

Aptos woman greets returning soldier sons

HOUSTON (AP) — The sight of two of her sons returning from Operation Desert Storm was not enough to console Emma Stephens-Bell, who knew they were home to prepare for the funeral of their brother who died in the desert.

All four of Stephens-Bell's sons were sent to take part in the war. Two of them came home Wednesday and a third was scheduled to arrive today.

Edmund Stephens, 31, and Timothy Stephens, 25, arrived Wednesday. Willard Stephens, 30, was

expected today.

Together, they will carry the body of their brother, Christopher Stephens, a 27-year-old staff sergeant, killed when his Bradley Fighting Vehicle was destroyed by heavy-arms fire.

"I'm glad to have them home — but I'm sad about the reason they're here," Stephens-Bell, who now lives in Aptos, said.

The Stephens brothers received special leave after Christopher's death.

Stephens-Bell said she doesn't

know when her son's body will arrive. She's still unclear about the circumstances surrounding his death.

One of her sons had received eyewitness accounts from soldiers in Christopher's platoon that differed from the version the military provided, she said. She and her sons refused to elaborate.

Timothy Stephens said he was particularly angry that he was not notified of his brother's death for five days, and then from family in Houston, not military officials in Saudi Arabia.