

# In Memoriam

## Maj. Matthew W. Worrell '94

U.S. Army **Maj. Matthew Wade Worrell '94** died May 14, 2006, when his AH-6M Little Bird helicopter was shot down by enemy fire during combat operations in Yousifiyah, south of Baghdad, Iraq.

Maj. Worrell graduated from Lewisville High School in 1990 and earned a Bachelor of Science in agricultural economics from Texas A&M University in May 1995. While a student at Texas A&M, he was active in Aggie Bonfire and was a member of Company L-1 and Parsons Mounted Cavalry in the Corps of Cadets.

Aggie friends remember Worrell as a man who loved God, his family, his country and the Corps of Cadets.

Commissioned into the United States Army in 1995, Worrell served 11 years in the Army and was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, at the time of his death. Known as the Night Stalkers, the 160th is an elite aviation unit deployed in nearly every conflict since Grenada in 1983 to transport special forces units around the world by night in specially modified helicopters.

In a written statement, Maj. Worrell's family described him as a devoted husband, a loving father, son



and uncle and dedicated Night Stalker.

"There is no question that Matt believed in what he was doing," his family wrote. "He never doubted why he was there. Matt died doing something he deeply believed in."

His awards and decorations include two Bronze Stars, the Meritorious Service Medal and the Air Medal for valor.

Maj. Worrell is survived by his wife, Camille '94, and two children, Jake and Luke of Clarksville, Tennessee.

Remembered in a memorial service May 18, 2006, at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, and in funeral services in Dallas, Maj. Worrell was laid to rest at Dallas National Cemetery May 23, 2006.

Donations may be made in Matt Worrell's name to the Special Operations Warrior Foundation, Post Office Box 14385, Tampa, Florida 33690.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Ryan T. Sanders '01



U.S. Army **1st Lt. Ryan T. Sanders '01**, a tank platoon leader, was killed June 4, 2006, in Baghdad, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his M1A2 tank during combat operations. Sanders was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, based at Fort Hood, Texas.

Lt. Sanders graduated from Berkner High School in Richardson in 1997 and earned bachelor's degrees in Sociology and English in 2001 and a master's degree in English in 2004 from Texas A&M University.

Described by family as an independent thinker, Sanders joined the Army in June 2004 hoping to make a difference, something he tried to do throughout his life. As an Eagle Scout, he led other scouts in a project to make landscaping improvements at a Richardson Elementary School.

He was, according to family members, the kind of person who didn't complain about things he saw as wrong or lacking, but took action to improve the situation.

Texas A&M professors remembered Sanders has a good-humored student, eager to learn, who was spark plug in class discussions and could be counted on to have something positive to contribute.

Lt. Ryan T. Sanders is survived by his wife Jennifer Graham Sanders '01 of Killeen; his parents, James T. Sanders '66 and Kay Sanders of Richardson; brothers Jeff Sanders, Capt. Greg Sanders of Fort Lewis, Washington, and Michael G. Sanders '06 of Richardson; and grandparents, Truett and Joyce Sanders of San Angelo.

Lt. Sanders' life was celebrated June 17, 2006, during services at First Baptist Church of Richardson. He was laid to rest at Restland Memorial Park in Dallas.