



**Township of Toms River  
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### **Memorial held for Sgt. James Harvey**

**TOMS RIVER TOWNSHIP-** Most people don't write their own eulogy. But Army Sergeant James W. Harvey II isn't most people.

James "Jimmy" Harvey died on June 20th in the Ghazni province of Afghanistan. According to the Department of Defense, Harvey died from wounds when his unit was attacked with small-arms fire. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division in Fort Knox, Ky.

The Green Island Community Association held a ceremony in Harvey's honor, and dedicated a permanent plaque there in his honor. In his eulogy, Harvey states, "I died fighting for my country and there is no greater honor." His mother, Susan Harvey, said, "I sent a boy into the Army and a man came home. He loved being a soldier and he made us very proud. I was lucky to have 23 years with him."

The somber memorial ceremony included family, friends, veterans and elected officials, some of whom spoke to the crowd to honor Harvey and pay their respects to the family.

Congressman Jon Runyan (NJ-3) said to the crowd, "It's an honor to be here. James Harvey gave his life to give us the freedoms we have. He personifies what it means to be a team player. He will never be forgotten." The Congressman then presented a flag to Harvey's parents and stated that the flag was flown over the U.S. Capitol in James Harvey's honor.

Mayor Thomas F. Kelaher spoke a few words and said that this memorial was the fourth one since he took office 3 1/2 years ago and he said that it doesn't get any easier. "I'm always encouraged by the support of the community and I am deeply moved by the fact that one of our own made the ultimate sacrifice."

Susan Harvey, Jimmy's mother, said, "This community has been angels. What more could I ask for? The event today is important to me. The community has been heartwarming, they're just wonderful people."

Toms River Councilwoman Maria Maruca said she "was touched by the efforts of the Green Island Community Association for honoring one of their own, American hero James Harvey."

Harvey will be posthumously awarded a Purple Heart and Bronze Star for bravery. To see more photos from the Memorial Service, visit the township website at [www.TomsRiverTownship.com](http://www.TomsRiverTownship.com) and click on the photo gallery.



James "Jimmy" Harvey died on June 20, 2011 in the Ghazni province of Afghanistan.



(Photos courtesy of Debbi Winogracki)

The plaque honoring Sgt. James W. Harvey rests outside the Green Island Community Center.

(Right photo) Toms River Township Mayor Thomas F. Kelaher speaks at the memorial ceremony for Sgt. James W. Harvey.