

**Sgt. Kirk Straseskie**  
**2004 Outstanding Alumnus**

Kirk Straseskie graduated from Beaver Dam High School in 1998 and began a career with the United States Marine Corps. Growing up, it was Kirk's dream to become a United States Marine. He worked his way up to a Marine Sergeant, receiving medals and honors along the way. Throughout Kirk's short life of 23 years, he demonstrated excellent character and leadership skills.

Dedication, service and integrity are three words commonly used to describe Kirk. His dedication to others began long before he joined the Marine Corps. While a student at Beaver Dam High School, Kirk was a member of the football, wrestling, and track teams. He displayed many leadership qualities as well as strong teammate attributes. He also worked with the young age group programs such as Youth Football, Youth Wrestling, and Youth Sports Camp summer program. He displayed the highest levels of commitment and dedication to the activities he became involved with. Additionally, he worked with BDHS developmentally disabled students in special education classes and on graduation day found his seat next to one of these students. Kirk assisted the student in walking across the stage and receiving his high school diploma. He was always eager to help others in any capacity he could.

Sgt. Straseskie USMC was a member of the ISI Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, Camp Pendleton, California. Sgt. Straseskie drowned in a canal near Al Hillah, Iraq, on May 19, 2003, when he attempted to rescue crewmembers of a Marine CH-46 helicopter that went down into the canal. Kirk died as he lived ... helping others.