



William R. Monty, Jr.
CW3, U. S. Army
Eagle Scout '78, WWW
Born: October 2, 1978
Died: March 7, 1996

Will joined Boy Scout Troop 253 in 1972. While a boy scout Will earned the following merit badges: Cooking, Swimming, Orienteering, First Aid, Environmental Science, Citizenship in the Community, Leatherwork, Sports, Wilderness Survival, Fingerprinting, Safety, Aviation, Truck Transportation, Fish and Wildlife Management, Mammals, Camping, Plumbing, Traffic Safety, Home Repairs, Personal Management, Citizenship in the World, Citizenship in the Nation, Communications and Emergency Preparedness.

Will served the troop as a Quartermaster and as a Senior Patrol Leader. Will was a member of the Leadership Corps, and was a Junior Assistant Scoutmaster. He was a member of the Order of the Arrow, Nischa-Nimat Lodge 181.

For Will's Eagle project he led a group in cleaning rubbish and trash out of and along 7 miles of a popular hunting and fishing stream, the Volockiekill. The project took place on five separate days in July of 1978. Will's Board of Review was held on August 17, 1978.

Will received his Eagle Award along with Mark Hudson and Phillip Stone in a joint Eagle Ceremony held on October 21, 1978, at the South Schodack Fire House, all three scouts were from Troop 253. Troop 253 produced 12 Eagle Scouts during its 16 year tenure.

Graduated High School: Maple Hill High School, 1978

Graduated Hillsborough Community College, Tampa, FL: Associates in Arts Degree, 1980

Graduated Embry-Riddle Aeronautical Institute, Hawaii: Bachelors in Aviation Mechanics, 1996

Joined the Army in November 1985, enlisted as a single-channel radio operator. Will attended Warrant Officer Candidate School and Flight School at Fort Rucker, Alabama in 1987-1988. Will was promoted to Chief Warrant Officer 2 in September, 1990. Will participated in Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm as a Scout Helicopter Pilot with the 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas, flying an OH-58 Kiowa helicopter. Will's military awards include the Meritorious Service Medal (2nd award), Air Medal (2nd award),

Army Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal,

Will was a member of the Army Aviation Association of America, Veterans of Foreign Wars (Castleton, NY), American Legion Post 1610 (North Albany, NY).

I spent some time with Will in November 1985, discussing flight school and such. We talked about Will's father being a pilot and the challenges with a pilot's career. One thing that stuck in my mind about that conversation was that Will was going to be a Warrant Officer and I had set my goals on being a Commissioned Officer. Will related to me his dad's experiences and early in my military career I learned that Warrants are Subject Matter Experts, so if you're a pilot, you fly. Commissioned Officers spend time on staff jobs and additional duty assignments, but Warrant Officers have little that keeps them from flying.

Will flew as a Pilot of an Observation chopper at Ft. Irwin, the U. S. Army National Training Center. His call sign that was assigned to him was "Eagle 53".

Upon returning from Desert Storm, Will became interested in pursuing membership in the 160th Special Operations Air Regiment. The 160th is a Special Forces unit dubbed the "Night Stalkers" because its members often fly in darkness using night-vision equipment. The qualifications required for Warrant Officers in the 160th are high and Will was turned away due to a low number of hours flying with night vision goggles or NVG's. In the true fashion of an Eagle Scout and a professional aviator, he set a goal to become a Night Stalker and if it took goggle time to become one, he'd get more goggle time. After 18 months in Hawaii, and nearing the completion of his bachelor's degree, Will once again applied for the Night Stalkers, Will went through the week long assessment process and this time was accepted. On Thursday evening, March 7, 1996, at approximately 10:00pm, a MH-47E, a special missions capable aircraft designed to fly night-time missions, at low levels, behind enemy lines, crashed over a snow covered wheat field near Olmstead, KY. That crash claimed the lives Chief Warrant Officer 5 Walter M. Fox, 43, of Barnesville, Pa., was the pilot and Chief Warrant Officer 3 Pierre R. Desroches, 44, of Palm Desert, Calif., was co-pilot. Also aboard were two crew chiefs, Staff Sgt. Tracy A. Tidwell, 34, of Texarkana, Texas; and Sgt. Bradley C. Beem, 29, of Shell Rock, Iowa. The helicopter also carried Chief Warrant Officer 2 William R. Monty Jr., 35, of St. Petersburg, Fla.

