

# In Memoriam

## Association Past President Jack Crichton '37

John Alston "Jack" Crichton '37 passed away at his home in Dallas on Dec. 10.

An honors graduate in petroleum engineering and a letterman in tennis, basketball and cross-country track, Crichton went on to serve A&M as president of The Association of Former Students, president of the Lettermen's Association and chairman of the A&M Development Foundation. He served on The Association of Former Students' Board of Directors from 1965 to 1968, was president in 1967, and was honored as a Distinguished Alumnus in 1983.



He had served in the U.S. Army during the World War II as a special OSS agent in Europe, and he was awarded the Bronze Star, five Battle Stars and many other honors. He was a retired colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve.

His career as an international petroleum consultant, engineer, geologist, oil and gas executive, explorer and writer and his love for travel led him to work all over the world. He had served as president of several companies, including Yemen Development Corp., Dorchester Gas Corp., and Arabian American Development Co. And in 1964, he was the Republican Party's

candidate for governor of Texas.

He is survived by his wife, Marilyn Crichton; daughter Catherine Morris and her husband, Craig; daughter Anne Crews and her husband, Kyle; sister Frances "Dinks" Atkinson; a granddaughter, Cassie Morris; and a grandson, John Morris.

A memorial service was held Dec. 15 in the main sanctuary of Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church in Dallas.

Memorials donations may be made to the Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church Foundation, 9800 Preston Road, Dallas 75230; or to the Texas A&M Foundation, 401 George Bush Drive, College Station 77840-2811.

## 2nd Lt. Peter H. Burks '03

U.S. Army 2nd Lt. Peter H. Burks '03 died Nov. 14 in Baghdad, Iraq, of wounds suffered when his vehicle struck an improvised explosive device.

He was assigned to the 4th Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment in Vilseck, Germany.

Lt. Burks graduated from Addison's Trinity Christian Academy in 1999 and earned a bachelor's in international studies from Texas A&M University in 2003. While a student at Texas A&M, Burks was president of Pi Kappa Phi fraternity and was a sportswriter for *The Battalion*.

Family and friends remember Burks as



a man of great faith, honor and courage whose glowing personality and quick sense of humor left a positive impression on all he met.

After graduating from Texas A&M Burks worked as a tour guide in Nice, France, followed by a community relations internship with the Dallas Cowboys and marketing jobs for the Dallas Desperados arena football team and FC Dallas, a Frisco-based soccer team.

Burks joined the Army in April 2006 and was commissioned in October of the same year. Assigned to the 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment in July 2007, he

deployed to Iraq a few months later.

"He had been talking about military service since he was a very young man," his father, Alan Burks, said. "He felt the call to serve. He'd tried corporate life and he just said, 'I have to go do this Dad. This is what I've got to do.'"

Lt. Burks was remembered in services Nov. 24 at Stonebriar Community Church in Frisco and laid to rest in Collin County's Melissa Cemetery.

He is survived by his fiancée, Melissa Haddad; his mother Jacki Merck; his father and stepmother, Alan and Laura Burks; sisters Ali, Sarah and Georgia Burks; a brother, Zac Burks; a grandmother, Irene Merck; and a grandfather, Haskell Burks.

## 1st Lt. Jeremy E. Ray '04

U.S. Army 1st Lt. Jeremy E. Ray '04, of Houston, died Dec. 20 in Kanaan, Iraq, of wounds suffered when an enemy attacked using an explosive device.

He was assigned to the 1st Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, Fort Hood, Texas.

Lt. Ray graduated from Jersey Village High School in May 2000 and earned a bachelor's degree in geology from Texas A&M University in May 2006. While at A&M, he was a member of company H-1 in the Corps of Cadets.

Family and friends remember Ray



as an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed playing the guitar and loved motorcycles. They also remember an Eagle Scout who spent his life in service to his community and country.

Deployed to Iraq in November 2007, Ray's unit was providing security at a city council meeting in Kanaan in northeast Iraq when he was targeted by a suicide bomber. His family believes he sacrificed his life to save the lives of the soldiers in his unit.

"He took the brunt of the explosion and the other men in his unit were hurt but he was the only one killed,"

said Jeremy's father, Randy Ray.

Prior to his deployment, Ray served as the best man in his brother Justin's wedding in August.

"He became my hero the moment he put on that uniform, and whether he lived or died, it wouldn't have changed that," Justin said.

Lt. Ray was remembered in services Dec. 28 at Jersey Village Baptist Church and laid to rest at Klein Memorial Park.

He is survived by his parents, Randy and Debbie Ray; his brother and sister-in-law, Justin and Allison Ray; his grandmother, Essie Ray; and many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.