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08/18/05 10:18 AM**📖 Guardsman set for return to Iraq dies in car crash** [Post [293895388](#)]**Category:** News & Opinion (Specific) **Topic:** Warfare and Conflict: Iraq**Synopsis:****Source:** [thesunnews](#)**Published:** January 1, 2001 **Author:****For Education and Discussion Only. Not for Commercial Use.**

If he wasn't in front of a computer, there is a good chance that Stephen Walters was noshing on junk food. His affinity for snacking and software earned the North Myrtle Beach man the nicknames "Pixel" and "Cookie Monster" from family and military friends.

Cynthia Walters said her son was on his way back to the Grand Stand from Columbia on Sunday night after taking care of some paperwork for a return trip to Iraq when he swerved to avoid an animal in the roadway, crashed his car and died. He was 21.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. today at the Ocean View Baptist Church, 7300 N. Kings Highway with interment to follow at Southeastern Memorial Garden with fully military honors.

After watching the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, unfold, Walters decided to join the military and enlisted in the Army National Guard in Myrtle Beach where he served with the C Company 111th Signal Battalion.

In April 2004, Walters was deployed to Iraq, where for a year he worked as a radio operator handling communications-related jobs at Camp Victory in Baghdad, said Sgt. Torrey Evans, 25, who served with him.

She dubbed him Cookie Monster because "he'd always be eating Doritos and Oreos."

His mother, Cynthia Walters, said he especially loved Lays chips.

After his first tour of duty, Stephen Walters volunteered to return with the Army National Guard Unit, Delta Company.

"He really believed we were doing some serious good over there," said his mother, noting that he was scheduled to ship out Sept. 5. He had only been home for about four months.

Born and reared in Raleigh, N.C., where he went through the school system, Stephen Walters moved with his family to North Myrtle Beach in the middle of his senior year of high school.

Cynthia Walters recalls how she told military officials about her son's love affair with computers.

"If you want to do yourself and him a favor, put him in front of a computer, and they did," she said.

Boyd Walters, Stephen's father, said that his son set up a Internet Cafe at Camp Victory "and worked 24 hours and slept there to keep it open."

The Rev. Steve Cromer of Ocean View Baptist Church in Myrtle Beach said Stephen Walters had a "positive attitude and gentle spirit."

"He was a fine young man, a sweet, gentle boy who always had a smile on his face," Cromer said. He said Stephen Walters would hang around after service to talk to him and also would seek out an elderly woman known for greeting the other members with hugs.

Besides his parents, Stephen Walters is survived by three older siblings and a stepbrother and sister.

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At least he don't get the chance to kill Iraqis or be killed by Iraqis

A man who doesn't know where he is heading to the wind will never blow in his favourite direction

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