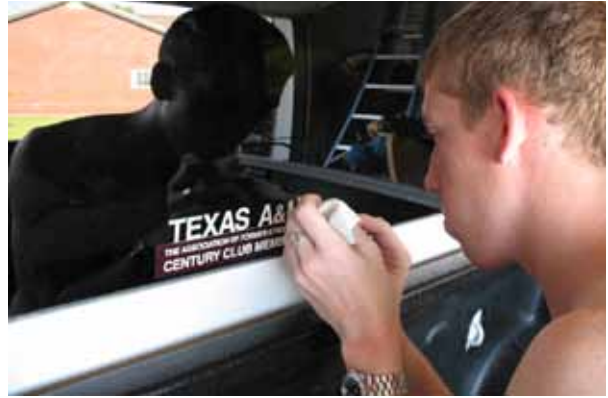




**W.B. "Pappy" Drennan '38** celebrated his 99th birthday on April 29. Drennan is the oldest living football letterman. As a player he helped secure the Aggies' only national championship in 1939.



"It doesn't take long for a new former student to change the decals on a vehicle," wrote **Susan Stewart '82** after the graduation of her son, **Collin Stewart '09**. "The biomedical science sticker came off and the former student one went on."

## In Memoriam

### Lt. Col. Mark E. Stratton '91



Lt. Col. Mark E. Stratton '91 died May 26, just weeks after he submitted to *Texas Aggie* this photo of himself celebrating Muster with locals atop an Afghan mountain.



U.S. Air Force **Lt. Col. Mark E. Stratton '91** died May 26 in Afghanistan of wounds sustained from an improvised explosive device. He was assigned to the Joint Staff, Pentagon, Washington, D.C., and was serving as the commander of the Panjshir Provincial Reconstruction Team. He was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, the Air Force Combat Action Medal and the Afghanistan Campaign Medal.

Stratton graduated from Foley High School in Foley, Ala., and from Texas A&M University in December 1991 with a degree in political science. While at Texas A&M, he was a member of Squadron 1 in the Corps of Cadets.

Remembered by his friends as a man of unquestionable character and loyalty, Stratton was excited about the initiative he was leading in Afghanistan. In an e-mail to a friend he described the work of building roads, schools, canals and clinics as the best job of his Air Force career.

**Lt. Col. Gil Delgado '91** a close friend and Air Force colleague, described his friend as someone who loved God, his family, his friends and his country fervently.

"Mark gave his life helping the Afghan people," Delgado said. "In life, as in death, Mark's selflessness will always stand out to me as a testimony to who he was."

Just a few weeks prior to his death, Stratton made a special effort to share his Aggie Spirit and observe Aggie Muster. In

an e-mail to *Texas Aggie* magazine, he indicated that although he was the only Aggie within 100 miles of his forward operating base, he convinced the Panjshir provincial governor and his security detail to join him atop a nearby mountain to mark the occasion.

Stratton entered the Air Force as a communications officer and later earned distinction as an RC-135 Cobra Ball senior navigator and executive assistant to the 55th Wing Commander, Offutt AFB, Neb. Following graduation from the inaugural class of the Joint Advanced Warfighting School, he served in J-5 on the Joint Staff as the Taiwan desk officer then as Executive Assistant to the Deputy Director of Asia.

Lt. Col. Stratton is survived by his wife, Jennifer Stratton; his children, Delaney, Jake, and A.J.; his mother, Janice York and brother Frank Little of Foley, Ala.; brothers, Michael Stratton and Steven Stratton and stepmother, Debby Young of Houston; and grandparents, Frances Harrell, Gene and Dolly Little and Buzz & Ellen Goins.

His life was celebrated in a memorial service June 7 in Stafford, Va., and he was laid to rest June 9 in Arlington National Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the Squadron 1 scholarship fund (contact the Texas A&M Foundation); his church, Stafford Baptist Church, for Bibles sent to troops overseas (call 540-659-7517); or the USO ([www.uso.org](http://www.uso.org)).