

## Video: Milton Marine dies in quarry

By Elizabeth Crowley

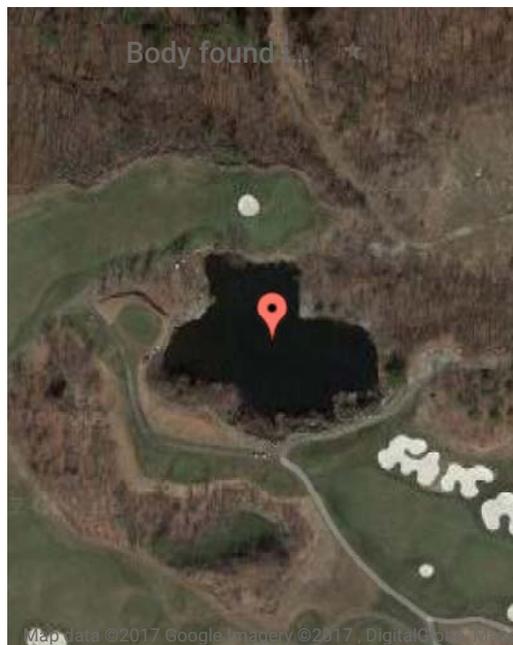
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A Milton man who recently returned home from a tour of duty with the Marines in Iraq died early today in a West Quincy quarry. Patrick J. Coughlin, 21, and three friends planned to take a late-night swim in Fuller's Quarry on the Granite Links Golf Course off Ricciutti Drive. Coughlin apparently slipped on the wet jagged rocks and fell in the water. His friends tried to find him but could not and called for help at 1:51 a.m.

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View [Body found in quarry](#) in a larger map

Coughlin's body was found at 6:20 a.m.

Norfolk County District Attorney William Keating this morning called the Marine's death, "one of those terrible tragedies." He added that there was no indication that Coughlin and his friends had been drinking at the quarries.

They went there, Keating said, to relive their days as teenagers swimming in the Quincy quarries. Coughlin returned home from Iraq in April and had reconnected with his boyhood friends.

Coughlin was a sophomore at University of Massachusetts-Boston.

Quincy police and firefighters, State Police and the Coast Guard launched a search for him at 2 a.m.

Fuller's Quarry is one of two water hazards on the golf course. It is the ninth hole on what's called the Granite nine.

The quarries were for decades popular swimming holes for local teens. They claimed more than a dozen lives from 1960 to 1998. The most recent death in the quarries before today's was in August 1998 when Ryan Whitney, 19, of Milton, apparently fell about 50 feet to his death into Lyons Quarry.

A year earlier, 26-year-old Thomas Roberts of Quincy drowned in the Granite Rail Quarry when he went swimming with his sister and her friends.

Police divers had to recover Roberts' body from the silted bottom of the 170-foot-deep waters.

One of the most publicized incidents came in 1994, when Irish college student P.J. McDonagh fell into the Granite Rail quarry while drinking beer with an American friend.

Repeated searches failed to locate his body. McDonagh's remains were finally found in 1997, when divers with an underwater camera searched for a missing woman's body.

McDonagh's disappearance prompted the Metropolitan District Commission to drain millions of gallons of murky water from the quarry, exposing abandoned cars and other debris.

That quarry and others were then filled in with dirt from Boston's Big Dig project.

The area hasn't been the lure it once was for daredevils since the golf course was developed. But the smaller quarry holes continue to draw late-night visitors.

Last August, Quincy firefighters rescued an 18-year-old man who had jumped into one of the quarries and injured his shoulder. He couldn't climb the 30 to 40 feet of rock to get out. Firefighters used a "life ring" to pull him out.

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