

For Immediate Release

**Time Sensitive: Veterans Day**

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## **He gave his life for our country and changed the rules of engagement for all that follow – The Diego Rincon Story**

ATLANTA, Georgia— Private First Class Rincon had a tip of the spear role with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division in Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was the first alongside four soldiers to die on February 25, 2003 at the hands of a suicide bomber in major combat operations.

Diego Rincon was a Colombian immigrant, a 19-year-old soldier, raised in Conyers, Georgia, whose life and death made history. His death in the line of duty changed the rules of engagement for the current war theater, and every conflict to come.

Private Rincon became the inspiration for legislation introduced by recently retired Senator Zell Miller. All immigrant soldiers who die in the line of duty are immediately and automatically eligible for posthumous citizenship now.

PFC Rincon's final letter home to his mother was translated into seven languages and transmitted throughout the world in the days following his death. "Mother will be the last word I say. Your face will be the last picture that goes through my eyes," he wrote from Kuwait on February 22, 2003. The letter arrived in Conyers on March 26—just three days before PFC Rincon's death outside Al-Najaf, Iraq.

"All of us are, in some way, indebted to the vision of immigrants who have come to this country to belong, to build, and to contribute," said Amy Dimond, the author. "Diego resolved to defend his adopted homeland as if the whole issue of humanity's safety and freedom rested on his shoulders.

**"My Country to Defend** puts liberty into context in a way that few other stories can. He embraced America in a way that few can truly claim. The hardships he experienced in Colombia early in his life led him to assume not only the blessings, but the burdens of freedom."



*"The only thing Private First Class Diego Rincon's family asked in return for their son's sacrifice was citizenship. This is one of the most inspiring and moving tales of patriotism in the country."*

- Senator Zell Miller

***My Country to Defend***  
By A.E. Dimond

Available online and in bookstores nationwide. Interviews with the author, media kits and review copies available on request.