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**examiner.com**

# Local

VA pays to settle lawsuit over Mich. vet's death

By ED WHITE, The Associated Press

2009-11-10 21:04:53.0

Current rank: *Not ranked*

DETROIT -

The federal government has agreed to pay \$218,500 to settle a lawsuit over the fatal drug overdose of a young [Michigan](#) veteran who served as a [U.S. Marine](#) in [Iraq](#).

[Randen Harvey](#) died of an overdose in 2006 at his father's home in [Farmington Hills](#). His family sued the [Department of Veterans Affairs](#), accusing it of failing to keep him in a hospital or commit him to a mental health facility.

The settlement, in which the government accepted no liability, was reached last week - just a few days before trial in federal court in [Detroit](#).

"The experience in Iraq was horrific for this young fella," [Thomas Campbell](#), a lawyer for Harvey's estate, said Tuesday.

Harvey, 24, was honorably discharged as a lance corporal in November 2005. Five months later, according to the lawsuit, he attempted suicide and was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder.

In June 2006, Harvey was found on the roof of the VA Medical Center in [Ann Arbor](#). The lawsuit says he was discharged from a hospital program because of alcohol use and told to wait for substance-abuse treatment. He died three days later.

"Given the costs of trial and the uncertainties of trial, the government thought this was a reasonable resolution," Assistant U.S. Attorney Steven Croley said of the settlement.

The government had asked a judge to dismiss the case, claiming Harvey's overdose was an accident, not suicide, and doctors did not commit malpractice. The request was denied.

Harvey grew up in Mio, 190 miles north of Detroit, and in Farmington Hills, a Detroit suburb. He served two tours of duty in Iraq.

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