Welcome Home-Paul B. Post Historian
American Legion Post 11-11, July 2013
Honoring -Danny Dietz-
U.S. Navy Seal-The Best of the Best

Danny Dietz was born in Aurora, Colorado attended local schools before entering the Navy on August 31, 1999. Upon graduation from the Great Lakes Naval Station, Danny completed Gunner's mate A school at Pensacola, FL. From there, he entered SEAL training and graduated with SEAL class 232 in 2001. Danny also attended Airborne Courses at Ft. Benning, GA. ; plus SEAL qualification and Weapons classes.

Navy Seal Dietz was part of an elite team on a reconnaissance mission to find a key Taliban leader in a mountainous terrain. By chance, the SEAL team encountered shepherds who then quickly informed the Taliban fighters as to the location of Danny's team. A huge force of Taliban fighters emerged upon the SEAL team . The SEAL's radioed for help, but a responding Chinook helicopter was shot down by an RPG missile resulting in the loss of eight more SEAL's plus eight Army Special Forces soldiers. Danny and his fellow soldiers fought valiantly against an overwhelming force of two to three hundred Taliban fighters.

One by one, the SEAL's were consistently wounded and finally succumbed to gunfire, rocket grenades and a fiery hailstorm of enemy fire. Only one Navy SEAL, Marcus Luttrel managed to survive and tell the story of the firefight. Luttrel survived by being blown into the surrounding rocks by RPG's and enemy grenades. Luttrel although injured, crawled away and found shelter with local townspeople.

Marcus Luttrel also penned a book on the mission of SEAL team 10, the fatal firefight, plus the sustained injuries of the team that day. Luttrel's book is "The Lone Survivor"" a best seller on the New York Times Booklist, I have read the book, a very good book on Navy Seals and the extremely rigorous training that they must perform to be a US Navy Seal. Only a very few sailors can be a US Navy SEAL.

Danny Dietz and his SEAL team 10 fought valiantly against a numerically superior force under a hailstorm of enemy fire. With undaunted courage, officer Dietz will long be remembered in the Global war on terrorism. Danny was awarded the US Navy Cross, , the Silver Star, Combat Action Badge, Purple Heart, SEAL trident, plus other military decorations.

A statue of Danny is currently on display in Littleton, CO . South Santa Fe Drive has been renamed in his honor. Let us never forget our Heroes like Danny Dietz, who along with the other SEAL Team members gave up the ultimate sacrifice in the name of freedom, as many heroes in the past wars. US Navy SEAL Team 10 member , Petty officer 2nd class Danny Dietz is buried at Ft. Logan National Cemetery, Section S. Site 6537-D.

Reference Credits: Wikipedia, Encyclopedia
Marcus Luttrel, "The Lone Survivor"