

Lima Company Memorial About the Lima Company

The name Lima Company stands for L Company. The word "lima", pronounced (lee-ma), is used in the name because it is the word that stands for the letter "l" in the radio call sign alphabet. People who use radios to communicate use this alphabet so that they can be clearly understood on the radio. Each letter is replaced with a word, "alpha" for "a", "beta" for "b", "Charlie" for "c", and so on. The police, firemen and people in the military use the radio call sign alphabet.

The Lima Company is the third battalion of the 25th Marine Regiment. A company is a group of Marines within a battalion. A battalion is a large body of Marines ready for battle. A regiment is a permanent unit of Marines divided into several other groups, such as a battalion.

The headquarters of the Lima Company are located in Brook Park, Ohio.



Radio Call Sign Alphabet

a alpha	i india	r romeo
b bravo	j juliet	s sierra
c charlie	k kilo	t tango
d delta	l lima	u uniform
e echo	n november	v victor
f foxtrot	o oscar	w whiskey
g golf	p papa	x x-ray
h hotel	q quebec	y yankee
		z zulu

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Writing Letters to Marines

The U.S. Department of Defense used to have a program that allowed people to mail letters and packages to servicemen and women overseas. Unfortunately, for security reasons, mail can no longer be sent addressed to "Any Service Member". Furthermore, they ask that you not "flood the military mail system with letters, cards, and gifts." There are several websites devoted to supporting the troops and they offer ways you can write letters to servicemen and women. Several of the websites also tell you how you can make donations to service members and their families. In addition, the websites tell you how to package your letters so they can be delivered. You might also try contacting your local American Red Cross to see if they are accepting letters and care packages for soldiers overseas or those who are recovering from wounds in a military hospital here in the U.S.

Websites Devoted to Supporting the Troops

www.adoptaplatoon.org

www.operationmilitarypride.org/packages.html

www.marineparents.com

www.amillionthanks.org

www.americasupportsyounil

One of the websites, www.marineparents.com, indicates that they very much want to receive letters from the "American people that support our troops." And they mention that homemade cards and letters from children especially touch the Marines.

Writing Letters to the Artist

You can write letters to the artist at Anita Miller, P.O. Box 376, Worthington, Ohio 43085.

Lima Company Memorial Discussion Questions

Why do you think the artist chose the octagon shape for her portraits?

Why do you think the artist placed combat boots at the foot of the paintings?

How does the size of the paintings affect the way you experience them?

Why do you think the artist chose the colors she used in her paintings?

What details in the paintings do you notice?

How does it make you feel when you look at the paintings?

How do the paintings help you experience what the Marines experienced in Iraq?

Fact Finding

Locate Iraq on a map. How far away is it? How long it would take to get there? What countries are near it? Can you tell what kind of climate it has?

How many troops do we have in Iraq?

When did the conflict in Iraq begin?

Why did the Iraq War begin?

What is happening in Iraq now?

How many Marines are there in the U.S. Armed Forces?

How many Marine bases are there?

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Helpful Websites

www.timeforkids.com/tfk

www.ces.purdue.edu/purplewagon

www.adoptaplatoon.org

www.operationmilitarypride.org/packages.html

www.marineparents.com

www.amillionthanks.org

www.americasupportsyou.mil

www.ohiostatehouse.org

www.limacompanymemorial.org

Lima Company Memorial
About the Fallen

These short bios are listed in alphabetical order by the Marine's last name.

About Timothy Bell

Timothy Bell loved being Marine. His hometown was West Chester, Ohio. Tim was the kind of person who believed in protecting others, especially those who were being bullied or in trouble. He was fun to be around and enjoyed teasing everyone. At the early age of 6, he told his mom he wanted to be a Marine. Tim was born May 11, 1983. He was killed in action on August 3, 2005. He was 22 years old.

About Eric Bernholtz

Eric Bernholtz loved people and hated injustice. His hometown was Grove City, Ohio. In high school, he was the guy who looked out for others and helped even the "dork" fit in. He was proud to be a Marine and serve his country. Eric was born October 27, 1981. He was killed in action August 3, 2005. He was 23 years old.

About Nicholas Bloem

Nicholas Bloem loved people, especially his family and friends. His hometown was Belgrade, Montana. He was the kind of man who looked out for people who were in need. He was proud to be a Marine and had great strength and determination. Nick was born August 2, 1985. He was killed in action on August 3, 2005. He was 20 years old.

About Michael J. Cifuentes

Michael J. Cifuentes loved many things. His hometown was Fairfield, Ohio. Michael had a passion for reading, music, sports and video games. He graduated from Miami University where he had been a student manager for the women's basketball team and a tuba player in the marching band. Michael was born June 25, 1980. He was killed in action on August 3, 2005. He was 25 years old.

