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Army Medic Gabriel J. Figueroa Killed In Baghdad

- Tentative funeral plans for son of Metro Blue Line's Javier Figueroa

(April 6, 2007) Army Medic Gabriel J. Figueroa, 20, son of Metro Rail Transportation Operations Supervisor Javier Figueroa, was killed while on patrol in Baghdad, April 3.

The family, who lives in Baldwin Park, has tentative plans for a military burial at 1 p.m., April 14, at Rose Hills Memorial Park and Mortuary in Whittier, depending on when Figueroa's body is returned home.

Gabriel Figueroa enlisted in the Army in 2005 and was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team of the 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, Tex. He was due to rotate back to the U.S. in December.

"He loved the experience," his mother Elsa told the San Gabriel Valley Tribune. "He loved when the soldiers would walk up to him and say, 'Hey, Doc.'"

A graduate of Sierra Vista High School, Figueroa had volunteered as a Police Explorer with the Baldwin Park Police Department from 2001 to 2003.

Gabriel Figueroa is survived by his father, Javier, who is assigned to the Metro Blue Line; his mother, Elsa; and siblings Xavier, 21; Danica, 18; Sebastian, 15; and Tanya, 13.

