

Harlan Tribune
Tuesday, January 11, 2005

Fallen marine had local ties

COUNCIL BLUFFS -- Sgt. Tom Houser, a United States Marine killed in combat on January 3 in Iraq, had ties to the Shelby County area.

Houser's mother, M.E. Ward, is the sister of Harlan residents Trudy Salvo and Martha Burchett. Houser had numerous cousins from the Shelby County area as well.

Family members were notified last week of Houser's death. Houser was serving with the 2nd Force Reconnaissance Company, 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force

stationed out of Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Marine officials confirmed that Houser died on Jan. 3 as a result of enemy action in Al Anbar Province, Iraq.

An outpouring of support has emerged from throughout western Iowa. The City of Council Bluffs has offered the use of the Mid-America Center for a memorial service, and the family has been offered the use of St. Albert High School for the funeral.

Funeral services are pending. Houser was a graduate of St.

Albert High School where he participated in football, wrestling and track.

He is survived by his mother, M.E. Ward and her husband, Larry, of Council Bluffs; his father, John Houser, Jr. of Council Bluffs; brother John "Joe" Houser III of Camp Lejeune, N.C.; stepbrother Sean Ward of Omaha; stepsisters Kim Nath of Omaha, Cassie Lester of St. Petersburg, Fla. and Tami Ward of Memphis, Tenn.; and grandparents John Houser, Sr. of Omaha and Gene and Rita Waldmann of Council Bluffs.