The helicopter, identified as an MH47E Chinook, is designed to carry soldiers far behind enemy lines during secret missions, at low altitudes and in poor weather, said Lt. Col. Ken McGraw, public affairs officer for the Army Special Operations Command at Fort Bragg. Boeing spokesman Madelyn Bush said the crash was the first ever involving an MH47E. Only 26 of the helicopters were built by Boeing Defense & Space Group Helicopters Division in Philadelphia. Of the 26 Boeing CH-47 modified to the MH47E variant this is the only one that has crashed. The crash is still under investigation (as of March 8th, 1997). Ironically, in the same issue of the army times was an article citing 1995 as the safest year in army aviation history.

Posthumously promoted to Chief Warrant Officer 3, Will was laid to rest with full military honors on March 23, 1996 in the Bloominggrove Cemetery, East Greenbush. The remains of the

Five crew were interned in the Arlington National Cemetery, VA on March 28, 1996. Upon completion of the Saratoga National Cemetery, Will's grave will be moved there. A monument exists at the crash site, near Ft. Campbell, KY.

Will was involved with his children and was coaching Samantha's soccer team. While in Hawaii, Will had been talking with local scouters about getting involved with scouting and was looking forward to scouting with Willy.

Will's mother and father related stories about how much he used to love to fly with his father when he was younger. Will truly loved to fly. Had Will not been a Boy Scout and not become an Eagle Scout, I feel confident that he still would have been a successful pilot. If that had been the case it would have been the youth of Troop 253 and the community as a whole who would have suffered.

Over 30 years ago Will's father William Monty, Sr. (past Troop 53 Scoutmaster) was an Assistant Scoutmaster for Troop 53 and later as an Assistant Scoutmaster for Troop 253. While at Annual Training at Fort Drum, NY as a helicopter pilot, Will's Dad flew over to Stratton Mountain Scout Reservation, VT, while hovering over the waterfront he dropped a bleach bottle with "Hello Troop 53" written on it. This made quite an impression having an army helicopter fly over and say hello to Troop 53, and turned out to be the talk of camp.

In August of 1967 Mr. Monty helped start Troop 253. It was a cooperative effort between Troop 53 and Troop 253. Troop 53 was very large and was exceeding the capacity of their meeting hall. I first joined Troop 253 while Troop 53 was reorganizing and retraining. So the two troops worked in conjunction with each other helping each other out, but still providing a healthy rivalry for each other. We would fiercely compete at Camporees, Klondike Derby's and summer Camp, but we would go on joint campout's together at other times of the year.

Will Monty was a special operator and a special individual, but if you had asked him, I'm sure he would have answered in the customary fashion of a special operator. "I'm just a normal person, with a special mission and special equipment". As we can see from his biography, had he not been a Boy Scout, the community and the scouts of Troop 253 would have suffered. I am truly honored to have known him, and proud to know that he was an Eagle.

Speech given by Paul D. Albertine at the Troop 53 Annual Court of Honor, on March 8th, 1997, at the South Schodack Firehouse. Gary Shields (Eagle '72) and several members of the South Schodack Fire Department (sponsors of Troop 253) were on hand for a rededication of Troop 253's flag, now with one Gold Star representing Will Monty. Will's widow Kathy Monty and daughter Samatha were also present.

Additional Information:

Will's grave has subsequently been moved to the Gerald B. H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery and in March, 2006, Mr. William Monty, Sr., past Scoutmaster of Troop 53 was also interred there.

1. MONTY, WILLIAM R JR

CW3 US ARMY

PANAMA, PERSIAN GULF, SOMALIA

DATE OF BIRTH: 10/02/1960

DATE OF DEATH: 03/07/1996

BURIED AT: SECTION 7 SITE 1019

GERALD B.H. SOLOMON SARATOGA NATIONAL CEMETERY

200 DUELL ROAD SCHUYLERVILLE, NY 12871-1721

(518) 581-9128

2. MONTY, WILLIAM RAYMOND SR

CAPT US ARMY AIR FORCES

WORLD WAR II, KOREA, VIETNAM

DATE OF BIRTH: 08/08/1921

DATE OF DEATH: 02/26/2006

BURIED AT: SECTION G11 SITE 34

GERALD B.H. SOLOMON SARATOGA NATIONAL CEMETERY

200 DUELL ROAD SCHUYLERVILLE, NY 12871-1721

(518) 581-9128

For more information on the Gerald B.H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery visit the website at: <http://www.cem.va.gov/CEM/cems/nchp/geraldbhsolomonsaratoga.asp>