

Army Spc/Pfc. Sarina N. Butcher
Died November 1, 2011 Serving during Operation Enduring
Freedom

Army Spc/Pfc. Sarina N. Butcher born in Checotah, Oklahoma, was assigned to many things to help our country. She was assigned to 700th Brigade Support Battalion, 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, and Oklahoma National Guard in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Sadly, she was not able to live the rest of her life. She died Nov. 1, 2011, in Laja Ahmad Khel, Paktia province, Afghanistan, of injuries of when her vehicle was hit with a roadside bomb. She was only 19. She was the first female Oklahoma National Guard soldier to be killed during wartime and also was the youngest Guard member to die in the Afghanistan and Iraq wars. She was a soldier killed that was a fun-loving daughter, sister and mother, as well as a passionate fighter who died defending the country she loved, family members and friends said.

Her grandfather, Clayton Mills, said that was just the kind of person she was.

"She was barely 5-foot-2, and her heart was bigger than she was," he said.

Rep. Mike Ross of Arkansas said she will be remembered for more than being so young when she died.

"She will be remembered for being an outstanding soldier," he said.

Butcher came from a military family, following in "her grandfather's and brother's footsteps," the Rev. Rayford Mills, Butcher's great-uncle, said.

She was a mom with one daughter.

She died keeping all of America safe.

Today, I want to remember her, as if she was still alive with a great life like all of us.

