

# EL OBSERVADOR

## Marine Killed in Action Remembered by Family

### Contreras grew up in the Portland suburb of Sherwood

(AP) — Marine Capt. Aaron J. Contreras was so devoted to his wife and three children that he chose to fly a helicopter over his dream craft — a fixed wing airplane — because they were deployed less often, his brother said last week. Contreras, 31, and two other U.S.

servicemen died when their UH-1 Huey crashed at a forward supply and refueling point in southern Iraq, the Defense Department said. He was the fourth soldier with strong Oregon connections to die in the war.

"He chose helicopter knowing that they didn't get deployed as much," said Dave Contreras, Aaron's older brother. "He wanted to be close to his family."

Family members described Contreras as a practicing Roman Catholic and a loving father who put his wife and children — ages 11,

8 and 4 — before military service whenever possible.

"He made every effort to stay on the West Coast because that's where his family was and he wanted his kids to be close to his family," Dave Contreras said. "Anytime he had (military) leaves, he'd come up to Oregon — no matter where he was."

Contreras grew up in Sherwood, a Portland suburb of about 13,000, and played football, baseball and basketball for Sherwood High School, Dave Contreras said.

As a boy, Contreras dreamed of flying, said his father, Edward

Contreras. "Something about getting up in the air just captivated him," he said.

He met his future wife, Janelle Thorn of Tigard, while working at a part-time job in Portland. They married in 1991 and within eight years they had three children — Aidan, Taylor and Ashley.

Donations to the Aaron J. Contreras Memorial Fund will help take care of the family. They may be sent to the fund, c/o Navy Federal Credit Union, Merrifield, VA 22119.

Donors may also call 1-800-656-7676.



Marine Capt. Aaron J. Contreras, a native of Sherwood, Or., died with two other U.S. servicemen when their UH-1 Huey crashed in southern Iraq. He and his wife, Janelle Thorn of Tigard, have three children.

## Latin Grammys to Take Place in Miami

### City will increase police presence if Cuban exile organizations protest

(AP) — The Latin Grammys will finally take place in Miami this year, after moving to Los Angeles because of concerns about Cuban protesters.

The ceremony will be broadcast live on CBS from the American Airlines Arena on Sept. 3, the Latin Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences said.

Tuesday's agreement came after months of negotiations between local leaders and the Latin Academy. New York, where the Grammys took place in February, was the other contender to host.

"It is time to officially bring the show to

Miami — one of the most culturally diverse and musically vibrant cities in America," said Manolo Diaz, chairman of the Latin Recording Academy Board of Trustees.

The inaugural ceremony in 2000 took place in Los Angeles because of a Miami ordinance barring the county from doing business with those who have dealings with Cuba.

The law was later invalidated by a U.S. Supreme Court ruling.

The 2001 show was awarded to Miami but was moved to Los Angeles after Cuban exile groups threatened to protest because performers from communist Cuba would have been allowed to perform.

Then the show was canceled after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Last year's show took place in Los Angeles again.

The spokesman for the coalition of Cuban exile organizations that planned those protests said they would organize demonstrations again if Cuban artists were invited.

"If Fidel Castro is treated like a show business impresario and is allowed to send

*If Fidel Castro is treated like a show business impresario and is allowed to send Cuban agents to the event, then for sure we will organize protests again.*

— Emilio Izquierdo, spokesman for a coalition of Cuban exile organizations

Cuban agents to the event, because those performers are not artists, then for sure we will organize protests again," Emilio Izquierdo said.

Miami Mayor Manny Diaz said he believed if protests took place, the show could still go on with increased police presence.

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## Famous Freddie Fender to Play in May

Don't say you "Wasted Days and Wasted Nights" by missing Freddie Fender when his show comes to Chinook Winds Casino on Friday, May 9 and Saturday, May 10.

At the 2001 Grammy Awards on February 27, 2002, the award for Best Latin Pop Album was presented to two-time Grammy winner Baldemar Huerta, better known to his legions of worldwide fans as Freddy Fender, for his album "La Musica de Baldemar Huerta."

Fender's previous Grammy awards were



Baldemar Huerta, better known as Freddy Fender, was made famous by such country songs as "Wasted Days and Wasted Nights," "Secret Love," and "Vaya Con Dios."

for the "Best Mexican/American Performance" as a member of the Los Super Seven in 1999 and in 1990 as a member of the Texas Tornados.

Born and raised in San Benito, Texas, Fender began playing music at the age of 10, singing on a local radio station.

The show begins at 9 p.m. on Friday, May 9, and 8 p.m. on Saturday, May 10. Tickets are \$15-\$25, depending on seat location. For more information, or to obtain tickets, call 1-888-MAIN-ACT (624-6228) or Tickets West, 1-800-992-TIXX(8499).

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