

# TRAVIS GENTRY

## From Zero to Hero: How Travis Gentry Changed from a Wild Child to a Grown Man

Graduate: Class of 2001    Occupation: Navy/Kimball    By Shawna Lampert, Spring, 2009

I could have chosen a lot of people for this essay. I chose my brother Travis Gentry. One may wonder, if Travis and I are related, why do we have different last names? My family met Travis when he was ten-through “Big Brothers, Big Sisters.” When Travis turned fifteen, we adopted him, and he became my big brother. When we adopted Travis, he kept his last name. Ever since then, we have grown closer.

Travis's goals for himself included graduating from high school and raising a family. He decided to go into the Navy about two weeks before he graduated in 2001 with an advanced diploma. After graduating, Travis experienced less sleep, less fun, and more worry. The changes after high school included work and starting a family.

Jobs Travis had after high school involved the Navy and working at Kimball Fifteenth Street. As a fuel/oil specialist, he served the Navy for four years. Thinking about attending VUJC, he decided to go in the Navy instead. This earned him twenty hours of college credits. His only fear was that he might not make it home alive. He overcame his fear by keeping his family close to his heart; he made it home. A few challenges came his way in the Navy, such as remaining safe, coming home to his family, and going back and watching everyone cry as he left. He lists two personal heroes: Rick Lampert (dad) and Becky Lampert (mom). Travis believes work experience is important in a career. His work responsibilities include being a team leader in charge of four departments, running production reports, completing time sheets, and handing out oral or written warnings. For him, a perfect workday includes everyone showing up on time, getting hot orders done, and getting back on scheduled finish dates.

While serving in the Navy, Travis lived in Virginia and ended up going to Iraq. Before going to Virginia, he married a woman named Jacklyn (King) Gentry. They've been together seven years, and they just had their first baby, Ava Micay. Travis grew up in Ferdinand and St. Anthony, and his interests include hunting, evening walks with his family, hanging out with his dog Midnight, and giving his free time to his family.

I'm proud of Travis for serving our country, but I'm so glad to have him home. After someone you love leaves for a long or short period of time, you realize that every moment with that person is worth having, and you remember it your whole life.

Travis lives by these words and wanted me to pass them on. "Do the best you can. Always set high goals (long and short term), and do your best to achieve them. Never quit."