Lt. Michael Murphy
A Navy SEALs Hero

Introduction: Memorial Day is in late May and as we come into this national holiday, it gives us an opportunity to remember and honor the sacrifices of those who have given their lives in defense of our nation and for our freedom, as well as the sacrifices of all of those today serving in the military and their families. Today’s story is about Lt. Michael Murphy, a Navy SEAL who died in battle in Afghanistan. Lt. Murphy was fighting the terrorist group al-Qaeda which attacked New York City, and was also fighting the radical elements of the Taliban, a tribe in Afghanistan that supports al-Qaeda. The Taliban then, and still today, are fighting to retake control of Afghanistan and are in a campaign of attacking schools, aid workers, hospitals and the Afghan army. Lt. Murphy earned the Congressional Medal of Honor, our nation’s highest military award, for his courage and loyalty in fighting the enemy and sacrificing his life in the attempt to save the lives of his comrades. The video we will watch will help us to learn not just about the heroism of Lt. Murphy, but also about the person he was as a young boy, and as a man.

Directions: Watch the film clip https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XldlrzWLs60 Please begin the video at 1:06 (The views presented in the first 1:06 seconds of this video are not endorsed by CAM)

Watch this film clip as well: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hEVDNZg33FE

Lt. Murphy’s life is a powerful example of the fullness of heroism. He was courageous in placing his life at risk for his principles and in trying to save the lives of others, while also being noble in living out the virtues of compassion, duty and loyalty. Lt. Murphy’s story reminds us that it is important to honor the sacrifices of those who serve our nation in the military, and especially going into this Memorial Day to honor those who have given their lives in service to our nation.

After watching the video please answer the following questions below in complete sentences on a separate sheet of paper.

Discussion Questions:

1. What did you find to be inspiring, interesting and most meaningful about Lt. Murphy’s story?

2. Lt. Murphy decided to release the goat herders, even though Murphy and his team knew this would likely place their lives at risk. Do you think they made the right decision? Explain.

3. Does courage always involve taking on significant physical risk? How can we live with courage in our everyday lives?

4. In the video, Marcus Luttrell states that none of his teammates died alone. He was with each of them. What virtues did Luttrell live out in this action?

5. What are other examples in the world today of people being courageous and taking significant risks to stand up for principles they believe in? These examples can be from famous people to members of your family, school or local community.