


[Home](#)
[CEO Hotline](#)
[Viewpoint](#)
[Classified Ads](#)
[Archives](#)
[Metro.net](#) (web)

Resources

[Safety](#)
[Pressroom](#) (web)

[CEO Hotline](#)
[Metro Projects](#)
[Facts at a Glance](#)
(web)

[Archives](#)
[Events Calendar](#)
[Research Center/](#)
[Library](#)
[Metro Cafe](#) (pdf)

[Metro Classifieds](#)
[Retirement](#)
[Round-up](#)

Metro Info

[Strategic Plan](#) (pdf)

[Org Chart](#) (pdf)

[Policies](#)
[Training](#)
[Help Desk](#)
[Intranet Policy](#)

Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk
at 2-4357

[E-Mail Webmaster](#)

Division 18 Operator Richelle Rayford greets her brother, Marine Lance Corporal Blanton Holiday on his return from Iraq.



Division 18's Richelle Rayford Welcomes Brother Home from Iraq

By RICH MORALLO

(March 30, 2005) Carson Division 18 Operator Richelle Rayford had just finished telling students at Leapwood Avenue Elementary School's Career Day about being a Metro operator, recently, when a fourth grader asked, "Is being an operator dangerous?"

Rayford, a Division Ambassador Council member who volunteers to represent Metro at community events, smiled as she explained some of the challenges of driving a bus on Los Angeles streets.

But the seven-year operator all the while was thinking about her brother, Marine Lance Corporal Blanton Holliday.

"Now my baby brother, he has a dangerous job," said Rayford, who had gone to San Diego a few days after the Leapwood speaking engagement to welcome him home from Iraq.

"Blanton told us about all the gun fire and shooting that goes on over there," said Rayford. "When the Marines had rest time my brother spent his on the computer sending emails to his family."



Division 18 DAC member Richelle Rayford and Leapwood Avenue Elementary students following a presentation at the school.

Three Iraq assignments

Rayford said her brother has served three different assignments in Iraq and has been part of a rescue mission.

"He enlisted right after high school and has about five years' service already," Rayford said. "We would send him boxes of homemade cookies, crackers and Vienna sausages and I would insert a note with 'I love you.'"

"I was so happy when he stepped off that plane in San Diego," she said.

She and other family members had arrived early that day, expecting Blanton's plane to touch down at 5 a.m. But the flight, delayed in Germany, didn't arrive until 7:30 a.m. "His plane finally arrived and in a few minutes Blanton walked right up to us and said 'Hi Sis'. I was so excited."

The last time Rayford was that happy was when she had her first child. "With all the television coverage on the casualties in Iraq," she said, "I was just so thankful that my brother came back alive, safe and with no wounds."