

Fallen soldier remembered as 'quiet leader'

The Associated Press

Around groups of people, Justin Ross was quiet and sometimes shy. But around his friends, his personality blossomed, and the son of a pastor began to shine.

"He never, ever thought of himself," friend Amy Staeven told WBAY-TV. "He was always there to encourage, (and) never had anything bad to say about anybody."

The Green Bay, Wis., native enlisted in the Army reserves in 2006. He graduated from Port Bay High School in 2007 and Universal Technical Institute in 2009.

His high school principal told WFRV-TV that Ross was a quiet leader who enjoyed building things and working with his hands.

The 22-year-old died March 26 after he was shot in Afghanistan's Helmand province. He was posthumously promoted to corporal.

His father, the Rev. Ron Ross, said the combat engineer had begun conducting missions on foot to clear bombs from roadways and was enjoying the chance to truly see and experience Afghanistan.

"He . believed in what he was doing," his father said in a statement, according to WLUK-TV. "He also told me that after meeting guys from the Afghan Army that he now understood why we were over there."

Ross was based in Wausau, Wis