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**Marietta, Georgia—January 2014**—Sergeant 1<sup>st</sup> Class (SFC) Omar Forde, from Marietta, GA, valiantly served his country in Afghanistan. Having built an illustrious decade-long military career and separated from his beloved wife and two young children, he never wavered in his duty and routinely engaged in combat; continually placing his country first and foremost before his own safety.

Tragically, this brave soul lost his life in battle leaving his young family and mother behind to mourn his memory. He was killed, along with five fellow soldiers, in Afghanistan on December 17, 2013. Omar, the only child of a single mother from Jamaica, was an upstanding young man and athletic stand-out at Kennesaw Mountain High School in suburban Atlanta. Upon graduation, in lieu of accepting a football scholarship, Omar chose to join the Army and serve his country. Prior to deployment, he married his high school sweetheart, Megan. The couple has two sons, Ayden, 5, and Devery, 18 months.

The Kiwanis Club of Marietta was contacted with a request for flag placement in SFC Forde's neighborhood. The flags were placed, but Kiwanians didn't stop there. Many helped with the flags, but so did others by going to the airport in the dark, early morning hours to honor Omar's remains as he returned home. Members attended visitation with the family and participated in the funeral service. Some of them stood with flags to honor SFC Forde and his family during burial. Many prayed for strength, faith and grace for his family; especially, the two young children left behind who will only know their father through his gallant acts of bravery and ultimate sacrifice.

For more information regarding the Kiwanis Club of Marietta / Cobb County Kiwanis organizations, or how to donate to SFC Forde's family, please contact Pat Huey, Executive Director, at [executivedirector@mariettkiwanis.org](mailto:executivedirector@mariettkiwanis.org) or 770.432.1760.



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