



Note: 12/17/09 I saw the procession today on Washington Street. It took about 15 minutes to pass on the way to the VA cemetery. What's 15 minutes? He gave his life so that we could be free to honor him and others like him.

WATERBURY, Conn. -- On Thursday, friends and family gathered in Waterbury to remember Xhacob Latorre, who died last week as he tried to recover from wounds he suffered while serving in Afghanistan.

Latorre's aunt, Carmen Lasalle, spoke on behalf of the family and said, "Xhacob was a very unique person. He was lovable, respectful and touched many lives. There was absolutely nothing bad about him; we enjoyed his presence every second of the day."

Latorre served in both Iraq and Afghanistan. He was injured in an explosion in August. Both of his legs were amputated and he was being treated in Texas when he died, surrounded by his family.

Lasalle said, "Our family is hurting tremendously, but we are so thankful to God almighty that he was brought back to us alive and that we could be with him in his last days."

Latorre leaves behind his wife and young son. The fallen Marine was escorted from his hometown of Waterbury to the state's veteran cemetery in Middletown by a motorcade which included dozens of police officers and members of the Patriot Guard Riders.

Lasalle said, "He was a wonderful son, the best husband a wife can ask, a great father to his son Javier, a wonderful brother, nephew and grandson. We all love him so much; it will be very hard to continue without him, but he will live forever in our hearts and will always be part of our lives."

John Lewis Sr., VP & Webmaster USNR Retired