

Friday, December 17, 2004

**Governor Schwarzenegger Issues Statement on Death of Three Camp Pendleton Marines: Staff Sgt. Melvin L. Blazer, Lance Cpl. Hilario F. Lopez, Lance Cpl. Gregory P. Rund**

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today issued the following statement regarding the death of three Camp Pendleton Marines who were supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom: "As we reflect on the sacrifice that these brave Marines made in defense of our nation, we take some comfort in knowing that their lives will be remembered not only by their families, loved ones and neighbors, but by their fellow Marines and all Americans. Maria and I send our prayers to the families of Staff Sgt. Blazer, Lance Cpl. Lopez and Lance Cpl. Rund as they mourn." Killed in the line of duty were: Staff Sgt. Melvin L. Blazer, 38, of Moore, OK; Lance Cpl. Hilario F. Lopez, 22, of Ingleside, TX; Lance Cpl. Gregory P. Rund, 21, of Littleton, CO. Rund died Dec. 11 and Blazer and Lopez died Dec. 12 as a result of enemy action in Al Anbar Province, Iraq. All three were assigned to 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, CA. In honor of these brave Marines, Capitol flags will be flown at half-staff.

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