

(WASHINGTON)--- Congressman Allen West (R-FL) released this statement today upon learning of the tragic death of Major Samuel Mark Griffith, a Marine with the 4th ANGLICO Marine Reserve Unit in West Palm Beach:

"My heart is heavy today as I learned of the death of one of our finest Americans, Marine Major Samuel Griffith. Major Griffith dedicated his entire adult life to serving his Country. He was a leader, a Patriot and a Warrior. He loved his Country, and in the ultimate dedication of love and sacrifice- he gave the last full measure of devotion. As a 22-year Veteran of the United States Army who had met Major Griffith when I visited the Marines at the 4th ANGLICO Reserve Unit earlier this year, Major Griffith's loss is particularly personal. As a member of the military, you always know when you put on the uniform, there is a chance you might not be coming home. Major Griffith knew this, and his family knew this, yet our men and women in uniform continue to serve their Country, because they believe in something greater than themselves.

Major Griffith did not seek the spotlight, nor did he seek any kind of special treatment for being a United States Marine. His name would never have been in the headlines, had he not died the way he did, fighting for his Country and for all of us as Americans to live safely and freely. That is the way he preferred it. Even after the story of Major Griffith's death fades from the headlines, his family should know he did not die in vein. His memory is alive in every one of us who live as free Americans because of his ultimate sacrifice.

God has a special place for Warriors like Marine Major Griffith and I look forward to seeing him again in heaven. According to the Marine Corps hymn, it is Major Griffith who will be guarding the gates."

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