About Wes Davids

Wes Davids loved the water. His hometown was Dublin, Ohio. He was a rower on the Dublin High School crew team. Wes was a caring person who always expected the best of himself. He worked hard and could not stand mediocrity. Wes was born May 10, 1985. He was killed in action on May 11, 2005. He was 20 years old.

About Dustin Derga

Dustin Derga loved action and adventure. His hometown was Pickerington, Ohio. Dustin was a fun loving person who enjoyed practical jokes. He always had a smile on his face and went out of his way to help others, especially those who were struggling. Dustin was born August 18, 1980. He was killed in action on May 8, 2005. He was 24 years old.

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About Chris Dixon

Chris Dixon loved a challenge. His hometown was Obetz, Ohio. Chris was easygoing, caring and nice to everyone. He looked out for others and was the person in high school who would always talk to a new student to make him feel comfortable. Being a Marine was the fulfillment of a dream for him. Chris was born July 24, 1986. He was killed in action on May 11, 2005. He was 18 years old.

About Christopher Dyer

Christopher Dyer loved a challenge. He had two hometowns, Evendale, Ohio and Glendale, Ohio. Chris played the viola in the school orchestra and was a member of the varsity dive team. He joined the Marines as a way to serve his country and challenge himself. Chris was born March 13, 1986. He was killed in action August 3, 2005. He was 19 years old.

About Nicholas Erdy

Nicholas Erdy loved being a Marine. His hometown was Owensville, Ohio. Nick knew from an early age that he wanted to be a Marine. He was committed to always doing his best. He was a hard worker, and got great joy working heavy machinery with his dad in the family business. Nick was born October 22, 1983. He was killed in action on May 11, 2005. He was 21 years old.

About Grant Fraser

Grant Fraser loved so many things. His hometown was Anchorage, Alaska. He was a scuba diver, rock climber, tennis player, swimmer, and downhill skier. Grant was also a talented musician and actor. He had a joy of life and made his family proud. Grant was born on February 3, 1983. He died August 3, 2005. He was 22 years old.

About Anthony Goodwin

Anthony Goodwin loved studying military history. His hometown was Shirley, Massachusetts. Even in high-school Anthony was involved in honoring veterans. He was an advocate for POW's and Vietnam veterans. He was dedicated to doing his best and serving his country. He loved his son, born in January 2000. Anthony was born May 28, 1971. He was killed in action on May 8, 2005. He was 33 years old.

About Jonathan Grant

Jonathan Grant loved his family. His hometown was Espanola, New Mexico. Jonathan played many sports, including football, baseball, basketball, and soccer. He was a big fan of "The Simpsons". He always had a big smile on his face and was never in a bad mood. He was an excellent father to his two beautiful children. He loved everybody and was beloved by everybody. Jonathan was born April 15, 1982. He was killed in action on May 11, 2005. He was 22 years old.

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About Jourdan Grez

Jourdan Grez loved his friends, family and the memories he shared with them. His hometown was Richmond, Virginia. Jourdan was a happy person who was a proud father of a son and loving husband to his wife. His childhood companion, a Jack Russell terrier named Niblet, stopped eating the day Jourdan died. Niblet died three months later and his ashes were scattered on Jourdan's grave in Arlington National Cemetery. Jourdan was born January 22, 1981. He was killed in action on May 11, 2005. He was 24 years old.

About Justin Hoffman

Justin Hoffman loved competition. His hometown was Delaware, Ohio. He played basketball and soccer and ran track. When his squad took first place in the Marine's Super Squad competition, he regarded it as one of his greatest accomplishments. After his first tour of duty, he reenlisted to go to Iraq with the Lima Company. Justin was born November 9, 1977. He was killed in action on August 3, 2005. He was 27 years old.

About Kendall Ivy II

Kendall Ivy II loved his wife and family. His hometown was Galion, Ohio. Kendall was an excellent teacher and leader. He was fun loving and the kind of dad who would play with his kids and make them laugh. He leaves behind three sons and a daughter. Kendall was born September 15, 1976. He was killed in action on May 11, 2005. He was 28 years old.

About David Krueter

David Kreuter loved hard work and the challenges of being a Marine. His hometown was Cincinnati, Ohio. David valued education, training and being prepared. He enjoyed mental games like chess, but also played baseball, select soccer, and ran track. He cared about people and went out of his way to help others. David was born June 25, 1979. He was killed in action on August 3, 2005. He was 26 years old.

