

Quincy resident killed by bomb during Iraq patrol

By DON CONKEY
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An Army private who lived in Quincy before joining the military was among eight soldiers killed in a car bombing in Iraq.

Pfc. Norman Darling, 29, was killed Thursday when a vehicle approached his patrol and detonated a bomb just south of Baghdad, according to the Defense Department. The Pentagon released the names last night.



Pfc. Norman Darling

"He will always be my hero," said Martina McCarey of Manchester, Conn., who dated Darling for about three years, until August 2003.

"We were still friends. He kept in contact with me from Iraq," McCarey said.

McCarey said Darling lived in Quincy for a few years and in Brockton for a time before that. His family is from the Bahamas, she said.

He was a resident of Quincy when he went to boot camp in January 2003, she said.

McCarey and Darling were former co-workers at Boston Financial in Quincy, she said.

The Army mistakenly listed Middleboro as Darling's hometown because his mail was being sent to her parents' home there, McCarey said.

"He charmed everybody he knew. He always had a smile on his face," McCarey said. "He was a positive person. Anybody could talk to him. He was a people person."

She said Darling had a daughter who will turn 4 in August. The girl lives in Florida with her mother, she said.

"His main goal of going into the military was to better himself, and to provide a better life for his daughter," McCarey said. "I will miss absolutely everything about him. He was a good person who always had the best intentions."

Darling and the other men in his unit were searching for explosives at the time of the bombing.

As of Friday, 732 U.S. service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq last year, according to the Defense Department.

Darling is at least the 16th Massachusetts resident to die in the war and the seventh soldier with South Shore connections.

The others were Army Spc. Peter Enos, 24, of Dartmouth, the husband of a former Plymouth woman; Marine Lance Cpl. Jeffrey Burgess, 20, of Plymouth; Sgt. Daniel Londono of Dorchester, a 2000 graduate of Archbishop Williams High School in Braintree; National Guard Sgt. Charles Todd Caldwell of Quincy; Marine 1st Lt. Brian McPhillips of Pembroke; and Sgt. 1st Class Robert E. Rooney, a former Plymouth resident.

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