

Mourners pay respects at fallen corporal's visitation

By Tony Walter

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GREEN BAY, Wis. — Danielle Duquaine brought more than condolences to the visitation for fallen Cpl. Justin Ross on April 4.

In her hands she held the identification patches of her boyfriend, Tye Gouin, and Theodore Kulas, who were with Ross when he was killed in Afghanistan on March 26. She would wait in line with more than 200 people and give the patches to Ross' parents.

She said Gouin, also a member of the Army Reserve, phoned her March 27 to tell her that they came under small-arms fire when Ross, a 22-year-old graduate of Bay Port High School, was killed.

The visitation was held at First Assembly of God in Green Bay because the church where Ross' father, Ron, is pastor — New Freedom Church in Howard — isn't big enough to handle what turned out to be a large number of well-wishers.

The line formed in the foyer of the church, then led into the nave of the church where Ross' family stood in front of Justin's flag-draped coffin. Two honor guards stood at attention next to the coffin.

Not everyone who came out on the chilly afternoon knew Justin or his family.

Bud Figgins of Bellevue, a former Marine and Vietnam veteran, came with his wife, Becky, because he knows about the sacrifice that was made.

"We think we need to be here because somebody has to remember the fallen," Figgins said.

Katharine Carter and her son, Derren, of Pulaski knew Justin.

"He often came over to our house and I always had some food ready," she said. "We're here because he gave the ultimate sacrifice."

Those entering the church passed more than a dozen veterans who stood at attention holding American flags.
