



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Filipino-American Sergeant Killed in Action in Afghanistan To be Buried with Full Honors in Siquijor**

A Filipino-American soldier who was killed in action while serving in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan early this month will be buried with full U.S. military honors at the family cemetery in Siquijor Province on February 4.

Sgt. Zainah 'Caye' Creamer, 28, was a trained dog handler in the U.S. Army military police and was part of a unit that inspected buildings and vehicles for explosives. She was killed when an improvised bomb exploded while she was conducting route and building clearance for an air assault mission in Howz E Madad, Kandahar, Afghanistan, on January 12.

She joined the U.S. Army in 2004 and has been assigned for training and service at U.S. military camps in Missouri, New York, and Texas. She also served in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The numerous awards and decorations that she received during her six years of service include the Iraq Campaign Medal with Bronze Service Star, the Afghanistan Service Medal with Bronze Service Star, the Global War on Terrorism Medal, the Combat Action Badge, the Expert Rifle Badge, the Army Commendation Medal, and the Army Achievement Medal.

"Sgt. Creamer selflessly dedicated her life to the service of others," said Leslie Bassett, Chargé d'Affaires of the U.S. Embassy in Manila. "She reminds all of us that the freedoms we enjoy are earned through the sacrifice of our military. We will always be grateful to her, and honor her memory. Chargé Bassett and senior U.S. military officers will represent the U.S. government at the funeral service in the central Philippines province on Friday.

At the memorial ceremony, the U.S. government will confer on Sgt. Creamer the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart Medal, the NATO Medal, and the Meritorious Service Medal.

Sgt. Creamer is survived by her mother Carlyn Brown, who resides in Maria, Siquijor Province, her brother George, who lives in Texarkana, Arkansas, and her aunt Lutchie Castleman in Lewisville, Arkansas.

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