



## **JORDAN BRIGGS IS RUNNING FOR MARINE SGT. JOHANNY ROSARIO PICHARDO**

United States Marine Sgt. Johanny Rosario Pichardo, 25, has been identified as one of the 13 U.S. service members who was killed in Thursday's terrorist attacks in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Rosario Pichardo, who also goes by the surname Rosario, was killed August 26, 2021, in a heinous suicide bombing attack believed to be perpetrated by members of the Islamic State – Khorasan Province (ISIS-K), ISIS's Afghanistan affiliate.

As Breitbart News reported, ISIS-K claimed responsibility for two suicide bombings outside Hamid Karzai International Airport, the staging point for the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan, which “killed at least 90 people, including 13 U.S. service members, and wounded another 150.”

Rosario, from Lawrence, Massachusetts, was a supply chief of the 5th Marine Expeditionary Brigade, Naval Support Activity Bahrain, and a member of its Female Engagement Team. According to Stars and Stripes, the Female Engagement Team “interact[s] with women barred by custom from talking to male strangers.”



First Lieutenant Jack Coppola confirmed to Stars and Stripes that Rosario had “served 6 1/2 years in the Corps [and] was screening women and children at Abbey Gate when the attack took place.”

“Her service was not only crucial to evacuating thousands of women and children, but epitomizes what it means to be a Marine: putting herself in danger for the protection of American values so that others might enjoy them,” Coppola further told Stars and Stripes. “She is a hero, and her legacy will never be forgotten.”

Rosario's friends posted tributes to the fallen Marine on social media.



Nastassia Hyatt, a former Marine who lived with Rosario, said in a Facebook post, "You became my soulmate. You were... are my other half, my whole heart, my world... pretty much my everything."

Her family watched solemnly as the casket entered Veterans Memorial Stadium in her hometown of Lawrence on Tuesday, near pictures of the other 12 service members killed.

"It's often said that a hero is someone that puts themselves below all others, who puts others before themselves," Gov. Charlie Baker said at Tuesday's wake. "As a Marine, as an auntie, as a social worker, as a servant, over and over again, her life exemplified what it means to be truly heroic."



"Many of her colleagues in the military said, among other things, she was a proud Dominican American and a proud Marine," the governor said. "Let me tell you something -- as governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, I am so proud to be able to say that Sgt. Johanny Rosario Pichardo was a child of the commonwealth. God bless her."

Rosario Pichardo is remembered for her dedication to service and community, and volunteered at Lawrence's Cor Unum Meal Center as a JROTC cadet. She was also recognized with "Navy and Marine Corps Achievement medals, two Marine Corps Good Conduct medals, the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, and two letters of appreciation," the Globe reported.