

Clifford Stanley "Stan" Berg, Jr.
AirMed, Univ. of Utah Health Science Center
Salt Lake City, Utah

"Stan's number one priority was the care of the patient. When he was on the job, he was on the job. He gave up his life doing what he believed in," said his brother-in-law, Mark Headley.

Stan Berg was a Vietnam war veteran with twenty years of flying experience. He was head pilot with AirMed of the University of Utah Health Science Center. Previously Mr. Berg had been employed with Air Methods Corporation, which leases helicopters to hospitals. There he ran the firm's helicopter programs in Rockford, Illinois, and Billings, Montana. On January 11, 1998 Stan was returning with an injured skier and medical crew on board when he ran into a storm front in the canyon. There he lost his life when the helicopter crashed into the side of the mountain.

Stan Berg leaves behind a wife, Kim, two sons, a daughter, and two grandchildren.

Honored 1999

Craig Alan Bingham
Intermountain Health Care Life Flight
Salt Lake City, Utah

Craig loved to fly and it was always his dream to become a pilot. He was a good, warm-hearted man who loved helping people. Putting the love of flying and the love of mankind together gets the best in medical rescue.

Craig Alan Bingham, 47, of Salt Lake City, Utah lost his life on January 10, 2003 when the helicopter he was piloting crashed. The team had been dispatched to a scene flight when it encountered bad weather and heavy fog. The team was returning to base when the accident occurred.

Mr. Bingham was employed by Intermountain Health Care Life Flight, located in Salt Lake City. Before coming on board with Life Flight, he had spent 10 years in the military. There, he realized his boyhood dream of becoming a pilot and went on to become a flight instructor. After leaving the military, Craig entered an active military reserve program and became a civilian helicopter pilot for Air Methods in Fargo, South Dakota, and later in Denver, Colorado.

He was known to be a devoted family man and an active member of the community. He had a wonderful sense of humor; always ready with a smile and gracious handshake. "He loved going to work and felt a great kinship with the nurses and paramedics and other pilots," said his brother, Rick. "If one could ever sit down and script out the perfect job, it would have been for Life Flight," he stated.

Honored 2004

D. Shayne Carnahan
AirMed, Univ. Of Utah Health Science Center
Salt Lake City, Utah

It was January 11, 1998 when D. Shayne Carnahan, an AirMed nurse died doing what he loved, helping others.

The EMS helicopter was retrieving an injured skier. Just after take off with the medical crew and patient on board, a storm front caused the helicopter to crash into the side of a mountain. Carnahan, a part-time nurse with AirMed was fondly described by retired head nurse, Mary Chevalier of Ogden's McKay-Dee Hospital, as "a good person-caring, considerate, reliable."

One of the high points of Shayne's life was when he was a 32- year-old nurse making rounds at LDS Hospital and had a private chat with Church President, Gordon B. Hinkley. "The president told him to pull up a chair" said his grandmother, Helen Carnahan. He said later, "Grandmother, we had the most wonderful talk." Friends, co-workers and loved ones told of how Carnahan lived doing what he loved. His wife, Tami, and their three children had settled in Clinton to be close to his grandmother.

He is survived by his wife, Tami, three children, and his grandmother, Helen.

Honored 1999

Brent F. Cowley
Intermountain Health Care Life Flight
Salt Lake City, Utah

"He was a dedicated pilot, achieving his goal of helping others. He was also dedicated to his family and his church", said a friend. "He was an all around great person, one that will be missed."

Brent F. Crowley, 49, of Salt Lake City, Utah lost his life when the helicopter he was piloting crashed on June 7, 2003. He was part of a flight team that was returning from a hoist rescue mission when the helicopter crashed due to mechanical problems. The team of three had rescued a hiker, who was dehydrated and too weak to walk down the mountain, the other team members lived. The chopper had dropped the hiker down to safety and headed back in the air when suddenly it spun out of control and crashed. Mr.Crowley was a pilot for Life Flight, located in Salt Lake City, Utah. He was an experienced pilot and had been with the firm for seven years. Prior to his service with Life Flight, he had flown with Care Flight, in Reno, Nevada for two years.

Brent joined the Army and was accepted into their prestigious flight school. Upon graduation, he received many top honors. While in the Army he served in Desert Storm and in the Somalia conflict. He received many honors and safety awards during his military career. Brent retired after 20 years of service and took up his dream of flying helicopters to help people in need.

