



***Sergeant Ricky D. Zizelman, Sr.***  
***19 February 1957 - 29 March 1982***

Sergeant Ricky D. Zizelman, Sr. was born in Celina, Ohio on 19 February 1957, the son of Louis and Mary Clay Zizelman, Jr. He graduated from Celina High School (Bulldogs) in 1975 where he was a wrestler. He volunteered for service in the U.S. Army the same year.

SGT Zizelman went to Basic Combat Training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. He was stationed in Berlin, Germany from 1976 through 1978. SGT Zizelman re-enlisted and went to Fort Rucker, Alabama for training as a Huey helicopter mechanic. Following training, he was stationed at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. Because SGT Zizelman loved the Army and loved to fly, he went back to school in March 1980 to become a Black Hawk helicopter mechanic. He was a Founding Night Stalker that served as a Crew Chief in Charlie Company, 158th Aviation Battalion.

SGT Zizelman died during a training flight when his Black Hawk helicopter crashed near Fort Stewart, Georgia. It was the first Fort Campbell Black Hawk to crash.

SGT Zizelman is survived by his wife, Sabine; two sons, Rick, Jr. and Bobby; and his mother, Mary. He is laid to rest in Celina, Ohio, at Mercer Memorial Cemetery.