

Charles Wells

OCFR Recruit and Warrant Officer in U.S. Marine Reserves



Anyone who heard Charles Wells leading his class in morning jogs around the Fire Academy training grounds could tell he was a military man. “Sound off!...Sound off!...” the tall, lean, strong Orange County recruit would holler. The holder of a black belt in military martial arts, Wells was a natural born leader who had trained fellow marines in martial arts.

Wells was 32-years-old when he was accepted for Orange County Recruit training in October 2002. He had recently completed a tour of duty in Iraq and was preparing for a new career.

But his training was interrupted by the order to return to Iraq. When that tour ended, he could have come home but opted to stay. On March 30, 2005 – while conducting a supply convoy – he was killed when his vehicle struck a land mine. He had only recently been promoted to warrant officer.

“I can give him no higher praise than to say he was a Marine’s Marine” said his commander, Major Jeff Eberwein. Orange County Fire Captain David Hall said Wells “...was in the top one percent of the recruits we hire. He was top notch.”

Wells is survived by his wife, Nicole, and a daughter who was four at the time.

