

CHICAGO SUN-TIMES
suntimes.com

suntimes.com
ebert 24/7

reviews







[Home](#) | [News](#) | [Sports](#) | [Business](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Columnists](#) | [Lifestyles](#) | [Ebert](#) | [Search](#) | [Archives](#)

[mobile](#) | [email edition](#) | [printer friendly](#) | [email article](#)



OBITUARIES

-  **Autos**
Reviews & more
-  **Homes**
Homelife news
-  **Careers**
News & advice
-  **Subscribe**
Customer service

News

[Today's news](#)
[Archive](#)
[Census](#)
[Commentary](#)
[Editorials](#)
[Education](#)
[Elections](#)
[Lottery](#)
[Obituaries](#)
[Politics](#)
[Religion](#)
[Special sections](#)
[Weather](#)
[War on Terror](#)
[War in Iraq](#)

Columnists

[Brown](#)
[Falsani](#)
[Foster](#)
[Greeley](#)
[Higgins](#)
[Jackson](#)
[Laney](#)
[Marin](#)
[Martire](#)
[McNamee](#)
[Mitchell](#)
[Novak](#)
[Ontiveros](#)
[O'Rourke](#)
[O'Sullivan](#)
[Pickett](#)
[Quick Takes](#)
[Richards](#)
[Roeper](#)

Nicholas Larson, Wheaton Marine assigned to Iraq

November 12, 2004

BY [DAN ROZEK](#) Staff Reporter

Advertisement

His grandfather couldn't recall exactly when 19-year-old Lance Cpl. Nicholas Larson decided to join the U.S. Marines, but he never doubted the Wheaton teenager would fulfill that ambition.

"He just made up his mind he wanted to be a Marine, and that was it," Patrick O'Sullivan said Thursday.

That dedication didn't waver when Cpl. Larson, a 2003 Wheaton North High School graduate, was assigned in June to serve in Iraq.

The Wheaton man was killed in action earlier this week while fighting in Fallujah. As family members grieved for him, O'Sullivan said his grandson understood -- and accepted -- the risks of being sent into combat in Iraq.

'That's where he belonged'

"He was not afraid to go. This is what he wanted to do -- he wanted to be a career Marine," O'Sullivan said.

Cpl. Larson, described by his grandfather as "just a nice kid," enlisted while still in high school. He went on active duty after he graduated last year, completing boot camp in December.

give me new perspectives
I'll make it happen
just watch me

Online Open House
Thursday, December 2 Register Now



easyedge
US Cellular

Take
Roger Ebert
with you
to the
video store
or the
movie
theater

easyedge
US Cellular

[Roeser](#)
[Smith](#)
[Sneed](#)
[Steinberg](#)
[Steyn](#)
[Sweet](#)
[Washington](#)
[Will](#)
[Wiser](#)
[Other Views](#)



"From the day I met him, Nick was talking about the Marines," said Kim Szymkowiak, his guidance counselor at Wheaton North. "He was very passionate about it. He never once faltered on it. He felt like that's where he belonged."

The family has a history of military service.

O'Sullivan served as a U.S. Army medic during World War II. Cpl. Larson's father, David Larson, served in the U.S. Navy.

A former teacher said Cpl. Larson visited Wheaton North after joining the military and had accepted the fact that he likely would see combat in Iraq.

"He knew it was part of the process, part of his duties," said Jason Stipp, who taught Cpl. Larson during his senior year.

"He had his vision, and he was going to follow it," Stipp said. "He was very focused on his goals."

During a Veterans Day assembly at the school Thursday, the 2,200 students and faculty observed a moment of silence to honor the teen's sacrifice.

Family has few details of death

O'Sullivan e-mailed his grandson in Iraq a little more than a week ago to congratulate him on his recent promotion to lance corporal. In a return e-mail, the Marine was "very upbeat," his grandfather said.

"He said he was OK and not to worry," O'Sullivan said.

Cpl. Larson's family was notified late Tuesday he had been killed, but O'Sullivan said relatives still had few details about his death.

On Thursday, a red Marine Corps flag hung from one corner of the family's front porch and an American flag hung from the other end.

Relatives and friends stopped by the family home to console Cpl. Larson's parents, David and Anne, and his 16-year-old sister, Katie.

Funeral services were pending.

CheapTickets

**FAST
AND EASY
ACCESS
TO
AMAZINGLY
LOW
AIRFARES.**


**Cheap
Tickets
Flights**

Save Now.

**LEMONADE
TYCOON**


**Need a break
Try selling
Lemonade**

[Click here for free tr](#)

 **SMARTpages**
Find a Business
 By Type:
 By Name:

 City, Zip, Area Co

 State

 **SMARTpages.**
 online yellow pages

Find a business: City: State:

by: type or name

[News](#) | [Sports](#) | [Business](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Lifestyles](#) | [Classifieds](#)

Visit our online partners:

[Daily Southtown](#) [Suburban Chicago Newspapers](#) [Post-Tribune](#)
[Pioneer Press](#) [Star Newspapers](#)

Copyright 2004, Digital Chicago Inc.