



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

Golf Company

2d Battalion, 4th Marines

Box 555493

Camp Pendleton, Ca. 92055-5493

April 13th, 2004

Dear Mr. And Mrs. Langhorst and family,

It is with great remorse and sadness that I write this letter to inform you of your son's passing. Moises was one of my best Marines. I was his platoon commander, the officer in charge of him and responsible for every facet of his daily life. My existence is truly defined by young Marines like your son, for it is I who have the pleasure of serving them, it is I who lead them into the fight, it is I who lead them in prayer before each mission to ask the Lord for our safe return. It was my responsibility on April 6th, 2004 to accomplish our mission and bring all of my men back safely. That is the weight that is placed on my shoulders as a platoon commander, as an officer, and it is a responsibility that I have never taken lightly. I regret that I was unable to bring your son back alive that day, but you must know that he accomplished his mission and did not suffer any pain. Moises and the other Marine's in my platoon had been trained to perfection and had all of the skills and abilities required of them to perform the missions we were given. Moises was the best SMAW gunner in the company in my opinion, and loved to teach others about his trade. Nevertheless, I lost two Marines during the intense fighting that gripped the city of Ar Ramadi that day, and several more were wounded. I feel it is important to give you some insight as to what we were doing that day, and what your son accomplished before he was killed. The enemy insurgents declared a three-day "jihad" on the Americans on that Tuesday morning, and my platoon was the first into the fight because we were on a routine patrol when the attacks were initially staged against the U.S. Forces. The fighting was very intense for a few days in Ar Ramadi, and courage like that shown by your son was quite common as our forces honorably destroyed over two hundred enemy fighters. My Marines fought bravely and with pride against insurmountable odds, never losing touch with their humanity. Your son was a hero that day.

As I write this letter to you, I am reminded of two conversations I had with your son in recent weeks. The first was in regard to his best friend who sadly had taken his own life while we were still in Kuwait. I was concerned that it may have hit Moises pretty hard, for it would devastate most young

men his age. I very simply asked him, "How are you holding up, Marine"? His response still echoes in my head every day. He looked up at me and smiled, and said with grace, "Sir, I just leave these kind of things to prayer, and trust in God." His faith was immeasurable. After Moises died, I mentioned this conversation to our commanding officer, commenting on how mature your son was during a really difficult time. The CO smiled and said that he had the same conversation with Moises the same day that I did and thought the same thing about him. His outlook inspired me and gave me strength. He had a gift for teaching us lessons about life and God. The second conversation I am reminded of is one that I had with he and several of his buddies late one night about a week before he died. I posed the question to all of them asking them why they thought we were here in Iraq, and what it was in their minds that we were trying to accomplish. His response was the first of the group. He answered with honesty and passion, "For the children, so they can have a better life." I tell you these things so that you know he kept the faith even when times were seemingly unbearable, and that he understood in his own way that our mission here was not in vain. Your son truly believed in what we are fighting for. He believed in our cause and found much happiness here with his buddies. Please find comfort in this. He had such a big heart and shared joy with all of those around him. I admired and respected your son as a warrior, as a Christian, and as a friend, but more importantly, so did his peers. He made all of us better just by being himself. On Easter Sunday, we had a memorial service for your son and the others that died during the worst of the fighting. It was beautiful, and they were given a true, Marine Corps, warrior's tribute with full honors. The message that was given by the Chaplain was that we should remember the fallen for who they were and for the joys we've shared with them, and that they are still with us, watching over us daily.

I want you to know that Moises served with honor that day and every other one, as he fought for his family, his nation, and for his brothers to the left and right of him. His selfless courage and sacrifice undoubtedly saved the lives of several of his comrades. He held his ground and did not waiver. He never hesitated. His buddies say that he was so very calm during the engagement, that he even managed a few smiles. Mr. and Mrs. Langhorst, your son died serving his country and serving his fellow Marines, doing something he loved. Moises gave the ultimate sacrifice, and those of us who have had the privilege of fighting by his side will never forget him for his service. As we continue protecting the people of this nation and our own, we will not let him down, for he is still with us, indeed

watching over us. His courage has given us the strength we need to keep fighting until our mission is completed. I make a solemn vow to you and your family - We will continue to carry the torch until the people of Iraq are safe and free, until the children really do have a better life, and until the citizens of America are protected against those who wish to do us ill will.

From the bottom of my heart, I am sorry for your loss. May God bless you and your family and bring you comfort during your time of need.

Sincerely,

Jonathan L. Hesener
2ndLt, United States Marine Corps
3d Platoon Commander, Golf Company, 2d Battalion, 4th Marines



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Golf Company

2nd Battalion, 4th Marines

1st Marine Division

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15 Apr 04

From: Captain Christopher J. Bronzi, Commanding Officer, Golf Company
To: Mr. & Mrs. Langhorst

It is with deepest regret and my most heartfelt sympathy that I write this letter to you. Your son, Private First Class Moises A. Langhorst, has joined the annals of the Marine Corps' illustrious history by giving the ultimate sacrifice for his beloved country. He embodied the esprit, honor, courage, and commitment of so many United States Marines that have gone before him. He accomplished a tremendous amount as a Marine fighting abroad for his country. His actions will continue to have far reaching effects in preserving our nation's freedom and energizing the spirit of democracy in the war torn country of Iraq.

I had the pleasure of eating breakfast alone with Moises soon after our arrival in Ar Ramadi, Iraq. As you know, he had recently lost a dear friend of his from Echo Company. I spoke with him about it and was struck by the maturity and faith that your son displayed. After I asked him how he was dealing with his loss, he simply answered that it was something he left up to prayer. I was deeply moved by his faith and conviction, and I can honestly say that he inspired me to maintain my own spiritual strength. His positive attitude, tireless work ethic, and friendly smile were known throughout the Company.

In the early afternoon of 6 April 2004, Moises and his squad were moving to reinforce another squad from his Platoon that was heavily engaged with the enemy. Before they could assist the other squad, Moises and his squad came under heavy fire from multiple directions. Marines from the squad were wounded, and Moises was covering their withdrawal to safety when he tragically lost his life to enemy fire. He passed on instantly and did not suffer. His heroic actions assisted in the recovery of another wounded Marine.

As a father of two children, I can only imagine your grief. I hope your son's actions make you proud. The Marines of Golf Company, 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines, and especially those in 3rd Platoon, will continue to remember their friend and fellow Marine, Moises A. Langhorst. He serves as an inspiration to us all. His selfless devotion to duty, as well as his dedication to God, the United States of America, and the Marine Corps will be cherished forever.

With deepest sympathy,


C. J. BRONZI