

UCF's Veterans Legacy Program



VA



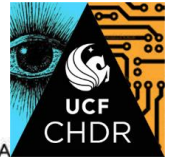
U.S. Department
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National Cemetery Administration



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UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

**Department
of History**



Miguel Angel Suarez

1982 – 2007

Corporal: US Marine Corps

Persian Gulf, Iraq, Afghanistan

*Please note that news articles published online often exist behind paywalls and require a subscription to access digitally. We have provided links, but have not reproduced them here. Similarly, many families have created remembrance pages. Again, we have provided links, but have not reproduced any images without express written permission from the family.

Keith Morelli and Mike Wells, “‘Proud’ Marine was Awaiting Return to Iraq,” *Tampa Tribune*, July 26, 2007, 1 (accessed June 16, 2023).

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/341942446/?terms=Miguel%20Angel%20Suarez&match=1>

This article, published in the *Tampa Tribune* in 2007, provides information on Suarez’s early life and his service in the United States Marine Corps in both Iraq and Afghanistan. Suarez was born in Mexico City, Mexico, and moved to Tampa, Florida when he was nine. The article mentions that Suarez was quick to make friends both in school and during his service, and had a rich family life. Suarez’s brother, Pedro, is pictured in the article wearing his brother’s military camouflage, and is quoted as saying about Miguel, “He was a very good son, he was a very good brother and he was a very good friend.” Miguel Angel Suarez was shot and killed the morning of July 21, 2007 during an attempted robbery. This article identifies the man suspected of murdering Suarez and provides some background on him. The link provided navigates to page one of this article.

---, “‘Proud’ Marine was Awaiting Return to Iraq—Continued (Marine Slain),” *Tampa Tribune*, July 26, 2007, 4 (accessed June 16, 2023).

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/341942571/?terms=Miguel%20Angel%20Suarez&match=1>

The preceding article continues on page four of the July 26, 2007 issue of the *Tampa Tribune*. The link above navigates to the continuation of this same article.

---, “Marine Fatally Shot on a Tampa Street,” *Tampa Herald-Tribune*, July 26, 2007 (accessed June 16, 2023).

<https://www.heraldtribune.com/story/news/2007/07/26/marine-fatally-shot-on-a-tampa-street/28566848007/>

The *Tampa Herald-Tribune* published this online article five days after Suarez died. The piece provides information on where Suarez went to high school and why he decided to join the marines. It also includes background information about the man who allegedly killed Suarez, including past arrests and convictions.

Alexandra Zayas and Michael A. Mohammed, “A Marine’s Fateful Return,” *St. Petersburg Times*, July 26, 2007, 1 (accessed June 16, 2023).

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/331010704/?terms=Miguel%20Angel%20Suarez&match=1>

This article, published less than a week after Suarez’s death, details that Suarez joined the marines shortly after “the first bomb exploded in the Iraq War.” It claims that he wanted to join the marines to “repay [the United States] for the better life his family found after moving from Mexico City.” The piece includes a picture of Suarez’s mother, and details that Suarez had just recently signed up to serve another four years in the Marine Corps. It also provides information about the man suspected of murdering him.

---, “After Tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, Marine Left Dying on Tampa Street,” *St. Petersburg Times*, July 29, 2007 (accessed June 16, 2023).

<https://www.theledger.com/story/news/2007/07/29/after-tours-in-iraq-and-afghanistan-marine-left-dying-on-tampa-street/25785908007/>

This online article offers a portrait of Suarez through how his friends and family knew him. It provides an account of what happened the night Suarez died and how it affected the people closest to him. It also gives insight into what kind of person Suarez was, highlighting that he loved to “crack jokes” with his friends and traveled to Mexico twice a year to visit his grandmother.

Colleen Jenkins, “Man Gets Life for Killing Marine to Steal Gold Chain,” *St. Petersburg Times*, May 15, 2008, 13 (accessed June 16, 2023).

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/331826643/?terms=Miguel%20Angel%20Suarez&match=1>

Published nearly a year after Suarez’s death, this article from the *St. Petersburg Times* reports that the man accused of shooting and killing Miguel Angel Suarez was convicted of attempted robbery and first-degree murder, and was sentenced to life in prison. The short piece includes a picture of a memorial made to honor Suarez, and provides a brief description of Suarez’s murder.

---, “Man Gets Life for Killing Marine to Steal Gold Chain,” *St. Petersburg Times*, May 15, 2008 (accessed June 16, 2023).

<https://www.tampabay.com/archive/2008/05/15/man-gets-life-for-killing-marine-to-steal-gold-chain/>

This article is the same as the preceding one, but published online.

“U.S., Veterans’ Gravesites, ca. 1775-2019,” database, *Fold3* (fold3.com: accessed June 16, 2023), entry for Miguel Angel Suarez.

<https://www.fold3.com/record/723912529/suarez-miguel-angel-us-veterans-gravesites-ca1775-2019>

Above is a link to the United States Veterans’ Gravesite record for Miguel Angel Suarez, archived in the online database *Fold3*. This source includes information like Suarez’s birthdate and death date, burial location, military rank, and conflict period.

“CPL Miguel Angel Suarez,” *FindAGrave*, July 24, 2007 (accessed June 16, 2023).

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/20607574/miguel-angel-suarez>

Miguel Angel Suarez’s page on findagrave.com includes information on his birth and death dates, and burial location. It also includes a paragraph detailing Suarez’s life, personality, and death, as well as a selection of photographs including depictions of Suarez in uniform and of his national cemetery headstone. As of June 2023, twenty-one people had left digital flowers on his page, which honor Suarez’s memory and service to his country.



Miguel Suarez's Headstone in Florida National Cemetery

UCF Veterans Legacy Program, *Headstone for Miguel Suarez*, photograph, 2023, Florida National Cemetery, Bushnell, FL.