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AGGIE NETWORKNEWS

In Memoriam

Staff Sgt. Chris N. Staats '01



Texas National Guard **Staff Sgt. Christopher N. Staats '01** died Oct. 16 of injuries suffered when his vehicle was attacked by an improvised explosive device in the Wardak province of Afghanistan. He was assigned to the 143rd Infantry Detachment at Camp Mabry.

Staats joined the Texas National Guard upon graduating from Fredericksburg High School in 1996. He went on to earn a bachelor's degree in renewable natural resources from Texas A&M in 2002.

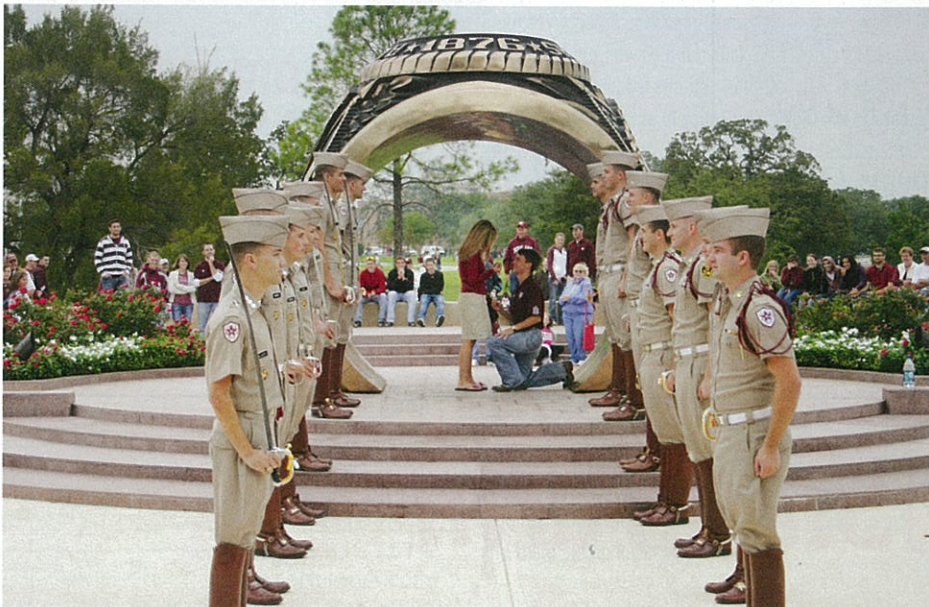
Scott Striegler '00 grew up with Staats in Boerne and remembered his friend as a proud Aggie and as someone who always stood out in a crowd. "Chris' father and brother were in the military and he followed in their footsteps," Striegler

said. "He was honored to serve his country and help people in need."

Living in Boerne and working for Halff Associates in San Antonio, Staats deployed with the Guard to Afghanistan in the fall of 2008 and was working with an agribusiness development team, focused on helping Afghani farmers.

In an interview with the *San Antonio Express News*, his wife, **Montaigne Staats '02**, expressed pride in Staats' service. "Chris's entire goal was to help the Afghan people become self-sufficient," she said. "I'm so proud of Chris for his hard work, his dedication, his service and belief in helping others."

In addition to his wife, Staats is survived by his father, Bobby Staats; his mother, Lorna Eckhardt; a brother, **Garrett Staats '93**; a sister, Jennifer Staats Terry; and many other relatives and friends. Sgt. Staats' life was celebrated during a funeral Mass Oct. 20 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Fredericksburg, followed by private graveside services.



Houston Walker '08 proposed to **Amy Crochet '09** in October, and their engagement is believed to be the first to take place under the Aggie Ring replica on the Haynes Ring Plaza at the Clayton W. Williams, Jr. Alumni Center. Houston, who was a member of Company E-2, graduated in May 2009, and Amy will graduate in May 2010. Houston's brother, **Justin Walker**, a Class of 2017 hopeful, came up with the idea to propose under the Ring replica, and another brother, **Joe Walker '10**, organized the saber arch with fellow seniors from Company E-2. His third brother is **Jefferson Walker '12**, also a member of E-2, and his parents are **Johnny '76 and Lea Ann Walker '78**, who are the 2009 Parents of the Year. Amy is the first in her family to attend A&M.

PHOTO BY BRANDY KINES '05