

Local Marine Killed in Iraq

by K_Guice

A memorial service is being held for Marine Lance Cpl. Randy Lee Newman, a Bend native who died August 20, while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar Province, Iraq.

In a press conference on Wednesday, Ramona Newman invited the public to attend her 21-year-old son's memorial service on Tuesday at 11 a.m. at the Hooker Creek Expo Center in Redmond.

Standing in front of the family's home, Newman shared how proud she was of her son, a "strong and valiant warrior."

"He was called to be a marine," she said. "Our family is proud to stand before you as a family who believes and has faith, and we are proud to be Marines."

Lance Cpl. Randy L. Newman inspects gear before heading out on a patrol in western Al Anbar Province, Iraq, July 1, 2006. Photo by Cpl. Graham A. Paulsgrove. Lance Cpl. Newman loved his country and believed in what he was doing according to his mother. The photo taken July 1, 2006, shows Lance Cpl. Newman as he inspects gear before heading out on a patrol in western Al Anbar Province, where he later lost his life.

Cpl. Adam A. Galvez, 21, of Salt Lake City, Utah was also killed during the combat operation.

Both Marines were assigned to 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Twentynine Palms, California.

Nearly two weeks prior to this photo, at their base in the wide, rural desert region of Al Anbar, Marines in Lance Cpl. Newman's battalion spent two months on the move in and around Fallujah. It is a city which was the site of major combat operations between Coalition Forces and insurgents in November 2004, according to Cpl. Graham A. Paulsgrove with the U.S. Marine Corps.

For 60-plus days, the Marines spent their time in and out of eight-wheeled Light Armored Vehicles maintaining security, rooting out insurgents, looking for improvised explosive devices and conducting humanitarian missions in Kharma. That is a town on the outskirts Fallujah.

After weeks of working alongside Iraqi soldiers in Al Qaim, a city near the Iraqi-Syrian border, the Marines were sent to Kharma, where they kept a heavily-trafficked section of the road between Fallujah and Baghdad clear of insurgent activity.

His battalion also assisted ground forces with operations in Fallujah's neighboring town of Habbaniyah.

After their operations in the Sunni Triangle were completed, they went to Haditha to help provide security for a raid resulting in the capture of a high ranking terrorist in the insurgency, Cpl. Paulsgrove wrote.

"We thank each and every one of you for your prayers. I know there's many," his mother said. "Please keep us in your prayers."

As of Tuesday, Aug. 22, 2006, at least 2,612 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count.

The figure includes seven military civilians. At least 2,075 died as a result of hostile action, according to the military's numbers. Gov. Ted Kulongoski, who plans to attend Lance Cpl. Newman's funeral, has ordered flags at all public institutions in the state flown at half-staff on Friday, in the marine's memory.

"I want to express how grateful we are to these young men for their dedicated service," said Gov. Kulongoski.

"Their loss is a painful reminder of the perilous work our armed forces undertake," he added. "Our thoughts and prayers are with their friends and family at this very difficult time."

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