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## **Slain soldier's mom dies hours after seeing body**

Associated Press

TUCSON, Ariz. – A 45-year-old woman collapsed and died days after learning her son had been killed in Iraq, and just hours after seeing his body.

Results of an autopsy were not immediately released, but friends of Karen Unruh-Wahrer said she couldn't stop crying about the death of her 25-year-old son, Army Spc. Robert Oliver Unruh, who was killed by enemy fire near Baghdad on Sept. 25.

"Her grief was so intense – it seemed it could have harmed her, could have caused a heart attack. Her husband described it as a broken heart," said Cheryl Hamilton, manager of respiratory care services at University Medical Center, where Mrs. Unruh-Wahrer worked as a respiratory therapist.

Spc. Unruh, a combat engineer, had been in Iraq for less than a month when he was shot during an attack on his unit.

Several days after learning of his death, his mother had gone to the hospital complaining of chest pains, Ms. Hamilton said. Mrs. Unruh-Wahrer was feeling better the next day but saw her son's body Saturday morning and collapsed that night in her kitchen.

Her husband, Dennis Wahrer – also a respiratory therapist – and other family members performed CPR, but she was pronounced dead that night.

Autopsy results won't be released until relatives are notified, Dr. Bruce Parks, Pima County chief medical examiner, said Monday. His office said a final report is expected to take six to eight weeks.

Spc. Unruh will be buried Friday at the Southern Arizona Veterans' Memorial Cemetery. Mrs. Unruh-Wahrer's body will accompany her son's in the procession to the cemetery.