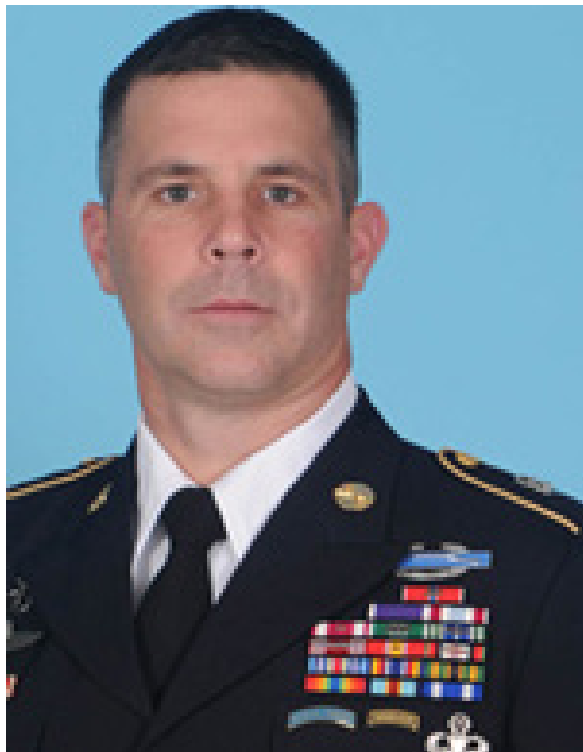


Hero Receives Soldier's Medal

By Sgt. Daniel A. Carter

USASOC Public Affairs

Because of his heroic actions on the fateful day of 15 November 2012, Sgt. Maj. William L. Lubbers was posthumously awarded the Soldier's Medal on July 15, 2013.



Sgt. Maj. William L. Lubbers

Lubbers was aboard a float during a Show of Support parade in Midland, Texas, when it was struck by a train moving more than 60 miles per hour. The parade took place four days after Veterans Day to show support for veterans injured while in combat operations.

Lubbers reacted as fast as he could, pulling Soldiers and their wives off of the float to move them out of harm's way. With only 15 seconds of warning, Lubbers showed remarkable bravery, courage, and selfless action when he jumped from his seat on the float to physically move people to the ground. Lubbers stayed aboard the float, with no regard for his personal safety, to save as many people as he could before being struck by the train. Three other veterans were also killed in the crash.

United States Army Special Operations Command commanding general Charles T. Cleveland attended the ceremony as the guest speaker.

"Sgt. Maj. Lubbers was a hero in every sense of the word," Cleveland said, "He is greatly missed and will always be part of the USASOC family."

After the orders were published, Cleveland presented the Soldier's Medal to Lubbers' wife, Tiffanie, and children Zachary and Sydnie.

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