

# Saying Goodbye to a Father, Friend and Shipmate

Story and photos by PA2 Bobby Nash, PADET Jacksonville, Fla.

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JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – Family, friends and shipmates gathered in a small church in Atlantic Beach, Fla., to celebrate the life of Lt. Lawrence Quedado, Jan. 30, 2006.



Lt. Quedado's remains are brought in by the Coast Guard National Honor Guard while Coast Guard personnel render a salute. Coast Guard photograph by PA2 Bobby Nash.

Quedado, 42, died the previous week of a heart attack while snowboarding on leave with friends in Jackson Hole, Wyo. Friends at the memorial service said he died doing what he loved, in one of the prettiest parts of the country, surrounded by his friends.

Members of Sector Jacksonville were there to render honors to him when Quedado's remains arrived in his hometown of Jacksonville. They carefully removed and carried his remains from the arriving aircraft to a hearse.

When the captain of the airplane announced that Quedado was aboard the aircraft and would be removed by an honor guard, a marine on his way to Iraq came outside to pay his respects. The marine stood out in the cold for 20 minutes in nothing more than a thin shirt and jeans, to “do the right thing,” as he put it.

Quedado was an HH-60 Jayhawk helicopter pilot at Air Station Clearwater, Fla. He had spent seven years in the Army prior to transitioning to the Coast Guard in 2000. Quedado began his Coast Guard career at Air Station Clearwater before transferring to Kodiak, Alaska where he spent four years. He then returned to Air Station Clearwater in July, 2006.

“He was a hard worker and was always in a great mood. He had an infectious attitude about work and life. I always looked forward to when we would have office days together,” said Lt. j.g. Alexander Moore, a pilot at Air Station Clearwater.



Lt. Quedado's widow clutches her husband's flag as he is laid to rest. Coast Guard photograph by PA2 Bobby Nash.

Quedado is survived by his wife Kelly and their children Cory and Griffin. Kelly is also expecting their third child in July 2007.

The family is currently working on establishing trust funds for Quedado's children. For those interested in making a donation, please visit Air Station Clearwater's website for information on where to send your donations. <http://www.uscg.mil/d7/units/as-clearwater>.

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