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March 16, 2006

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LTJG John F. Lehman III and
LTJG S. Carr Kratovil, Jr.

East Side
prep school
graduates
on the
front lines
of the war

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Hometown

Manhattan prep school graduates

By Charlotte Eichna and Christopher Moore

They're a Buckley band of brothers.

As youngsters, they had their experience at the Upper East Side private school in common. And now they have something else shared: they're all serving their country in the armed forces.

There are at least five recent graduates of the all-boys school on East 73rd Street who have joined the military, and there may be more. They're the kind of kids who were expected to succeed in whatever they did, but especially on Wall Street. Yet their sense of duty has made them hometown heroes.

Take Stephen "Carr" Kratovil, Buckley class of 1995, who worked for two summers during college in finance at Fred Alger Management, based on the 93rd floor of the World Trade Center's north tower. He was close with President David Alger, and the daughter of good family friends also worked at the firm. Kratovil left Alger late in August 2001 with a job offer for the following year, after he graduated from Bucknell University.

A few weeks later, American Airlines Flight 11 crashed into the north tower, killing everyone in the Alger office that September morning.

"That's when he decided that he wanted to do something else," said Kratovil's father, Stephen, who lives in the East 80s.

So instead of settling into a Manhattan apartment and launching into the finance industry, Carr Kratovil headed to Officer Candidate School in the fall of 2002 and began naval flight officer training soon after.

John F. Lehman III, Buckley class of 1994, also headed into the armed services after graduating from a tony, East Coast university.

"He was probably headed for a job on Wall Street and instead he decided after 9/11 to go in the Navy," said John's father, John F. Lehman, Jr., who was former President Ronald Reagan's Secretary of the Navy.

Naval service almost runs in the family's blood, the father said, pointing to relatives that had served in that branch of the military all the way back to the



Barbara Kratovil and son Carr.

Revolutionary War. And it was no secret that John III, who had "watched 'Top Gun' 500 times," by his father's estimate, harbored dreams of becoming a naval aviator.

But John III caught his father off guard when he called up one day to say he had just been sworn in.

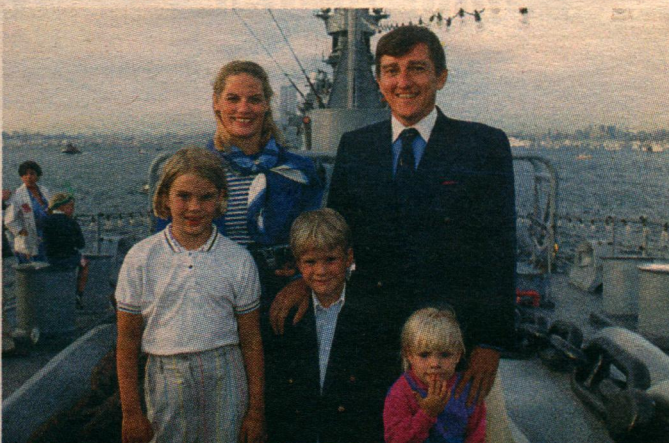
"I thought it was great, terrific, because I'm a former naval aviator and I was delighted that he chose that route," the father said.

Asked if he worried at all for his son's safety, Lehman, Jr. said, "Oh sure, of course. You worry. But these kids did it because they felt a patriotic duty to do it. Certainly none of them needed a job."

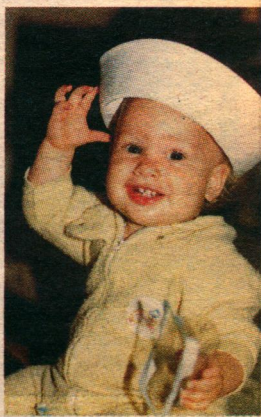
That's a sentiment shared by many New York families who have members in the active military, and each has its own way of dealing with the situation.

Stephen M. McPherson is father of Forbes Reynolds "Renny" McPherson. At Harvard as an undergraduate, the young McPherson was "looking for something where he could really push himself" and surprised his family when he signed up in the summer of 2001 for the Platoon Leaders Course. Last week McPherson arrived in Iraq, where he's an intelligence officer with the First Intelligence Battalion of the First Marine expeditionary force. He's at the epicenter of all political intelligence there.