About Chris Lyons

Chris Lyons loved to learn. His hometown is Shelby, Ohio. Chris always wanted to do his best. When he joined the Marines he said, "he would not be satisfied until he had served both God and Country to the best of his ability". Chris knew how to connect with people. It didn't matter how old you were, or what race or religion. Chris was born September 26, 1980. He was killed in action on July 28, 2005. He was 24 years old.

About Aaron Reed

Aaron Reed loved to run. His hometown is Chillicothe, Ohio. Aaron ran track and cross country in high school. He had a wonderful smile and was always willing to help. He had great courage and determination. He was proud to be a Marine. Aaron was born August 23, 1983. He was killed in action on August 3, 2005. He was 21 years old.

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About Edward “Augie” Schroeder II

Augie Schroeder loved being part of a team. His hometown was South Orange, New Jersey. Augie played football, soccer, lacrosse, baseball, and competed as a swimmer. His work at his church, as a Boy Scout, and lifeguard, showed that he believed in helping others. He decided to join the Marines after the 9/11 attacks. Augie was born April 10, 1982. He was killed in action on August 3, 2005. He was 23 years old.

About William “Brett” Wightman

Brett Wightman loved sports. His hometown was Sabina, Ohio. He was a fullback and the captain of his high school football team. He loved to play basketball and also competed in the high jump. He believed in protecting his family and his country. Brett was born January 11, 1983. He was killed in action on August 3, 2005. He was 22 years old.

About André’ “Dre” L. Williams

André’ “Dre” Williams loved his two children and was a great father. His hometown was Galloway, Ohio. Dre’ was always smiling and his good spirits helped others endure in a bad situation. He was the kind of person who always got along with everyone. Dre’ was born August 9, 1981. He was killed in action on July 28, 2005. He was 23 years old.

About David Wimberg

David Wimberg loved adventure. His hometown was Louisville, Kentucky. He joined the Marines for the adventure and for the good he knew he could do for others. His brother and two sisters remember him as the quiet brother who loved nature. David was born January 24, 1981. He was killed in action on May 25, 2005. He was 24 years old.

About Travis Youngblood

Travis Youngblood loved helping others. His hometown was Ivor, Virginia. Travis came from a Navy family and joined the Navy Hospitalman Corps in 1999. He served overseas four times before being assigned to the Lima Company. He was a caring and lovable person with a great sense of humor. He leaves behind a wife, a son and a daughter. Travis was born June 5, 1979. He was killed in action on July 21, 2005. He was 26 years old.

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This is a copy of a letter written by Corporal Dustin Derga to the students of a sixth grade class at St. Michael School in Canton, Ohio while he was when he was serving in Iraq. Dustin also received a Flat Stanley from another class, who went on training exercises with Dustin and the Lima Company Marines.

2/27/05

Dear Class,

Thanks so much for taking the time to write me and my fellow Marines. All your letters got passed out, but unfortunately not everyone could write back. So I'm taking the time to write you all on behalf of us all. We have been very busy training and preparing for Iraq. There is so much to do to get us ready. We have been practicing our shooting a lot and we have been flying around on helicopters and driving around in our hummers.

It is very tiring training. To tell you a little about me, I am 24 years old and I live in Pickerington, OH which is just east of Columbus. I have been in the Marines for almost 6 years. When I get home in about 7 months I hope to move to Florida with my girlfriend Kristin.

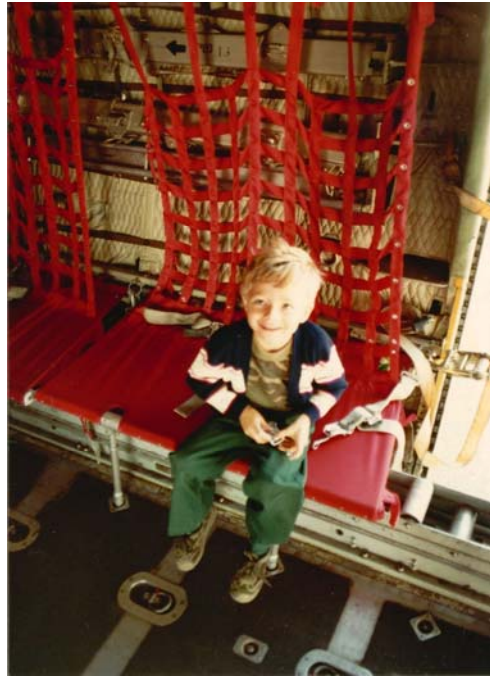
Sorry I can't write more but we have more training to do before we leave for Iraq in a few days. I will try to write you back if I can and hopefully send you guys some pictures.

Thanks and God Bless Cpl. Dustin Derga

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Corporal Dustin Derga – Graduation Photo



Dustin Derga as a Young Boy



Dustin Derga on Amtrac in Iraq