



[www.jsonline.com](http://www.jsonline.com) | [Return to regular view](#)

**Original Story URL:**

<http://www.jsonline.com/story/index.aspx?id=538159>

## Explosive device kills youngest of 3 brothers who served in Iraq

By JESSE GARZA  
[jgarza@journalsentinel.com](mailto:jgarza@journalsentinel.com)

*Posted: Dec. 4, 2006*

Three blue stars emblazoned on the back of a baseball cap Martin Tillery of Vesper wears are meant to represent his three sons who, during October, were all serving with the U.S. military in Iraq.

On the front of the cap are their names and the insignia of their military affiliation.

One star is for Jim, 22, an Army specialist who finished his second tour of duty in Iraq and returned home last month.

Another is for Jared, 20, also an Army specialist, who was deployed to Iraq in September about the same time Martin Tillery's youngest son, Jesse, a Marine lance corporal, was sent there with his unit.

The star that represents Jesse Tillery, 19, who died Saturday from wounds received during combat in Anbar province, will now be colored gold.

"It will indicate that he died in service," Martin Tillery said in a telephone interview Monday.

"He was a pretty simple boy," he said of his son, who was assigned to the 2nd Assault Amphibian Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, based in Camp Lejeune, N.C. "And he meant the world to us."

His son, Martin Tillery said, did not play high school sports and did not pursue any hobbies that he was aware of.

Instead, his son took great joy in simple things like family and friends.

"He was very well liked," his father said. "Anybody who knew Jesse liked him."

Tyler Hamel, a 19-year-old sophomore at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, recalled when his family moved from the nearby Town of Grand Rapids to Vesper, in the center of the state northwest of Wisconsin Rapids. There, in second grade, he met Tillery at Vesper Elementary School.