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# Woman killed in Fort Bliss shooting leaves children, 2 grandchildren

By Adriana M. Chávez \ El Paso Times  
Posted: 09/22/2010 12:00:00 AM MDT

Guestbook: Offer condolences to friends and family

Maria-Laura Nasti said Tuesday that she can't totally comprehend that her mother, Bettina Maria Goins, is dead -- gunned down at Fort Bliss.

Goins, 44, died Monday night moments after she was shot in the head, allegedly by Steven Kropf, 63, at a Fort Bliss convenience store where she had gone to get candy.

Nasti said that the shooting was random and that her mom was an innocent bystander who was devoted to her family, loved to travel and enjoyed horses.

Nasti said she will miss her mother, who would wait for her at home after finishing her work.

Nasti, 21, said her two children, ages 15 months and 4 months, no longer have a grandmother to love and care for them as they grow older.

She said there won't be any more talk about boys around the dinner table, or comforting advice from her mother or laughs and jokes shared between mother and daughter.

"What am I going to do?" Nasti asked, her eyes red from crying as she sat at the dining room table of her mother's Northeast El Paso home.

"He's not going to stop me from talking about her," Nasti said about Kropf as a television news crew knocked on the front door of Goins' home. "She was my mother. I look like her. I'm going to talk about her."

Nasti said



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her mother moved to El Paso in 2008. Goins was the mother of two. Her son, Kendrick Goins, is 14 and lives in El Paso with Goins and Nasti. Both of Goins' children were born in Schotten, Germany.

Goins was born in Germany, attended school there and moved to the United States in 2005 with her then-husband, who was in the U.S. Army. The family moved to El Paso in 2008 when Goins' ex-husband was posted to Fort Bliss.

Goins spoke fluent English and German and liked to travel, especially to Germany, Italy, Poland and Spain.

She kept a bottle of sand in her bedroom from a trip to Egypt, where

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she rode a horse through the desert.

"The sands of Tunisia, she called it," said Nasti, smiling at her treasured memories of her mother.

Goins had a fondness for horses and decorated her home with equine pictures, pillows and place mats.

"She's a horse fanatic," Nasti said.

Whenever Goins wasn't riding horses, she spent her time cleaning her backyard pool and playing with her grandchildren.

On her MySpace profile, Goins listed her children as her "heroes."

"They are my life and my everything. They come first before me," Goins wrote on her profile.

The day Goins died, she was at the Van Horne Shoppette, where she worked as a manager. She realized the store's stock of Halloween candy was low, said Goins' best friend, Kim Rodriguez.

Goins visited her store's larger convenience store, the Cassidy Shoppette, on Cassidy Road to get more candy and log information on that store's computer.

Another woman at the Cassidy store, whom officials haven't identified, had received a call from Kropf asking about his girlfriend. When the woman refused to give Kropf information, Kropf grew angry, Rodriguez said.

"He was known for having a bad temper," said Rodriguez, who knew Kropf.

Kropf arrived at the store where the woman and Goins were. He then allegedly shot them both in the head. Post law enforcement officials later shot Kropf outside the store.

Nasti said paramedics took Goins to Beaumont Army Medical Center, where doctors tried to revive her. Goins died from her gunshot wounds.

"She just didn't make it," Nasti said.

Nasti said she hoped to donate her mother's organs.

A memorial service had not been set Tuesday, but Nasti said services for her mother will take place in El Paso.

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