

We regret to announce the death of Sergeant Bobby A. ROMERO, an outstanding member of the Paris Marine Security Guard Detachment.



REMARKS MADE BY AMBASSADOR HARTMAN AT THE MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR
SERGEANT BOBBY ROMERO, USMC, ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 1978

We are here today in this place of worship to honor the memory of Sergeant Bobby A. Romero of the United States Marine Security Guard Detachment assigned to the American Embassy in Paris. This was Bobby's church and as his life was strengthened by his attachment here, so we participate today to pay homage to a man who carried his ideals into a career of service. Sergeant Romero gave his life in service to his country and to us. The fire at USOECD that took his life was only one of the many dangers our Marines prepare themselves to meet in our service.

I speak for myself, Ambassador Salzman and indeed all of us here in the official American community when I say how deeply we feel the tragic loss of Sergeant Romero. None of us could ever give more than he did for his country, a sacrifice in keeping with the highest traditions of the Marine Corps.

Bobby Romero was born on July 16, 1954, in Espanola, New Mexico. He joined the Marine Corps at 20 in August 1974 and was assigned two years later to the Marine Security Guard Battalion in May of 1976. He served at the American Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan, before his transfer to Paris in August 1977. Just recently he was meritoriously promoted to the rank of Sergeant on the basis of prolonged superior performance and leadership. He earned the respect and friendship of his fellow Marines and those of us on the Mission staffs here and in Kabul, who were fortunate enough to know him personally.

Bobby will be remembered for his many outstanding attributes. He, like all his fellow Marines, was intelligent, a "good thinker", as one of them put it, well organized with a good practical sense, and always reliable in any kind of emergency. He was one of the best all-around athletes among our Marines, especially strong in weightlifting and running. He was aiming for the maximum score on the Marine Corps physical fitness test this year, a goal he had every chance of achieving. He thoroughly enjoyed Paris. On off-duty hours he could often be found exploring the city with his camera. Perhaps most of all, however, he will be missed for his cheerful disposition, which I particularly remember. According to his buddies, he was never in a bad mood; never depressed; he could always take a joke -- and dish one out when the occasion warranted. He met the highest standards of duty while never forgetting that he was also often the friendly face that greeted visitors as they entered our American installations.

Bobby represented a group of men for whom I have the greatest admiration and respect, the Marine Guards who provide protection to our Missions all over the world. Their task involves long periods of routine care. Their attention to detail and pride in the job they are doing leaves us much in their debt.

To them all and especially to Bobby's parents, on behalf of the American Embassy and USOECD staff, I would like to extend our heartfelt sympathy and feeling of loss. At the same time I know I speak for all of us in expressing our appreciation for a magnificent job and for service far above and beyond the call of duty.

Letters of condolence should be addressed to his father: Mr. Abran ROMERO, 300 Yocham, Milian, New Mexico, 87020.

A mass will be said in the memory of Bobby Romero on March 11th at 18:30 at St. Joseph Church, 50 avenue Hoche.

The Marine Security Guard Detachment, Paris, expresses its appreciation to all of the friends and acquaintances of the late Sergeant ROMERO who were so helpful and considerate during this trying period.

We are especially grateful to Mr. Robert Deutsch, Mr. Harvey Fergusson, Mr. Peter Holt, Mr. Craig Lineburger and Mr. Giovanni Palazzolo, who stood duty for the Marines while the Marines attended the memorial mass; and to Mr. Louis Hebert, who devoted so much time to the preparation of the memorial mass.