

Statement of the Family of Sergeant First Class Matthew Charles Lewellen
Kirkville, Missouri
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“Good morning and I would like to thank everyone that is here. I am Charles Lewellen, the father of Sergeant First Class Matthew Charles Lewellen. Matt was 27 years old and had been in the army since 2010. Matt was a son, brother, cousin, grandson, and a future husband and would have made a great father.

“I am here for a couple of reasons, First I am here to clear up the report that they did anything wrong as reported by the Jordanian press. Second I am here to tell you that they were clearly murdered.

“I think it is important for these young men to have their names cleared of any wrong doing. There were two different reports that the Jordanian press released and both of them accused our men of doing something wrong to cause the outcome of these murders.

“Let me be clear: the men followed procedure for entering the check point. They did not charge the gate nor was there any accidental discharge. They approached the gate and the Jordanian soldiers did exactly what they were supposed to do, they moved the spike strips from the roadway, they then raised a gate allowing our convoy to move to the next gate. They then slid that gate to the side allowing our vehicles to continue on through. Vehicle number one went through the gate with no problems. Vehicle number two being driven by Staff Sergeant McEnroe and my son Sergeant First Class Lewellen was going thru with no problem. So again let me be clear our men were following proper procedure and did not do anything to cause this shooting.

“Point number two is how I believe our men were murdered. I have watched the video showing their murders. I left off with my son and Staff Sergeant McEnroe passing through the checkpoint.

“Here is what happens next: There is a guard shack that they must go by. The guard shack is a concrete hut with a sliding window that they must pass. The guard shack is also covered with a camo netting making visibility to see inside that shack very difficult. As they pulled even with the sliding window they were ambushed from mere feet away by a Jordanian officer who was inside the guard shack with an automatic military rifle with accurate and lethal precision. There was no warning for my son Sergeant First Class Lewellen or Staff Sergeant McEnroe. They were simply murdered by an ally officer of the Jordanian army. I will also tell you the Jordanian officer then leaves the safety of his concrete guard shack to continue pursuing Staff Sergeant Moriarty and a fellow Green Beret. I am crystal clear that these were murders and this Jordanian officer should be charged with three murders.

“I would also like to thank the Army and the FBI for everything they have done to help my family during the last few months.

“Let me finish with this: I couldn't be more proud of my son's life, he was a man that loved what he was doing by helping others that needed help. We will miss his smile and the bright future that was taken away from us.

“The ambush and murder of my son Matt, and his brothers-in-arms: Jimmy Moriarty and Kevin McEnroe, has linked these three families forever.

“We are Gold Star families now, the McEnroes, the Moriartys, and the Lewellens.

“That's why we stand in solidarity with each other as we seek to correct the record. No other families should have to endure this kind of grief. We want future American forces to be protected from these kinds of attacks. We want the King of Jordan, who is also a father, to acknowledge our sacrifice and assure the safety of American troops in Jordan.

“We want the service and sacrifice of these three heroes, Kevin, Jimmy and Matt, these three Super Heroes, to be acknowledged and remembered. If anything good can come from their deaths, let it be the ultimate protection of their friends and fellow soldiers, who choose to fight and protect our American values, and our freedom.

“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man will lay down his life for his friends.”

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