



Pfc. Karina Sotelo Lau

January 2, 1983 – November 2, 2003

U.S. Army

January 8, 2002 – November 2, 2003

Served in:

Iraq

Pfc. Karina Sotelo Lau



Age: 20
Hometown: Livingston, CA
Date of Death: 11/02/2003
Incident Location: Fallujah, Iraq

Branch of Military: Army
Rank: Pfc.
Unit: Company B,
16th Signal Battalion,
3rd Signal Brigade
Unit's Base: Fort Hood, Texas

Karina S. Lau, 20 was a bright and beautiful woman. She was born on January 2nd, 1983 to Agustin and Ruth Lau and lived in Livingston all of her life. She attended Livingston High School where she learned to play the saxophone, flute, trumpet, clarinet and many more. She acted in several musicals and she loved to sing. Karina was best known for her beautiful voice. She graduated 8th in her class out of about 200 in 2001. She went on to University of Pacific with an academic and music scholarship. She attended for about 2 months then she decided that she needed to do more. She joined the United States Army.

She left Livingston in January of 2002 to Fort Jackson, South Carolina for basic training. She graduated and then transferred to Fort Gordon, Georgia for communications training. Once she completed this she was then transferred to Fort Hood, Texas. Lau was a network switching systems operator-maintainer with the Army 16th signal battalion, 3rd signal brigade out of Fort Hood, Texas. She was stationed there until April 2003 where she received orders to report to Iraq. After serving in Iraq for seven months, Army Pfc. Karina Lau hadn't told her parents she was coming home from Iraq for a two-week visit. At 9 a. m. Sunday, November 3rd, a few hours after she sent her last e-mail to her sister, she boarded a Chinook helicopter bound for Baghdad airport, the first leg of a journey toward loving hugs and family dinners. Just after the helicopter took off near the village of Amiryah, it was hit by a surface-to-air missile, military officials said. The attack killed 16 soldiers, including Lau, and wounded at least 20.

Karina is survived by: Her parents, Agustin and Ruth Lau; Brother's, Jose Sotelo and Luis Lau; Sister, Martha Rivera; Brother-in-law, Benjamin Noel Rivera; Sister-in-law, Mary Catherine Lau; Five nephews, David, Daniel, Damian and Diego Rivera and Anthony Lau also survived her.