In Memoriam: Maj. Shawn Campbell ’01

Two CH-53 helicopters carrying Maj. Shawn M. Campbell ’01 and 11 other Marines crashed off the coast of Hawaii on Jan. 14. Officials suspended the massive search for those aboard on Jan. 19. The Marines and the aircraft were assigned to Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463 based out of Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii.

Campbell attended high school in Houston and graduated from Texas A&M with a degree in microbiology. According to reporting done by the Houston Chronicle, Campbell accepted a commission after graduation, and served three tours in the Middle East and one in Iraq.

He returned to the U.S. to be an instructor pilot at Pensacola, Florida, and transferred to Hawaii about two years ago. He served as a CH-53e Super Stallion pilot with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463.

Campbell is survived by his wife, Kelli Campbell ’01; their four children; his parents, Don and Mary Campbell of College Station; and his mother, Donna McGrew.

In a statement reported by the Houston Chronicle, McGrew described him as a “great dad whose kids love him and he’s a wonderful husband.”

His decorations include the Air Medal with strike/flight device, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with gold star, Navy Unit Commendation with two bronze stars, National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal with two bronze campaign stars, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon with two bronze stars in lieu of third award.

A memorial was held at Marine Corps Base Hawaii in January. As more information becomes available, it will be posted at tx.ag/SCampbell.