



Brian "Cody" Prosser is pictured here on his wedding day.

## MTA Intern Helps Establish Memorial Scholarship for 'Cody' Prosser

(Dec. 19, 2001) When Staff Sgt. Brian "Cody" Prosser was given a hero's burial in Arlington Cemetery, Monday, the MTA's Patrick Horton – an intern in Regional Planning – said a silent goodbye to a young man who had been his best friend in high school.

Prosser, 28, a member of the Army's Green Beret Special Forces, was one of the first American soldiers to die in Afghanistan. He was killed by U.S. friendly fire, Dec. 5, while defending a village during an onslaught by Taliban forces.

As the first California casualty in the U.S. war against terrorism, Prosser was honored last week at a memorial service in his hometown of Frazier Park, a community in the Tejon Pass north of Los Angeles. Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamante led a delegation of state officials at the ceremony.

Now, Prosser's friend Patrick Horton is working with the National Veterans Foundation (NVF) to establish a memorial scholarship in the soldier's name. Prior to his internship at the MTA, Horton was an NVF intern.

"We're looking for contributions from people who want to donate to an American hero," says Horton, who also attended the Frazier Park service. "He died saving men, women and children of that village."



Patrick Horton  
(MTA ID photo)

### Befriended a shy teenager

Horton remembers Prosser as a popular athlete who befriended a shy teenager and made him feel welcome at Maricopa High School.

"Everyday, we'd ride the bus together from Frazier Park to Maricopa High," Horton recalls. "We ate lunch together and got to know each other very well. Even if you didn't play football, you rated in his book."

Following graduation, Horton went to college, graduating from Loyola Marymount University with a B.A. in history before moving on to graduate school at UCLA. Prosser enlisted in the Army to train in the Special Forces.

"Cody was a model guy and we knew he was due for great things," says Horton. "When I heard he had died, I felt I should do something and a scholarship seemed to be appropriate because fewer than 50 percent of Maricopa High kids go on to college."

Tax-deductible contributions can be addressed to: The National

Veterans' Foundation, Cody Prosser Memorial Scholarship, 9841 Airport Blvd. #414, Los Angeles, CA 90045. For more information, call toll-free 1-888-777-4443 or visit [www.nvf.org](http://www.nvf.org).

The NVF was formed to provide the best resources available on a national scale to veterans of all wars, from World War II to the present. It coordinates access to social services, counsels veterans and provides rehabilitation assistance for such illnesses as post-traumatic stress disorder.

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