

## LT. MICHAEL P. MURPHY USN, MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Each year the Military Order of the Purple Heart National Scholarship Committee selects one of the current scholarship winners to receive the Lt. Michael P. Murphy USN Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship is awarded in memory of Lt. Michael P. Murphy by the Lieutenant Michael P. Murphy USN, Memorial Scholarship Foundation of Riverhead, New York.

Lt. Michael P. Murphy was the leader of a US Navy SEAL Team who was killed in action on June 28, 2005, during a covert counter-terrorism combat operation with insurgent elements in the mountains of Kunar Province, Afghanistan along the Pakistan-Afghan border. Murphy was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions during this operation. He was the first Sailor awarded the Medal of Honor since the Vietnam War.

The recipient of the 2011 Lt. Michael P. Murphy USN, Memorial Scholarship is **Brian G. Kolfage**. Brian is a member of Chapter 442 (Tucson, Arizona). He is a medically retired Air Force Staff Sergeant who lost both legs and his right hand in Iraq.

Today he is an Honor student in Architecture at the University of Arizona where he is known for his exceptional computer modeling skills, as well as his ability to make friends easily. Among his many civic and community activities, he is the President of the local chapter of American Military Engineers.

Since he was wounded, Brian has returned to Walter Reed and Bethesda hospitals on his own time and expense to visit with newly wounded soldiers and Marines, to tell them about what he has been able to accomplish without limbs, to motivate and inspire them, and to show their families that they will once again live a full normal life. Brian has been selected by the Air Force Chief of Staff to be included in a book of stories of heroism; "Portraits in Courage."



SSgt Brian Kolfage (Ret)