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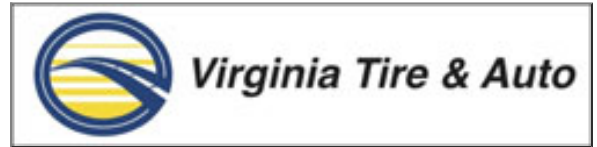
Former Virginia Tire & Auto employee killed in action in Afghanistan

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Tire Business staff report

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. — Sergeant Sean T. Callahan, 23, of Warrenton, Va., a former employee for Virginia Tire & Auto, died April 23 while conducting combat operations in Helmand province, Afghanistan.



The U.S. Marine Corps said Mr. Callahan was an antitank missileman assigned to 3rd Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, based at the Marines' Camp Lejeune. He joined the Marine Corps in March 2008 and was promoted to sergeant Feb. 2, 2011.

Mr. Callahan deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom from August 2009 to October 2009 and most recently in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan in December 2010.

The Marine Corps said his awards include the Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal and Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

Julie Holmes, vice president of Virginia Tire, said Mr. Callahan worked at the dealership's Gainesville, Va., location on front counter/sales from 2003 to 2008, leaving that year to join the Marines.

The company just announced that it is gathering donations of care packages for servicemen and women stationed in Iraq and Afghanistan in partnership with the nonprofit organization Any Solider Inc. "We are now going to our efforts in Sean's memory," Ms. Holmes said.

"We're located in Northern Virginia—close to the Pentagon, Fort Belvoir and Washington, D.C.—and our customer base consists of a lot of military families," she added.

Myron Boncarosky, president of Virginia Tire, said "Sean spent five years working with us and during that time we really saw him grow up. He started off in general service, changing oil and tires, and ultimately became a terrific tire salesman. I was sad when he left us to join the Marines but I knew he had a greater calling. He was highly respected and will be greatly missed."

Mr. Callahan's funeral service will be Monday, May 2, at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Va.

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