

In Memoriam

CAPT. LYLE L. GORDON '97, USMC



Captain Lyle L. Gordon '97 is remembered by his family and friends for his enthusiasm, tenacity, drive and contagious smile. He is remembered by his nation as a hero who answered freedom's call and paid the ultimate sacrifice on January 26, 2005, when his CH-53E helicopter crashed near Ar Rutbah, Iraq.

"Lyle would stop whatever he was doing to help you out," shared Capt. Michael Saddler '98, USMC, who served with Gordon in Iraq. "I never heard him complain about doing extra work. He always worked hard and took pride in everything he did. Lyle was a guy that you could always count on."

Lyle Gordon was born on September 11, 1974. He graduated from Midlothian High School in 1993 and from Texas A&M University with a bachelor's degree in animal science in 1999. While at Texas A&M, Gordon was a member of Company E-2 in the Corps of Cadets.

Gordon had a lifelong love for flying and joined the United States Marine Corps Reserve while still a student in 1995. He was designated a naval aviator in July 2002 and at the time of his death was assigned to the Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 361, Marine Aircraft Group 16, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, Marine Corps Air Station in Miramar, California.

As friends and family gathered in February to celebrate Gordon's life, Capt. Scott Williams, the Marine who escorted Gordon home, said, "Lyle always gave more than he took. I'll always remember him as one of the friendliest, most dependable, most passionate people I have ever known."

Gordon is survived by his wife Kaci (Yates) Gordon '01 of San Marcos, California; his parents, Dickey and Mary Gordon of Midlothian; a brother and sister-in-law, Boyd and Lara Gordon of Coppell; and a nephew, Tucker Gordon, of Coppell.

MARK HUMPHRIES '74



Steven "Mark" Humphries '74, through his work on the Kabul-Kandahar Highway, significantly improved life for millions of Afghan citizens. In doing so, he ultimately lost his own life in the crash of a commercial airliner just outside Kabul on February 3, 2005.

A construction engineer for the Louis Berger Group, Humphries was part of a multinational team working to reconstruct the Kabul to Kandahar Highway in Afghanistan. Upon completion of Phase I of this ambitious project, travel time from Kabul to Kandahar was reduced from two days to six hours, and the Afghan people enjoyed easier access to markets, healthcare, schools and jobs.

After graduating from Dublin High School, Humphries earned a degree in civil engineering from Texas A&M University in 1974. His 30-year career in large civil construction projects ultimately led to his position with the Louis Berger Group and the opportunity for adventure and travel, both things he enjoyed.

"Mark Humphries had a voracious appetite and appreciation for life that was personally uplifting," shared Dan Leitner, a professional colleague, in a letter read at Humphries' memorial service. "If you have a million things you loved about life, you could look to Mark and he could show you a million and one."

Humphries' impact exceeded the scope of his construction work.

"Mark made an impact on the Afghans. He gave them respect, dignity and purpose, something they had lost under the Taliban," said his brother, Chris Humphries '80 who worked with Mark in Afghanistan.

Mark Humphries is survived by his wife Jamie '75 and their three children Kelly '00, Cade and Alex of Houston; his parents, J.C. and Pat Humphries of Bryan; a sister, Stormy Armstong of Dublin; and brothers, Chris Humphries '80 and Sam Humphries '86, both of Bryan.

Honorariums in memory of Humphries can be made for the continuing special education of his nine-year-old son, Alex, in care of Jamie Humphries, 16522 Cairngrove, Houston, Texas 77084.

