

1st Lieutenant David R. Bernstein
a.k.a. “Bernie”, “Super Dave”
April 14, 1979 – October 18, 2003

Born In: Mountain View, California

Early Education: In the Austin & Dallas Texas School Districts

Member of the B’ani B’rith Religious Youth Group

- 1995 entered P.A.H.S. played football and swam for P.A.H.S. and YMCA.
- Member of the National Honor Society & later President.
- Graduated Valedictorian of the Class of 1997
- Recipient of the Centicor Scholarship
- Nominated to U.S. Military Academy at West Point and the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis.
- Graduated 5th of the Class of 2001 from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.
- Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering
- Nominated for a Rhodes Scholarship
- Four year lettermen in swimming
- Exchange student with U.S. Air Force Academy
- Airborne & Combat Diver Qualified
- 2001 Graduate of Officers Basic & Ranger Qualification Courses, Fort Benning, Georgia
- 2002 Assigned as a platoon leader in the 173rd Airborne Brigade
- 2003 Parachuted into Iraq, and later became an Executive Officer.

October 18, 2003

“That night there had been a rocket attack at the Kirkuk Airfield. Lt. Bernstein and his men were searching the countryside. Suddenly, Iraq forces surrounded them and blasted their Humvee with rifles and rocket-propelled grenades. They were taking fire from the back and from the front, and Lt. Bernstein was hit. But his driver had fallen out of the truck and was pinned underneath, and the enemy was advancing. With a bullet in his leg Lt. Bernstein tried five times to rescue his driver. The fifth time, he pulled him out. But the lieutenant had lost so much blood, he was now dying. He fired a few rounds before he fell.”

Brigadier General Leo Brooks Jr., Commandant
United States Military Academy at West Point, New York

“Dave was an inspiration to all of us. He was an athlete, scholar, but most importantly he had a kind heart.”

“I saluted 1st Lt. Bernstein, not because he was an officer, but because I respected him as a man.”