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Megan Basham

Megan Basham is a film critic for Townhall.com.

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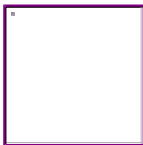
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Wade Zirkle



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About Wade Zirkle:

Wade Zirkle is the founder and Executive Director of Vets for Freedom, a nonpartisan, pro-mission advocacy group representing Iraq and Afghanistan War veterans.

Wade graduated from the University of South Carolina in 2000 with a B.A. in Political Science. Shortly thereafter, he was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps. He went on to become a Marine infantry officer where his first duty assignment was with 2nd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion. He was a Light Armored Vehicle (LAV) platoon commander in the invasion and liberation of Iraq in 2003, with tactical command of over 50 Marines. Upon returning to stateside, he was promoted to Company Executive Officer, second in command of 150 Marines.

In February, 2004, Wade volunteered to return to Iraq with a shorthanded infantry unit from Camp Pendleton, California. He was named a rifle platoon commander with the 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines (2/1), in charge of 41 Marines and two Navy Corpsmen. Wade's unit deployed to Fallujah, where over half of his men earned Purple Hearts, and seven of his men were killed in action. On Labor Day of 2004, Zirkle was wounded and evacuated to the States after being hit by a suicide car bomb.

After rehabilitation, Wade was honorably discharged from the Marine Corps. In 2006, Zirkle founded Vets for Freedom, in an effort to reenergize American public support for the fight for freedom in the Middle East. One can learn more at www.vetsforfreedom.org. Wade is from Edinburg, in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley.

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by Anne Morse (May 15, 2006)

Should human rights activists fighting genocide in Darfur join forces with groups with ties to terrorists--fanatics whose dearest wish is to commit genocide?

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