

In Memoriam



**Sergeant
William Meeuwsen '03**

United States Army Sergeant **William "Bill" Meeuwsen '03** is remembered by his family and friends for his warm smile and compassionate heart for people and animals. Inspired to fulfill his life-long dream of serving in the military after the tragic events of September 11, 2001, Meeuwsen was killed in combat November 23, 2005, when his unit came under direct fire near Baghdad.

Meeuwsen was born on February 10, 1981, in Mount Vernon, Washington. His family eventually relocated to Texas, where Bill graduated from Kingwood High School in 1999. He was a student at Texas A&M University from the fall of 1999 until enlisting in the Army in 2002.

While in the Army, Bill served with the 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment (Air Assault) in South Korea for a year, then joined Alpha Company, 2-502nd Infantry, Airborne Division (Air Assault) at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. It was at Fort Campbell that he met and later married his wife, Lauren Mann, on August 18, 2005.

After a funeral mass at St. Martha's Catholic Church in Kingwood on December 3, 2005, Meeuwsen was laid to rest on December 6, 2005, in Williamette National Cemetery in Portland, Oregon.

Bill is survived by his wife, Lauren Meeuwsen, of Fort Bliss; his parents, Michael and Theresa Meeuwsen, of Kingwood; and a sister, Christine Meeuwsen '00, of Dallas. Memorial contributions in Meeuwsen's name can be directed to the Humane Society of the United States at www.hsus.org.



**Chief Warrant Officer
Richard M. Salter '85**

Army Chief Warrant Officer **Richard M. Salter '85** dreamt of flying helicopters as a child. Salter made that dream a reality and was serving his second tour of Iraq when his Apache helicopter collided with another military aircraft and crashed on December 26, 2005.

Matt, as he was known to friends and family, was born in Houston on August 28, 1961, and graduated from Cy-Fair High School in 1980. He earned a bachelor's degree in industrial education from Texas A&M University in 1985.

After graduating from Texas A&M, Salter joined the Army. While serving in Iraq he was assigned to Fort Hood's 1st Battalion, 4th Aviation Regiment, Aviation Brigade and 4th Infantry Division. During his first tour, he flew an air attack mission in support of ground troops from the 4th Infantry that captured Saddam Hussein.

A fellow soldier described Salter as being a man of integrity, beyond reproach and numerous reports from friends and family say he died doing what he loved.

After a funeral service at Fort Hood's Comanche Chapel on January 6, 2006, CW4 Salter was laid to rest at Texas State Veteran's Cemetery in Killeen.

Salter is survived by his wife, Janet; two sons, Jarrett Matthew, 15, and Lane Douglas, 8 months; two daughters, Christina Gabriel, 18, and Danielle Leigh, 6; his parents, Douglas Ladd Salter and Sara Jo Salter, of Cypress; and a sister, Sara Ward, of Cypress.

