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Friday, November 19, 2004

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Marine from Naperville killed

Six Marines from Illinois killed in Iraq



November 12, 2004 (INVERNESS, Ill.) — It was another difficult day for Chicago area families with loved ones fighting in Iraq. Six Marines from Illinois have died in battle this week. At least 22 troops have now died in Iraq since last Friday. That means 28 percent of those casualties are from Illinois. Military officials say this is just a coincidence. The six Marines from Illinois are -- Lance Corporal Nicholas Larson, Lance Corporal Aaron Pickering, Lance Corporal Branden Ramey, Corporal Joshua Palmer, corporal Peter Giannopoulos and Sergeant David Caruso.

DAVID CARUSO

[ABC7 Video Clip](#)

David Caruso was the youngest of three boys. One of his brothers died of an illness a few years ago. His oldest son spoke for his family today. Michael Caruso was proud of his little brother but that didn't mean he didn't worry.

"I said, just be careful. You know, keep your head down. Keep your eyes open. Keep your head on a swivel. Keep your body armor on and he said don't worry. I'll be OK," said Michael.

Sergeant David Caruso was killed in combat in Iraq. He grew up in Naperville and was a 1998 graduate of Waubonsie Valley High School. He played varsity football there.

"What happens to you or one of yours here at the -- it kind of brings it right here and it really saddens you," said BJ Luke, football coach.

He left high school with a knee injury and pushed himself through rehab to make it to boot camp.

"Anything he tried, he was -- he never gave up," said Michael.

Sergeant Caruso is the third Naperville resident to be killed while in Iraq. The mayor had this to say.

"Our love and prayers that they get through this. Thank you, David," said Mayor George Pradel, Naperville.

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I promise to work as part of a team so the lights can stay on all season.

Tom Williams

The mayor was a marine himself. He also just sent his grandson to Okinawa for training with the Marines. So today he was speaking as a mayor but also as a father and grandfather who is worried about loved ones.

The five other Marines from Illinois killed in Iraq this week are the following:



Peter Giannopoulos of Inverness was a marine reservist who was killed yesterday in Fallujah. He was sent to Iraq in September along with his Waukegan-based unit. The 22-year-old corporal had joined the Marines in 2000 after he graduated from Fremd High School in Palatine.



NICHOLAS LARSON

Lance Corporal Nicholas Larson, 19, grew up in Wheaton and joined the marines after graduating from high school last year.



AARON PICKERING
U.S. MARINE

Infantryman Aaron Pickering, 20, of downstate Harrisburg joined the Marines after graduating from high school in 2002. He was killed Wednesday.



LANCE CPL. BRANDEN RAMEY

Lance corporal Branden Ramey of Belvidere was 22-years old when he was killed Monday.

Corporal Joshua Palmer, 24, of Blandinsville also died Monday. He died in a non-combat accident.

Someone You Should Know

Everyone has a little dirty laundry.

DESPERATE HOUSEWIVES

SUNDAYS
9/8c



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