Stephen McPherson said being the par-



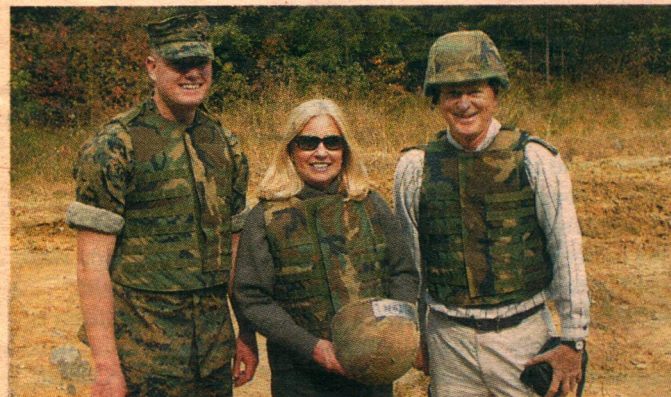
The Lehman family aboard the Battleship Iowa in 1986.



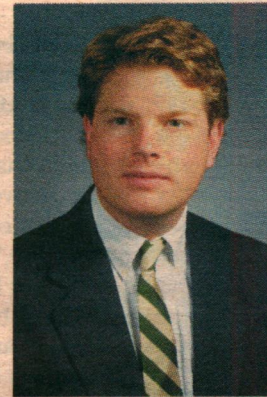
John F. Lehman III as a baby

Heroes

on the front lines of the war



Renny McPherson with mom Tina Sloan and dad Stephen McPherson



Renny McPherson as a young man.

ent of someone serving in Iraq means different things to different people, even within the same marriage. His wife, actress Tina Sloan, usually does not follow the day-to-day news of the war. "I tend to do the opposite," he said, recounting how he follows Web sites and reads several newspapers. "I have a very hard time when I read one soldier, one Marine, was killed. I find it very painful."

Both parents share a keen sense of admiration for their son, as do Renny McPherson's two older siblings. But once other people hear about their son serving in Iraq, the responses the parents get can be unsettling. And the father said they break down generally according to gender.

"The reaction that we get from women is 'Oh, no, how could you have let him do

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ROTC: Largely MIA in Manhattan

By Edward-Isaac Dovere

There are hundreds of Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) programs nationwide, but none in Manhattan.

The military only establishes ROTC programs on campuses when invited by the university administrations. According to current figures, more 25,000 students are currently enrolled across the country in Army ROTC programs alone. Cadets take one to three hours of leadership and management classes per week, depending on the year in school. They also spend one to two weekends per semester training in the field, developing skills like land navigation.

Depending on the results of tests measuring leadership, academics and physical fitness, students are assigned to their preferences for post-graduate assignment, with active duty and the National Guard being the main options.

In fact, said Major Michael Hoblin of the Fordham Army ROTC program, "active duty is very competitive. Here in the past two or three years, we've had more people wanting to go on active duty."

Among that group is Sean Wilkes, who is hoping to become a medical service corps officer in Germany. But Wilkes is not a Fordham student. He is a senior at Columbia University majoring in neuroscience and biochemistry. He travels to the Bronx several times a week for his ROTC classes. Wilkes enrolled at Columbia accepting that doing ROTC would mean an inconvenient commute.

Approximately half of the 110 students currently in Fordham's Army ROTC pro-

gram do the same. Four others come from Columbia, four from NYU, and many others are scattered around in schools like Pace University, Baruch College and John Jay College.

The burden of the trip helped convince Wilkes to join Advocates for Columbia ROTC, a group working to convince the university administration to return it to the school. Columbia expelled the program during the Vietnam War.

"The vast majority of the student community is really accepting. They're not as vitriolic as some might make you believe," he said.

This is not universal, though.

"Professors can vary a little more. Professors will make snide remarks about it. It's not totally uncommon," Wilkes said, while adding, "most professors are equally accepting and equally professional."

The proposal went before the university Senate last Spring, but was defeated largely because the university disagreed with the current "don't ask, don't tell" policy directed at gays and lesbians in the military.

Though he admitted this was a setback, Wilkes said the group of about 50 students, alumni and faculty would press on regardless. And he believes that it is in everyone's interests that they succeed.

"We want more highly qualified individuals to enter leadership positions in the armed forces," he said. With so many leaders coming out of Columbia, Wilkes added, "We felt it behooved the university to get involved and situate itself where it could produce leaders in other fields."