Who was Pat Tillman?

Pat Tillman was born on November 6th, 1976 in Fremont, California. He was an excellent high school football player, and he went to Arizona State University on a football scholarship. Tillman is a member of the U.S. College Football Hall of Fame.

Tillman was drafted by the Arizona Cardinals of the NFL in 1998.

In May 2002, eight months after the September 11 attacks, Tillman turned down a contract offer of $3.6 million over three years from the Cardinals to enlist in the U.S. Army. His brother, Kevin, turned down a professional baseball contract to join him.

On April 22nd, 2004, while deployed in Afghanistan, Pat Tillman was reported to have been killed by enemy fire. After a lengthy investigation, it was determined that Tillman was killed by “friendly fire” during the intensity of the firefight. He received the Silver Star and Purple Heart meals posthumously.

A report described in *The Washington Post* on May 4, 2005, prepared at the request of Tillman's family by Brigadier General Gary M. Jones revealed that in the days immediately following Tillman's death, Army investigators were aware that Tillman had been killed by friendly fire, shot three times in the head.

It was reported that reported that members of Tillman's unit burned his body armor and uniform in an apparent attempt to hide the fact that he was killed by friendly fire.  His notebook, in which Tillman had recorded some of his thoughts on Afghanistan, was also burned.

Tillman's family was not informed of the finding that he was killed by friendly fire until weeks after his memorial service, although at least some senior Army officers knew of that fact prior to the service.

According to Jon Krakauer in his book *Where Men Win Glory*, the extensive cover-up that followed Tillman's death included the military's order to Tillman's comrades to lie to his family at the funeral.

Tillman's parents have sharply criticized the Army's handling of the incident; Tillman's father charges that the Army "purposely interfered in the investigation" because of the effect it could have on their recruiting efforts, while Tillman's mother charges that "this lie was to cover their image."

Tillman’s father blamed high-ranking Army officers for presenting "outright lies" to the family and to the public.

Rumors and speculation continue to exist that Tillman may have been murdered by fellow soldiers, possibly because of his emerging anti-war views.

