



**Sergeant Michael J. Martinez  
1982 – 2007**

**Sergeant Michael J. Martinez was born in Chula Vista California. He attended Kellogg Elementary School, Hilltop Middle School and graduated from Eastlake High School in 2000. Michael was a talented athlete who could play any sport with ease and skill. Michael started playing baseball at an early age with Parkview Little League. He also played with the Senior League. At Eastlake High School he played both football and baseball.**

**Michael joined the U.S. Army after high school because he thought it was the right thing to do. He completed one tour of duty in Iraq and was on his second tour when he was killed. He served in the Army 3 and 1/2 years.**

**He was a member of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 12<sup>th</sup> Infantry regiment, 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Combat Team, 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division Fort Carson, Colorado. At the time of his death he was stationed in Baghdad, Iraq. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division is known as the “Warrior Division”. It is also called the “Indian Head” Division after the unit’s patch.**



**On June 28, 2007 Michael was the Squad Leader leading a three-vehicle convoy patrol in Southern Baghdad. The convoy was struck by a roadside bomb then**

ambushed by rockets and small arms fire. Michael and four other soldiers were killed and seven were wounded during the fire fight.

Michael was buried in Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery, with full military honors. He served his country with honor and distinction. He is remembered by those who knew him as a hero with a beautiful smile, love for life, friends, family and especially his son Landon Michael. His family includes Mr. & Mrs. Manuel and Armida Martinez, his wife Ashley, his son Landon, two brothers Manny and Marc, and his grandparents.

Sgt. Michael J. Martinez awards include the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Army Commendation Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Medal, Global War on Terrorism, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, Combat Infantry Badge, Expert Rifle

