

Alfredo Barrajas “Boy” Silva

(Nov 20, 1969 – Sept 15, 2005)

Alfredo B. Silva was born in Chula Vista on November 20, 1969 and went to school in Chula Vista, CA.

Silva, whose father died when he was 4, moved with his mother into the home of his grandparents Asuncion and Amparo Barajas, who raised him as if he were their own son. Family members said he followed his grandfather everywhere, spending weekends with him at the horse races in Caliente or at the family ranch south of the border. Alfredo went to Cook Elementary School and Hilltop High School both in Chula Vista. He graduated from Hilltop in 1988. After his high school graduation, he worked in the family concrete construction business.

"His family was the most important thing to him," recalled a cousin, Cindy Lopez. "He didn't like that we all worried about him."

Silva met his wife Cecilia when he was 14 during a summer in 1984 he spent in Mexico, and the two dated for six years. His daughter was born in 1993, and he joined the Army in October 1994. "Nobody understood why he wanted to do it," his aunt Julia Robles said. "But he wanted to be a little bit more independent. He wanted to help people. He wanted to do something different."

Before his service in Iraq, Army SSgt. Alfredo B. Silva spent each Sunday with his extended family, all 44 of them, watching football and grilling carne asada here in Chula Vista. Most recently, he was assigned to the Army National Guard, 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry Regiment, 40th Infantry Division in Modesto, CA. After spending some R&R time with his family SSGT Silva returned to Iraq on Labor Day

Staff Sergeant Alfredo B. Silva, 35, of Calexico, Calif., was killed in action in Baghdad, Iraq, on Sept. 15, 2005, when an improvised explosive device (IED) detonated near his HMMWV vehicle during patrol operations.

He is survived by his wife, Cecilia; daughter, Mariel; mother, Teresa Barajas; and grandparents, Amparo and Asuncion Barajas. Services were conducted at the Humphrey Mortuary in Chula Vista. Alfredo Silva is buried at the Glen Abbey Cemetery in Bonita, CA.

Staff Sergeant Alfredo B. Silva personal awards include the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and a state of California Medal.





On February 28, 2006, Alfredo B. Silva was awarded the Hawaiian Medal of Honor along with 119 others who served from the state of Hawaii and died in the line of duty during the Global War on Terrorism in Iraq, Afghanistan, or Kuwait.

