



Bryant J. Luxmore Memorial Fund

B.J. Luxmore's life ended too soon. It was a life characterized by leadership and determination. Those traits stood out whether he was on the football field, baseball diamond or finally in the U.S. Army where he served until his death on June 10, 2012 in Afghanistan. It's those traits and the ideals that Luxmore represented that his family will continue to honor through the establishment of the **Bryant J. Luxmore Memorial Fund** at the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln.



"We want to take something like this and try and turn it into a positive," his brother Brock Luxmore said. "He was quiet and didn't speak a lot but when he spoke, people would listen. He was a leader. People looked up to him."

B.J. Luxmore's service in the army was part of a planned path that eventually would lead into a career in law enforcement. The Luxmore Fund is a donor-advised fund and among the issues it will focus on are those related to working with those who have served in the military. "He did have goals and had a plan that included joining the military and joining the army. He felt he wanted to do his part," Brock Luxmore said.



"He always had an interest in law enforcement in general. That was part of his career path that he had set up. He wanted to join the military to give him more experience." Luxmore's decision to join the army was influenced by the career path of Pat Tillman, who gave up a career in the NFL to join the U.S. Army after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

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Tillman was also killed in action in Afghanistan. A foundation has been set up in Tillman's name, and the Luxmores have been in contact with the Tillman Foundation to potentially work together on issues.

The 25-year-old Luxmore graduated from Sherrard High School in 2005. He quarterbacked the football team and played baseball. He moved on to play baseball at Illinois College in Jacksonville. The Fund will be used to benefit his interest in sports as well as other activities. "He loved playing sports," Brock said of his younger brother. "He was very competitive. He had a passion for sports."

Brock Luxmore, his parents, Brenda and Leonard, and his wife, Jaimie, will oversee the fund's development and grant decisions. B.J. and Jaimie were stationed together at Ft. Stewart in Georgia. Jaimie, who now serves in the Illinois National Guard, and B.J. had one child, a son Lane.

The Luxmores weighed a variety of methods to establish the fund and decided the Foundation would best suit the family's needs. "I knew about the Community Foundation; I just didn't know about all the aspects of it. We weighed the pros and cons of setting up our own foundation, with our own tax ID and everything," Luxmore said. "After speaking with the Community Foundation, we knew we wanted to work with them and that they have people there to help guide us."