

Memorial Funeral Home

San Juan, TX

Contact Name: Veronica Moreno

On January 6, 2006 we held a memorial service for a young man who was killed while serving a tour of duty in Iraq. This gentleman served in the United States Marines and died as a result of hostile action in Al Anbar Province, Iraq.

Along with his family we organized a memorial service to commemorate the one year anniversary of his death. The evening service was held in our funeral home chapel on a Friday evening and included the playing of Taps, a loving memories video to honor the life of this young man, and presentations by several leaders in our community. Some of the organizations who participated in this event were America's Last Patrol and the JROTC from Mission High School.

At the entrance of our chapel we placed a photo of the Marine and set up a register book and a small table where we placed programs and small red white and blue ribbons for guests to take. As people walked into the chapel they saw a large portrait of the young man with a message. There were also several collages of pictures of him with his family and friends, along with a frame that had written messages to the deceased. At the front of the chapel we set up a table with small candles that had his picture on them, his Marine uniform, the United States flag, his citizenship certificate, a proclamation from the City of Pharr, and the Presidential Memorial Certificate.

The service began with the posting of colors by the Mission JROTC and America's Last Patrol. We then heard from State Representative Aaron Pena and also showed a video in honor of the Marine and played Taps. There was also a candle lighting ceremony and persons in attendance were invited to come forward and take a candle in memory of this young man. Once the service concluded those persons in attendance were invited to a small reception in our facility where they had the opportunity to reflect on the service and share words of comfort and encouragement to this young man's family.

When the family of this young man came to us for assistance with a service to honor this young man we felt it was our responsibility to assist them in any way possible and to volunteer our facility for this event. Shortly after this Marine died there was also a dedication ceremony in a local park where his name was engraved into one of the granite memorials that we also helped install.

Although it is difficult for this young man's family to accept the reality of their loss we feel it is our responsibility to offer our services to help them in any way we can. This gentleman made a sacrifice for his family and for our nation and

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it is our responsibility as citizens of this country to do all we can for someone who gave so generously of himself so that we could enjoy the gift of freedom.

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