

## Marine Cpl. William G. Taylor

Cpl. William G. (Grady) Taylor or "Billy", as he was fondly known as, was KIA 11-30-05 in Al Ambar Provence, Iraq. He was with the 8th Regimental Combat Team, 2nd Battalion, 6th Marines Weapons Company. He was sent home December 10th, his cousins birthday, and just 8 days before his own birthday, December 18th. He left behind a beautiful daughter, Leah Amber, who will be 8 this summer (but he wasn't married). He took full responsibility for his daughter and saw her whenever he was home. He joined after 9-11 so he could help protect our country from this type of invasion and keep this land safe for his daughter, family and all Americans.

Before going to Camp LeJeune, he was stationed at 8th and I Marine Corp Barracks in Washington, D.C. with B-Co. He volunteered to go to Iraq; he wanted to help make a difference with a people who were oppressed and wanted freedom. He wanted to help them know what we have: freedom, schools, the right to vote, so much of what this country as a whole takes for granted.

When we went to Camp LeJeune for the service, the chaplain told us Billy kept everyone laughing; he was the company clown. He was able to do things that would have gotten anyone else thrown in the brig but not Billy! We met some of the young men that served with him and they are an awesome group of young men.

When Billy was at 8th and I, he was on the firing squad for military funerals for fallen Marines. He was in the Rotunda when Reagan died and we saw him on t.v. I remember coming home from work after second shift, turning the tube on and within 5 minutes seeing my youngest son. He is also seen in a documentary that National Geographic did on how the different branches of the service send their fallen Warriors home "Arlington Field of Honor".

When he came home, he liked to visit with his family and friends. He loved children and had planned to come home when his 4 year tour was up, settle down and get a job so he could spend more time with his daughter. He liked to travel but wanted to come home and be with his family.

I have attached some photos but the one of Billy and Leah is everyone's favorite. That was taken on the beach at Camp LeJeune when I took Billy back before he shipped out. I don't know if you can use any of them but here they are.

If you need anything else, please let me know. Thank you for all you are doing and let us know about motels in the area. There is a group of us talking about coming up on Friday before. I will do my best to get an estimate of how many (Gena and Teresa may do this). Unfortunately, I know a lot of Gold Stars, fortunately we have bonded together and keep in touch with one another.

God Bless you and yours and Semper Fi.

*Catherine M. Krattli*

*President of Georgia Marine Moms*

*Gold Star mother of*

*Cpl. William G. Taylor*

*KIA 11-30-05*

*AL Anbar Provence, Iraq*