## Michigan man knew of dangers in Iraq



Saher Georges of Southfield was popular with the Marines he worked with. His family said he wanted to serve and enjoyed his work.

## Interpreter with Marines mourned

By NAOMI R. PATTON FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

After burying him in the morning, Saher Georges' family members gathered at their home Wednesday Southfield evening.

His mother and other women in the family wore black and sat in the living room. His father, brothers, uncles and cousins, also wearing black, sat in the garage in the backyard.

Some wore dog tags with his picture on the front, and "In Loving Memory" on the back.

The American flag that adorned his coffin sat on the living room coffee table, surround-

ed by photos of him in Iraq.

Mr. Georges, an Arabic interpreter for the U.S. Marines, was killed along with two other Marines on Aug. 29 by a car bomber who drove through a checkpoint in Ramadi, Iraq. He was 23.

"There are waves of crying," said his cousin, Ryan Najor, 25, of Southfield. "We're telling a lot of stories about him."

Mr. Georges, who worked for Virginia-based L-3 Communications Titan, was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 8th Marine Armored Division.

To the unit, he was known as

In an e-mail to the family, Lance Cpl. Steven VanNostrand said Mr. Georges "put a smile on everybody's face that he was around."

"I didn't look at Steve like just an interpreter," VanNostrand said, "I considered him to be one of us, a Marine."

Mr. Georges, of Chaldean and Svrian Orthodox descent, came to the United States from Bagh-

dad with his family when he was a Soldier dies in mortar attack child, said his cousin, Dina Georges, 26, of Southfield.

He told his family that Iraq was "really dangerous and really rough," Dina Georges said. But, she said, he enjoyed his work.

"He wanted to serve his country and help his family," she said. A graduate of Southfield-Lathrup High School, Mr. Georges loved playing soccer and basketball.

He loved hip-hop — rapper Young Jeezy, in particular. And he was funny.

"Like, if anyone you could make a cartoon character out of, it was him," Najor said.

"Our whole family, we see him as a hero," said Dina Georges.

Mr. Georges is survived by his parents, Salman and Khalida; his older brothers, Sameh and Samer, and a nephew.

A public memorial mass will be held in Mr. Georges' honor Sept. 10 at Sts. Peter and Paul Syrian Orthodox Church at 25566 Lahser Road in Southfield.

The U.S. Department of Defense has an-

nounced the death of another Michigan soldier, Sgt. Ralph N. Porras, 36, of Merrill. He was killed by mortar fire Saturday in Yusifiyah, Iraq.

He served with Porras, 36, the 1st Battalion, of Merrill, 325th Airborne Inwas killed

fantry Regiment, Saturday. 2nd Brigade Com-

bat Team, 82nd Airborne Division out of Fort Bragg, N.C.

Sgt. Porras had also served in Afghanistan.

"In Iraq, there was more open fighting, a greater willingness to attack," he said in the San Francisco Chronicle in August 2005. 'Here it's different. They know how to fight guerrilla war," he said of Afghanistan.

Contact NAOMI R. PATTON at 313-223-4485 or npatton@freepress.com.

## **DEATH NOTICES LOCAL DEATHS**

**Phone:** 800-926-8237 (option 4) **Fax:** 586-977-7510 On the web: www.detroitnewspapers.com/deathnotices



Patrick John Uetz's legacy was raising seven successful children.

"He used to joke that none of his daughters could get married until each of them had two degrees," daughter Mary Beth Kelly, chief judge of Wayne County Circuit Court, said Wednesday.

Mr. Uetz died Tuesday at the Applewood Nursing Home in Woodhaven. He was 73.



Uetz

Kelly said her father, a teacher and coach in Detroit-area Catholic schools, believed strongly in education — especially Catholic education: "He believed that our success depend-

ed as much on developing moral and religious values as other abilities," she said.

Mr. Uetz's other children are a federal prosecutor, two trial lawyers, a social worker, a foundation chief of staff and a Marine Corps colonel and lawyer.

He was born in Detroit to immigrants. His father, who was born in Ireland, was an assembly worker for Ford Motor Co. His mother, who was born in Scotland, sold hats at Hudson's old department store in downtown Detroit.

After graduating from St. Alphonsus High School in Dearborn in 1952, Mr. Uetz served in the Navy. In 1959, he graduated from Eastern Michigan University with a bachelor's degree in education. He later earned a master's degree in guidance counseling.

He began his career teaching and coaching at St. Francis Cabrini in Allen Park in 1959. In 1960, he worked for St. David High School in Detroit as a guidance counselor and a football and basketball coach. In 1966, he was named athletic director, head football coach, teacher and guidance counselor at Bishop Borgess High School in Redford Township. Later, he became the school's principal.

In 1977, Gov. William Milliken appointed Mr. Uetz director of the Michigan Youth Employment Program to provide jobs and training to young people to stimulate the economy. He retired in 1999.

In addition to his daughter, he is survived by his wife of 32 years, Patricia Catherine Uetz; daughters Patricia Uetz, Kathleen Carmody, Maureen Callahan, Ann Marie Uetz and Jennifer Hastings, and a son,

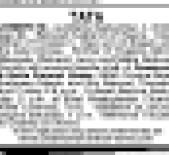
Patrick Uetz. Visitation will be from 1 to 9 p.m. Friday at Voran Funeral Home, 23701 Ford Road in Dearborn, with a rosary service at 7 p.m. A funeral mass will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday at St. Alphonsus Catholic Church, 7265 Calhoun in Dearborn. Burial will be private.

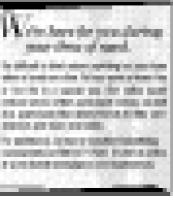


























NCOCK FABRICS

Married Married SECULO SERVICE

Rep (2001-1200-ye)



