

**Captain John J. McKenna IV**  
**March 17, 1976-August 16, 2006**

John J. McKenna IV was born on March 17, 1976, in Brooklyn, NY where he resided with his family until attending college at Binghamton University, graduating in 1998 when he accepted a commission in the United States Marine Corps. After successful completion of Officer Candidate School John was named a second lieutenant and was assigned to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Maine Air Wing, where he served with distinction to include tours in Uzbekistan/Afghanistan as part of Operation Enduring Freedom and then on to serve in Operation Iraqi Freedom where he earned a Naval Meritorious Service Award. Captain McKenna left active duty in 2003 to pursue a career with the New York State Police. He graduated from the Academy on August 8, 2005, and was stationed in Saratoga and Clifton Park with Troop G.

John felt compelled to continue his service to his country by joining Company F, 2nd Battalion, 25th Marines in Albany, N.Y. John successfully completed Marine Corps Infantry Officers School and was assigned as an infantry platoon commander. His military medals and awards include the Navy Marine Corps Achievement Medal; the Global War on Terror Expeditionary Medal; the Global War on Terror Service Medal; Naval Meritorious Unit Commendation; National Defense Service Medal; Combat Action Ribbon; Iraq Campaign Medal; Purple Heart; Armed Forces Reserve Medal; and Sea Service Deployment Medal.

On August 16, 2006, Captain John J. McKenna IV was serving as Third Platoon Commander, Company B, First Battalion, Twenty-Fifth Marines, Regimental Combat Team 5, I Marine Expeditionary Force while deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. His squad was ambushed, and Captain McKenna was hit by enemy fire and mortally wounded. Captain McKenna gallantly gave his life in an attempt to save one of his Marines. His actions inspired his men to drive the enemy from the battlefield. Captain McKenna's selfless, courageous actions that day earned him, at the cost of his life, the U.S. Marine Corps' third highest award for valor, the Silver Star Medal.

Captain John J. McKenna IV is buried at Saratoga National Cemetery. In 2012 the Town of Clifton Park honored his memory by naming a street after him. John J. McKenna Way is off Crescent Road.

