all three injured men survived.

On his second tour, Conner borrowed an Army flight jacket which was worn by his paternal grandfather, PFC Henry J Goertz, who served in Europe and North African in WWII.

Receiving an official separation of service from the US Army in 2010, Conner presently serves in the US Army Reserve and lives in Colorado Springs with his wife, Kristin and daughter Aubry Rose.

For his military service, SSG Ricky Dane Conner was awarded the following citations and commendations: Iraq Campaign Medal W/Two Campaign Stars, Army Commendation Medal (7th Award), Army Achievement Medal (2nd Award), Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Valorous Unit Award, Army Good Conduct Medal(2nd Award), National Defense Service Medal//Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary, Bradley Fighting Vehicle, Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon (3rd Award), Combat Action Badge, Basic Marksmanship Qualification Badge, Army Sniper Badge. Recommendation for Bronze Star.