



Captain Milton David Salmons

1953 - 1980

IN SERVICE TO CANADA

Royal Canadian Air Force, #436 Transport Squadron

Known by his middle name, David was born in Sarnia in 1953, the eldest son of Milton and Myrtle Salmons. Milton and Myrtle raised four children together: David, Beth, Jennifer and Scott. David was raised and educated in Sarnia, was a member of #44 Sarnia Optimist Squadron Air Cadets, was very mechanically inclined, and had a great passion for cars, motorcycles and things that went fast. In February 1973, twenty year-old David Salmons enlisted with the Canadian Armed Forces at CFB Cornwallis, Nova Scotia. His plan was to become a mechanic in the military. Five months after enlisting, in July 1973, David married Sandy Martin in Sarnia. They had two children together: Jamie and Ruth, born 8 months after David's death.

After graduating as top cadet at Cornwallis, his training continued at CFB Borden and CFB Comox. Military officials soon recognized his talents and skills and recommended that he become a pilot. His officer training took him to CFB Chilliwack, Portage Le Prairie and CFB Moose Jaw where he graduated as top overall cadet. Able to choose his posting, David went to CFB Trenton where he became a member of #436 Transport Squadron. David's career took him to distant places around the globe, including a tense evacuation operation in Iran.

On October 15, 1980, David's Hercules aircraft was on a Search and Rescue mission to comb Quebec's north woods for a helicopter that had gone missing. During the search, the aircraft stalled at low level and crashed and burned in a forest west of Chapais, Quebec. Eight members of the crew died in the crash, including Captain David Salmons, age 27. There were two survivors. David's funeral was held in Sarnia followed by cremation.



**THE SARNIA
WAR REMEMBRANCE
PROJECT**

by Tom Slater and Editor Tom St. Amand