

Memorial fund honors Conboy

By George E. Beetham Jr.

Before he died in Iraq in May, Marine Lance Corporal Adam Conboy told his mother, "Come on Mom, get 'Operation Bedding' going."

At the time, neither he nor his mother, Mary Conboy, had any idea that "Operation Bedding" would be Adam's memorial.

The idea at the time was that the Marines in Adam's unit lacked certain things like sheets, socks, and Baby Wipes that can be used to clean up in lieu of hot showers.

So Mary began gathering up some of these things to send to her son to distribute among the Marines.

Since Adam's death, it has become a way to remember Adam and honor his sacrifice.

"It's not about the war," Mary Conboy said. "It's about supporting the troops."

So she set up a memorial fund at Wachovia Bank where people can donate money that will be used to purchase things the Marines need and ship them

**'Operation Bedding'
will send supplies to Marines
serving in Iraq**

over to Iraq.

Mary sent a note to the Marines in Adam's unit asking them to suggest things that they really need and lack so that she can tailor purchases to their needs.

"I asked them to let me know whatever will make their life a little bit better," she said.

As of last Friday, she was still waiting to hear back from them.

In the meantime, she has gathered sheets, baby wipes, single packets of drink mixes that can be used with water, and snacks. Also needed are disposable razors, black socks, bug repellent, and Chapstick.

If people do not feel comfortable donating money, they can purchase some of those items and drop them off at The Review at 6220 Ridge Ave. and let us know that it is for Operation Bedding in honor of Adam.

In addition, Mary said she will try to organize fund raisers to obtain funds to make future purchases for the Marines.

To send a check or money order, send it to:
Adam Conboy Memorial Fund
Wachovia Bank
6128 Ridge Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19128

Make check payable to Adam Conboy Memorial Fund.

Donations of items to be sent can be dropped off at The Review during business hours, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Mary will pick those items up and ship them to the Marines.

"I want to do something positive to honor Adam," she said.

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Adam Conboy was, from all accounts, a typical, all American boy.

He played baseball in the 21st Ward Junior Baseball League and at Roxborough High School. He had a circle of close friends.

And when war came, Adam enlisted in the Marine Corps because he felt it was the duty of his generation to serve his country.

He chose the Marines because his grandfather, Charles X. Conboy, had been a Marine during World War II.

He kept in touch with his family after joining the Marines, and after he was sent to Iraq. He died two months after arriving in Iraq.

Mary said she got a letter from Adam's sergeant in Iraq. The sergeant wrote that he was devastated over Adam's death. He recalled how, when the unit was traveling in a convoy in the hot, dusty terrain in Iraq, it would be Adam who would

say something funny to break the tension.

If "Operation Bedding" takes off, the Marines of Adam's unit will continue to benefit from his sense of concern for his comrades.