



## **BRITTANY POZZI-TONOZZI IS RUNNING FOR SGT. HOLLI BOLINSKI**

Died March 7, 2019 Serving During Operation Spartan Shield 37, of Pinkneyville, Ill., died after her vehicle collided with a civilian commercial truck in Kuwait on March 7, 2019. She was assigned to the 657th Transportation Detachment based in Mount Vernon, Illinois, an Army Reserve unit. She was deployed to Camp Arifjan in support of Operation Spartan Shield. Bolinski's awards include the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal with Campaign Star, Army Commendation Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal and Meritorious Service Medal, among others.



---

According to Maj. Andy Thaggard with the 184th Sustainment Command, three soldiers were on a mission traveling in North Kuwait. Sgt Bolinski was driving the vehicle when a civilian water truck collided with their vehicle. All three soldiers were evacuated to the US Military hospital at Camp Arifjan. Sgt Bolinski was pronounced dead upon arrival.

Holli was born on September 2, 1981 in Pinckneyville, IL, a daughter of Janie (Lee) Sroka-Meier. She married Robert M. Bolinski on November 4, 2017 in St. Bruno Catholic Church, Pinckneyville, IL and he survives. Holli was a sergeant in the United States Army, 657th Transportation Company, 419th Transportation Battalion, 103rd Sustainment Command, Mt. Vernon, IL, where she worked as a unit administrator. She was a loving wife and mother of 5 children and was always on the go. Holli loved crocheting, being outdoors, cutting the grass, cleaning her cars and gardening (especially her roses). She was a member of St. Bruno Catholic Church, Pinckneyville, IL.

Mendi Sroka fights back the tears as she remembers her older sister Holli.

"Every time I talked to her, she told me she loved knowing she was protecting me, her kids and our country," Sroka said. "She would give the shirt off her back to just about anyone and she had a heart of gold."



Bolinski was a Pinckeyville native and a Sergeant in the Army. This would have been her 11th year serving in the military.

She previously toured in Iraq.

"She became a Sergeant and she was so excited about it," Sroka said. "I remember her talking to me about it all the time."

The Department of Defense says Bolinski died Tuesday in a "non-combat" related incident in Kuwait.

Bolinski leaves behind a husband and 5 kids between the ages of 10 to 20.



"She was more than a soldier, she was the most dedicated mom," Sroka said.

Holli Patterson met Bolinski back in 2016 when she was looking for a job.

Bolinski was the manager at the Casey's in Pinckeyville.

"She was very open and honest and had a very personal relationship with her coworkers and the people underneath her," Patterson said.

Patterson says that the loss of this loving mom, wife, friend and coworker is tough on everyone.

"Someone that is in our area that has fought for our country and has just gone in an instant, it hits you like a freight train, it really does," Patterson said.

Sroka's American Flag in her front yard now sits at half staff as a reminder that her sister made the ultimate sacrifice.

Sgt. Bolinski was set to return home late this summer.