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### Texas A&M University Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities 2002-2003

The students listed below will be honored at a reception at 3 p.m. on Friday, April 11, 2003, in Rudder Exhibit Hall.

**Graduate Recipients**

Yakut Gazi	Angela D. Pechal
Jing Li	Richard S. Rolison
Tina M. Herrington	

**Undergraduate Recipients**

Rebecca L. Ballman	Brenton V. King
Scott A. Beimer	Lexi L. Lee
Blake R. Berend	Samuel M. Lee
Christopher A. Bernhardt	Karen A. Luk
Denise L. Bischofhausen	Meredith G. Malazzo
Mary W. Blackford	Molly L. Manning
Robert R. Blakely III	Lori R. McLain
Jason S. Chaka	Kristin M. Milchanowski
Jennifer S. Coffey	Travis Bruce Nichols
Douglas A. Coppinger	Maria Gabriela Oroza
Elizabeth F. Dacus	Alfred Spence Pennington
Drew M. Darsey	Emily G. Porterfield
Brittany R. Denton	Dawna M. Putnam
Margaret E. Dolan	Kristen E. Reynolds
John B. Dunn	James T. Roach
Christopher T. Fields	Sarah E. Rubenstein
William J. Galbreath	Ryan E. Schiffner
Katy E. Gilstrap	Holly E. Scurry
Christine A. Gonzalez	Abeazar T. Shipchandler
Jose F. Gonzalez	Ashli Cherae Simpson
Angela D. Griffin	John M. Stewart
Lucy A. Haizlip	Marian E. Tanner
Jeremy G. Hall	Meredeth L. Tergerson
Brandon M. Hill	Mary Melissa Tyroch
John P. Holt	Karen L. Ware
Jennifer J. Johnston	Rex L. Williams
Allison C. Jones	Keith B. Wilson
Matthey A. Josefy	Patrick Burke Wilson
Alexander P. King	Whitley C. Wolman

# First burial at Arlington National Cemetery for soldier killed in Iraq

By Robert Gehrke  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ARLINGTON, Va. — Saluted as "a warrior and a Ranger," Capt. Russell B. Rippetoe was laid to rest Thursday at Arlington National Cemetery, the first soldier from the Iraqi conflict to be buried on the historic grounds.

Rippetoe, 27, an Army Ranger from Arvada, Colo., and two other soldiers were killed last week when a car bomb exploded at a checkpoint.

Specialist Chad Thibodeau, who was wounded in the blast, was bandaged and watched the service from a wheelchair. Another Ranger, injured in a separate incident in Iraq, was on crutches with a heavy knee brace.

Eight Rangers from Rippetoe's unit, wearing khaki berets and blinking back tears, were honorary pallbearers.

Lt. Col. James May, the Army chaplain, called Rippetoe "a man of faith" who had engraved a Bible passage from Joshua on the back of his dog tags: "Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed, for the Lord

thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest."

"When he joined, he joined full force. ... He didn't just join the Army, he joined the Rangers," said May. "Russell was a man who loved his troops and they loved him."

Beside the grave, inside a wreath of flowers, were framed pictures of Rippetoe, as a grinning infant, as a young soldier in fatigues smiling in a tent and holding a rifle, and as a son kissing his mother, Rita, on the cheek.

A team of gray horses pulled a black caisson that carried Rippetoe's silver casket to the gravesite. The family followed.

Three sharp cracks of gunfire rang out from a seven-member rifle party and a bugler, standing among rows of white headstones on the cold, damp morning, played "Taps."

Rippetoe's father and mother were given the Bronze Star Medal for Valor and the Purple Heart that their son was posthumously awarded, and Capt. Shawn Daniel, a friend of Rippetoe's, presented them with the flag that had been draped over the coffin.

Rippetoe's father, retired Lt. Col. Joe Rippetoe, who was wounded in Vietnam, returned



Col. Joe Rippetoe and his wife, Rita, accept a flag that covers the casket of their son, Capt. Russell Rippetoe, during his funeral Thursday, April 10, at Arlington National Cemetery.

each salute from the Rangers who knelt or stooped in front of the parents expressing condolences.

The younger Rippetoe was a fire support officer, who called in airstrikes and artillery support for his unit, said Capt. Logan Stanton, who was based with Rippetoe at Fort Benning, Ga.

"He loved being in the Rangers," Stanton said. "He was a warrior and a Ranger."

Rippetoe was manning a checkpoint in Iraq when a pregnant woman jumped from a screaming in fear. The soldier approached the car and exploded, killing Rippetoe and other soldiers, the woman, the driver, according to a Defense Department.

The Pentagon said Thursday that 105 U.S. servicemen have died since the war began.

