

# ALWAYS REMEMBER

**Lt. Col. Karen Wagner**  
40 - San Antonio, Texas



**KIA - 09/11/2001**

A 1984 graduate of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas ROTC, Lt. Col. Wagner earned her Master's in Health Services Administration at Webster University's St. Louis campus in 1992. She was assigned to the Pentagon as the medical personnel officer in the Office of the Army Surgeon General and Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel on 9/11. She had just returned to her desk after watching the second plane hit the World Trade Center on TV. Wagner initially survived the blast when flight 77 hit the Pentagon, buckling the concrete beneath her office. But was overcome by the smoke and flames trying to escape.

Wagner, nicknamed "Peanut," grew up in the Army. Her father, Bill Wagner was a medic.

A natural athlete, she played basketball and ran track in high school, but was known for her great sense of humor. That sense of humor continued throughout her time in the Army, even after facing adversity in the death of an infant daughter and a divorce. Wagner was known to still sing "Hey Baby, Que Paso" walking down the hall and she remained close to her Army family. The annual Army human resource officer leadership award is named in her honor. She is interred at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery.



WHO ARE YOU CARRYING?

