



BRITTNEY BARNETT IS RUNNING FOR ARMY SGT. MYLA L. MARAVILLOSA

24, of Wahiawa, Hawaii; assigned to the 203rd Military Intelligence Battalion, Army Reserve, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.; died Dec. 24 in Kirkuk, Iraq, of injuries sustained earlier that day when her Humvee was attacked by enemy forces using rocket-propelled grenades in Hawijah, Iraq.

A 24-year-old soldier from Wahiawa was killed Christmas Eve in Iraq, the second female service member from Hawai'i to lose her life in the nearly three-year military operation.

Army Sgt. Myla L. Maravillosa suffered fatal injuries when her Humvee was attacked by enemy forces using rocket-propelled grenades in Al Hawijah, the Defense Department announced.

Maravillosa, a 1999 graduate of Leilehua High School, was assigned to the Army Reserve's 203rd Military Intelligence Battalion out of Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.

Maravillosa joined the U.S. Army Reserve after graduating from high school, said her mother, Estelita Maravillosa. Having moved to Hawai'i in 1997 from the Philippines, Myla Maravillosa wanted to serve her adopted country, her mother said.

"She was doing a heroic job," her mother said.

Estelita Maravillosa, 62, said she was notified Saturday of her daughter's death. She said when military personnel approached her Wahiawa apartment, she began to panic.

"She is my only child; she is my only daughter," she said in an interview yesterday evening.

Maravillosa said her daughter had dreams of working for a United States embassy in foreign relations. She said Myla Maravillosa had planned to attend Hawai'i Pacific University this year but was sent to Iraq on Nov. 20. She previously attended Leeward Community College, her mother said.





Maravillosa was a devout Catholic who attended church at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Peace in downtown Honolulu.

"She was friends with all the nuns and sisters," said her mother, noting that St. Paul's Cathedral in Boston held a Mass in her daughter's honor.

"That is where she went for her holy retreat after her military training," the elder Maravillosa said.

Maravillosa said her daughter's death comes as a shock because she was only in Iraq for a little more than a month.

Estelita Maravillosa spent Christmas Day with family in Mililani. She said Myla Maravillosa's extended family is devastated by the news.

"This is a very bad Christmas," she said.