# Family denies China moved American SARS virus patient to Hong Kong

By Helen Luk  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HONG KONG — A new accusation against mainland China collapsed Thursday when the family of an American dying from a mysterious respiratory virus confirmed that they had requested he be moved from a mainland hospital to one in Hong Kong.

Officials from the mainland — already criticized for their secretive handling of the fast-spreading SARS virus — had been accused of moving the American to avoid another foreign death.

And Hong Kong's health secretary said James Salisbury, a 52-year-old instructor from Utah, was already dead when he arrived in Hong Kong Wednesday.

But Salisbury's eldest daughter in Utah confirmed what Chinese health authorities had said all along.

"We heard the hospital in Hong Kong had specialists that were treating people with SARS and we thought there might be other things that could be done to help him get better," said Michelle Salisbury of Orem, Utah.

She said Salisbury's parents had ordered the change in hospitals and that they were taking advice from a doctor on staff with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in China. She said that doctor had spoken to the physicians at the hospital in Shenzhen, China, and in Hong Kong.

The family knew there was a chance the three-hour ambulance ride between hospitals was risky, she said, but it was a risk the family was willing to take. Ms. Salisbury said he died of a heart attack in route to Hong Kong.

"I know my father's case was one of the most severe they've seen and that he was in the worst stages of it," she said. "In China they have been able to make some people better, it just didn't work for my father."

She said the hospital in Hong Kong may have initially been reluctant to take him because the facility was already dealing with many other SARS patients.

Hong Kong's health secretary, Dr. Yeoh Eng-kiang, told reporters that Salisbury was dead on arrival. David Westbrook, a friend of Salisbury who drove behind the ambulance from the border city of Shenzhen to Hong Kong, said he showed no signs of life when he was put in the ambulance.

Westbrook said mainland doctors had given up hope of saving him and moved him so there would not be another death of a foreigner from SARS.

Health officials in Shenzhen said Salisbury was in a coma, not dead.

"We wanted to keep him in Shenzhen but at the request of his family, we moved him to Hong Kong, where he died," Zhu Nanshan, an epidemiologist at the Guangzhou Institute of Respiratory Diseases in Guangdong's capital, said in a report in Beijing.

Salisbury's 6-year-old son, Mickey, is hospitalized in Hong Kong where he is under observation for SARS, a family member said. He is being looked after by church friends in the family.

The boy's mother is making plans to travel to bring him home where she is well enough, according to Michelle Salisbury.

The flu-like illness continues to spread in Hong Kong and the mainland. Officials on Thursday still more steps to try to control it, including strict 10-day quarantines for about 100 households of people recently infected.

The territory had previously quarantined some 240 people from a high-rise apartment building, but some of them were released late Wednesday.

Worldwide, the disease, believed to be caused by a virus that causes the common cold, has claimed 111 lives. More than 2,700 people are infected with

*"We heard the hospital in Hong Kong had specialists ... we thought there might be other things that could be done to help him."*

— Michelle Salisbury  
Daughter of SARS patient

### NEWS IN BRIEF

## CDC study: more smokers lighting up less

ATLANTA (AP) — Statistics released Thursday show a growing number of U.S. smokers aren't lighting up as often, but federal officials say cutting back without quitting is just as dangerous as not quitting at all.

A comparison of annual state surveys conducted from 1996 to 2001 shows that while the percentage of smokers remained steady, the number who said they smoked only occasionally rose in 38 states and the District of Columbia.

Analysts with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention point to increased cigarette prices, higher taxes and smoking bans in public areas as likely reasons people are lighting up less frequently.

"This is still a phenomenon that we don't fully understand," said Terry Pechacek, associate director for science for the CDC's Office for Smoking and Health. "When it was first picked up in the 1980s, it was discounted in the public health community as an almost aberrant phenomenon. It was almost unusual for someone not

to be a daily smoker."

The annual telephone survey asked "Have you smoked at least 100 cigarettes in your entire life?" and "Do you now smoke cigarettes every day, some days, or not at all?"

Of those who said they smoked, 24.1 percent said they smoked only some days rather than daily.

The CDC didn't offer a comparable national number for occasional smokers, but officials said state numbers show a dramatic rise. Among the states showing an increase in the number of occasional smokers, Arizona went from 16.2 percent in 1996 to 28 percent in 2001; Delaware, 13.5 percent to 24 percent; Nevada, 10 percent to 22 percent; and Ohio, 9.76 percent to 20 percent. The District of Columbia had the highest percentage of smokers who said they smoked occasionally, at 41.2 percent.

"We're seeing a pattern of cutting down," Pechacek said. "We assume this is something people are doing to try to reduce their risk, but there's no safe alternative to quitting smoking."

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