



**THE AMERICAN
LEGION**

Post 183

For God and Country
22 Union St, Sidney, NY 13838

The American Legion, Post 183 is organizing a fund raiser to assist Spc. Mathew Cooke (Afton Graduate) who was shot at Fort Hood Texas on November 5th. *With numerous injuries and a long recovery he and his family will need help financially.*

On February 20th at 1pm
the Sidney American Legion will host
a fundraiser for Matthew & Family

As part of this event we will have a Roast Beef Dinner, with mashed potatoes, vegetable and desert for \$9.00pp, a bake sale, 50/50 raffle and a Chinese auction will take place. We are also tentatively going to have live entertainment during the event, from 2 pm until?
This event will be open to the public with advertisements in the local papers and radio.

All proceeds will be donated to his family!

The sequence of events that led to his injuries are as follows:

On November 5, 2009 U.S. Army Spc. Matthew Cooke, 30 a graduate of Afton High School, who also attended Sidney Central Schools was in a processing center at Fort Hood Texas. Investigators say an Army psychiatrist Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan opened fire, killing 13 people and wounding 30.

Spc. Cooke, a 10 year Army veteran who has served two tours in Iraq, suffered five wounds. Three shots went into his back, one grazed his head, and the final gunshot wound was to his abdomen.

When the shooting started Spc. Cooke saw another soldier with a large chest wound, he threw himself over the soldier to protect his comrade from gunfire and was himself shot in the back three times. When Spc. Cooke started to move, he was shot in the stomach, which was the most intense wound of all because it caused extensive internal injuries.

Spc. Cooke as a result of his unselfish action to protect a wounded comrade now suffers from nine holes in his colon, he lost his bladder and surgeons had to rebuild his intestines. He is out of the hospital but in daily rehabilitation with a very long recovery ahead of him.

Spc. Cooke is one of our armed forces who protect us! As an American Legion we are here to help in times of war and peace, to give to military families in need, that give to our freedom everyday.

Now is the time for all of us to come together and show our support for what he has done, and say Thank You!

**For this, we are asking for donations of goods or services
of any kind for this fundraising event!**

Myles Harrington
Commander