



***Chief Warrant Officer 3 Thomas B. Crossan, III  
25 June 1945 - 10 July 1983***

CW3 Crossan was born in Beckley, West Virginia on 25 June 1945. He loved flying, starting with getting his student pilot's license and making his first solo flight in 1962. He enlisted in the Army in 1970 and was assigned to Fort Rucker, Alabama for rotary wing pilot training, qualifying him as a CH-47 Chinook pilot.

Assigned to Vietnam, he flew many missions including resupplying mountain-top fire bases, where he took some hits, but always brought his CH-47 and crew safely back to the base. Electing to stay in the Army after returning from Vietnam, he served at Fort Carson, Colorado and then did a two-year tour in Germany.

Upon his return from Europe, he was assigned to Fort Campbell, Kentucky and became one of the earliest Night Stalkers, serving in Alpha Company, 159th Aviation Battalion. While, for security reasons, he couldn't talk about his many 160<sup>th</sup> Task Force missions, it was clear that his heart was in what he was doing because he was certain that they were boosting our country's military operational capability and security. He was most proud of his selection to participate as a member of the Night Stalker team.

The accident that claimed his life on a CH-47 Chinook, #845, occurred on 10 July 1983 on South Fox Island, Michigan at the northern tip of Lake Michigan, where they were planning and developing new doctrine, tactics, and techniques that have made this unit what it is today.

He is survived by his son, Thomas, IV and his daughter, Kathryn.

Tom's CO, MAJ Steven L. Hardin, said it all when he wrote in a letter, dated 14 July 1983, to Tom's father extending his deepest sympathy in the loss of his eldest son and namesake:

"Tom's quiet manner and dedication to the mission accomplishment inspired us all to be able to face the challenges and dangers of our mission. Your son was always ready to tackle the most demanding and

stressful tasks and he exemplified the professional aviator. Tom taught us well to carry on and we will never forget him.”