

Salem Bachar (24 June 1985 - April 12, 2006)



Salem Bachar was born in Chula Vista on 24 June 1985. Salem was active in sports while attending Chula Vista High School, particularly in wrestling and tennis. He was also on the track team and played several musical instruments, and enjoyed magic. He graduated in 2003 and a few months later, on October 14th, joined the U.S. Marine Corps.

He joined the United States Marine Corps in the fall of 2003, went to Defense Language school studying Arabic, and became a translator and intelligence analyst for the Marine Corps. In addition to English and Arabic, he also spoke Spanish.

Corporal Salem Bachar, USMC of Chula Vista was killed due to enemy action in Al Anbar Province, Iraq on April 13 along with Cpl Stephen J. Perez, aged 22. Bachar was assigned to Headquarters Battalion, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif. Perez was assigned to 1st Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

A memorial was held at Camp Fallajujah on 17 April, 2006. Cpl. Salem Bachar died April 12 as a result of enemy action while operating in Al Anbar Province.

He served as an intelligence analyst and Arabic translator during his second deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. During his first deployment, in August 2004, he was assigned to Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, based out of Camp Lejeune, N.C. His second deployment began in January of 2006.

Approximately 200 Marines, sailors and soldiers attended the memorial service at Camp Fallujah's Chapel of Hope. Before the service, many lined up to hand-write messages to Bachar.

"Cpl. Bachar, you always had a smile and a joke even at the worst of times," one message read. "It was an honor to know you and I cherish the time we had."

Bachar's death was especially hard and unexpected for the Marines and sailors who worked closely with him.

"He chose to make a difference with his life, first by becoming a Marine, second by putting himself in danger, and finally by becoming a memory to those that knew him,"

said Cpl. Adam G. Wanjon, a friend of Bachar and fellow intelligence analyst. “I willingly carry the memory of him in my heart until the day we meet again.”

Col. Peter H. Devlin, assistant chief of staff for Bachar’s battalion, never expected to lose one of his intelligence Marines.

“Today is very difficult for me,” said Devlin. “He was an absolute pleasure to work with, and it was an honor to get to know him and to serve with him.”

He is survived by his wife, Kristine, his parents, Fouad and Martha, and two twin sisters of Fontana, CA. He was buried at Rosehill Memorial Park at Whittier, CA on 22 April, 2006.

He was awarded the Purple Heart, Combat Action Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and the Sea Service deployment Ribbon.

