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Sheriff's Lt. John Baylis presents a \$3,000 check to Sebastian and Xavier Figueroa, brothers of the late Army Pvt. 1st Class Gabriel Figueroa.



Photos: Bill Heard

Victims' Families are Beneficiaries of Charity Golf Tourney

(Oct. 19, 2007) Xavier and Sebastian Figueroa lost their brother Gabriel when he was killed in Iraq last April. Julia Luna's daughter Guadalupe was the victim of a murder-suicide last November.

The families of both victims were beneficiaries of a charity golf tournament sponsored in July by the Sheriff's Transit Services Bureau and Metro. Each family received \$3,000 from the tournament's proceeds during a presentation, Thursday, at the Board's Operations Committee meeting.



Julia Luna, mother of the late Sheriff's Dispatcher Guadalupe Castaneda, is pictured here with Lt. John Baylis and Sgt. Carlos Jaen of the Transit Services Bureau.

Pvt. 1st Class Gabriel Figueroa, son of Metro Rail Transportation Operations Supervisor Javier Figueroa, was only 20 years old and an Army medic when he was killed by a sniper while on patrol with a First Cavalry unit. He had joined the Army in October 2005 and deployed to Iraq in October 2006.

Sheriff's TSB Dispatcher Guadalupe Castaneda, who worked in the Rail Operations Center, was killed by her estranged husband who then committed suicide. She leaves behind her three children, Edward, 10; David, 8; and Ailene, 7. Her parents, Jorge and Julia Luna, now care for the orphaned children.

A total of 144 golfers participated in the annual tournament at the Montebello Golf Course last July. Proceeds from the \$90 entry fee were compiled for the donations to the two families.