Honored 2004

Mario Wyatt Guerrero
Intermountain Health Care Life Flight
Salt Lake City, Utah

Getting help to the critical patient the quickest way possible is what makes the men and women in the field of flight rescue so extraordinary. They understand the need to rush the critically ill or wounded to the best hospitals. Performing the task of administering in air care and treatment makes this group elite.

Mario Wyatt Guerrero, 37, of Pleasant Grove, Utah perished aboard a medical helicopter responding to a request for transport of an individual injured in a motor vehicle accident. He lost his life on January 10, 2003 when the helicopter he was riding encountered bad weather and heavy fog.

Mr. Guerrero was employed by Intermountain Health Care Life Flight, located in Salt Lake City, Utah. He was a paramedic and had been with IHC for the last eighteen years. "He passed away doing what he loved to do, helping others, said a friend". He was as dedicated to his belief in God as he was in helping mankind.

"It's been an emotional few days for family members and the crews of Life Flight and Aired. We are all like family, we have our family, then we have a squad family, and this has been tough to take", said a crewmember.

Honored 2004

Timothy E. Hynes
Salt Lake City Fire Department
AirMed, Univ. of Utah Health & Science Center
Salt Lake City, Utah

The Fire and EMS community both locally and nationally has lost a bright star and will miss Tim's presence. He was one in a million and everyone's best friend. Tim Hynes was honored in a memorial service befitting his stature, a real life hero. Over 1500 people attended the memorial service held in Salt Lake City. Friends came from all across the country to say farewell to their friend. To be Tim Hynes' friend was to have his undivided attention, and caring attitude.

Tim's experience includes; Director of EMS for Salt Lake City, Battalion Chief, Paramedic with 22 years of service, Flight Paramedic for University of Utah AirMed for 16 years. He was Fire Representative for EMS for the 2002 Winter Olympics. He spent much of his time on Pathway Management, the Utah State Legislature and was on many committees. He still had time to stop by his Station #2, and do whatever needed to be done. If any of his Captains called, Tim would make getting to the station a top priority. His networking contacts spread across the country in both the EMS and fire service community. Tim was a great speaker, and was courted by a variety of national groups, flight paramedics, physicians, health care organizations, EMS and fire departments. All were lucky to have him address their audiences. Not only was he an expert speaker, he was also hired by many EMS delivery agencies to audit, evaluate, and make recommendations for improvement.

Tim served in the U.S. Navy, and was a "Navy Seal", and did a tour in Vietnam. He set mines in rivers and harbors and worked in deep cold water recovering sunken American ships. Tim was a heroic patriot.

Tim was known to be a devoted father, and family man. He was proud of his children's accomplishments. He loved spending time with his children, whether it be shopping with his daughter or skiing with his son.

While evaluating an avalanche victim from Little Cottonwood Canyon, the helicopter crashed in a snow storm on January 11, 1998. All aboard were killed including Tim Hynes.

He is survived by his son, Jared, and a daughter, Jamie.

Honored 1999

Louis Alan Merz
Air Med
University of Utah Hospital
Salt Lake City, Utah

Louis Alan Merz was born April 19, 1953, in Sapporo, Japan, the fourth of five children. His father was a military pilot and flying soon became Louis' passion as well. His cheerful and sunny personality followed him into adulthood along with a deep sense of compassion and caring.

Perhaps Louis' greatest attribute was his wonderful sense of humor. He loved to have fun and laugh. He would have barbecues in the middle of a snowstorm and then picnic in the middle of the living room floor.

There were two things Louis did take very seriously, however. One was his family as he loved his two children deeply and completely. The second was his chosen profession of flying. He felt blessed to not only be able to fly, but to have the opportunity to save lives. The children he flew especially touched him.

Louis, 29, died April 11, 1983 doing the two things he liked best: helping save lives and flying. His Bell 206 L1 jet helicopter crashed in heavy fog, rain and ice as he was en route to pick up a sick child and pediatric team for transport.

At the time of his death, Louis Merz was employed as a full time EMS pilot by Tiger Air, operator of the AirMed program for the University of Utah Hospital. Prior to this he had been a Chief Warrant Officer for the U.S. Army for almost 10 years as a helicopter pilot. He was also flying helicopters as a member of the Utah National Guard.

Louis had one more month to go before receiving his degree in Aerospace Studies from Westminster College in Salt Lake City. His parents, Martin and Jane Merz, were awarded his degree posthumously.

Honored 1997
