

COMMAND SGT. MAJ. HARRY PARRISH

HARRY LEWIS PARRISH JR. OBT.

PARRISH, JR., Sergeant Major Harry Lewis Age 53, of Fort Meade, Maryland, **husband of Deborah Marie Price Parrish, son of the late Harry Lewis Parrish, Sr. and the late Charlotte Neil Parrish**, brother of John Ernest Parrish, Fred Randall Parrish, Rebecca Parrish Wheeler and Martha Parrish Girton, died while skydiving Saturday, August 2, 2009. Announcement of arrangements for a celebration of his life to be held in approximately 4-6 weeks is forthcoming pending the birth of Baby Parrish and will be under the direction of the T. W. Crow & Son Funeral Home, Scottsville, KY. In lieu of flowers, Mrs. Deborah Parrish requests donations to the Baby Parrish Education Fund, in care of Deborah Parrish. Education fund donations and condolences for Mrs. Parrish may be sent to: Mrs. Deborah Parrish c/o MAJ Marc Blum, 1747 Theale Way, Hanover, MD 21076. Memorial Condolences online at <http://www.twcrowfuneralhome.com>

SKYDIVER DIES IN FREAK ACCIDENT - Source: The News Herald, 6 August 2009:

A longtime skydiving instructor and veteran Army soldier whose body was discovered Monday near West Point apparently died when his reserve parachute opened prematurely as he prepared to jump.

State police released few details into what they said appeared to be the accidental death of Command Sgt. Maj. Harry L. Parrish Jr., 53, who resided in Fort Meade, MD.

But the head of a skydiving school said Parrish's reserve parachute opened Saturday evening as he was leaning out of the door of a plane at 14,000 feet, preparing to accompany a student in a free fall. Parrish was facing toward the plane's fuselage at the time.

"It was just a freak chain of events, a terrible accident," observed Jim Crouse, who heads West Point Skydiving Adventures. Parrish worked for the school on weekends, driving to West Point several times a month.

"He loved teaching and working with young people. He was just devoted to it," Crouse noted.

Crouse explained that Parrish and the student were not quite able to leave the plane simultaneously and when the student jumped first, Parrish's reserve chute opened. The chute, caught in the rush of air, flew straight back from the plane, pulling Parrish into the plane's rear horizontal stabilizer, Crouse said.

Parrish floated to the ground, apparently unconscious, and landed in trees a few miles east of the airport.

"He was about 15 feet off the ground," Crouse said.

Skydiving schools have operated at Middle Peninsula Regional Airport near West Point since the early 1960s.

Crouse said 14 jumpers were on the plane about 7 p.m. Saturday when the accident occurred. The student jumper landed safely but was "very distraught," according to Crouse. "I tried to reassure him that what happened wasn't anyone's fault.

State Police were not able to provide details about the accident, saying it remains under investigation.

But a family member said Parrish was a veteran skydiver and parachute jumper of about 30 years. "He definitely knew what he was doing," commented brother, John Parrish of Donelson.

Parrish, the son of recently deceased long-time *News Herald* reporter, Charlotte Parrish was the oldest of five siblings, who grew up outside Nashville and attended local area schools. He joined the Marines at 17

and was a career military officer. Command Sgt. Maj. Parrish was married to Deborah Parrish and he and his wife were expecting the birth of their first child eminently.

FT. MEADE CSM KILLED IN CIVILIAN SKYDIVING ACCIDENT

WBAL.com

Command Sgt. Major Harry Parrish, 53, of Fort Meade, was found Sunday morning near Middle Peninsula Regional Airport, not far from the town of West Point, about 40 miles east of Richmond.

State Police Sgt. Thomas Molnar says Parrish was on a civilian training exercise Saturday night.

Parrish went missing after jumping from the plane around 7 p.m.

Skydiver who died was Fort Meade soldier

Sergeant major's death being investigated

A skydiver who died in what police believe was an accident over the weekend was identified Monday as **Command Sgt. Maj. Harry Parrish, 53, of Fort Meade.**



An Army Reservist on active duty, Parrish was in charge of training for Army Reserves and Guard members in the 1st Army Division East at Fort Meade, according to Army spokeswoman Raina Williams. He was well-known at Fort Meade, as the division includes nine brigades east of the Mississippi River, and Fort Meade is the training site for most of them bound for Iraq, Afghanistan and other

duties.

Among the former Marine's decorations were several for parachuting, and he trained people to jump, Williams said.

"This was his passion, skydiving. He met his wife doing this," Williams said.

The couple, who lived near Richmond, Va., wed in December and Deborah Parrish is pregnant, Williams said.

Virginia State Police Sgt. Thomas Molnar said Parrish was on a civilian training exercise about 40 miles east of Richmond, and was missing after he jumped from a plane about 7 p.m. Saturday. He was found Sunday. Police are investigating to find out what may have caused his death.

SKYDIVING FATALITY IDENTIFIED AS SOLDIER

Published: Aug. 3, 2009 at 12:34 PM: UPI.com

NORFOLK, Va., Aug. 3 (UPI) -- The man killed in a skydiving accident near Middle Peninsula Regional Airport in Virginia was a U.S. Army soldier from Maryland, state police say.

Virginia State Police spokesman Sgt. Thomas Molnar said Army Command Sgt. Maj. Harry Parrish of Fort Meade died while taking part in a private skydiving training exercise, The (Norfolk) Virginian-Pilot said Monday.

"The only thing I can say is that it was a training exercise and obviously something went wrong," Molnar said of Saturday's deadly accident. "I can't specifically say what right now."

Parrish's body was found in King and Queen County, Va., Sunday following a search and rescue effort.

Molnar, who confirmed the skydiving fatality was accidental, told the Virginian-Pilot the incident has been reported to the Federal Aviation Administration.

COLLEAGUE: SKYDIVER DIED AFTER CHUTE OPENED EARLY

Aug 4, 2009

A longtime skydiving instructor and veteran Army soldier whose body was discovered Sunday near West Point apparently died as a result of his reserve chute opening prematurely as he prepared to jump.

State police released few details about what they said appeared to be the accidental death of Command Sgt. Maj. Harry L. Parrish Jr., 53, of Fort Meade, Md. State police said the death remains under investigation.

But the head of a skydiving school said Parrish's reserve chute opened Saturday evening as he was leaning out of the door of a plane at 14,000 feet, preparing to accompany a student in a free fall. Parrish was facing toward the plane's fuselage at the time.

"It was just a freak chain of events, a terrible accident," said Jim Crouse, who heads West Point Skydiving Adventures. Parrish worked for the school on weekends, driving to West Point several times a month.

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Parrish fell, apparently unconscious, and landed in trees a few miles east of the airport. "He was about 15 feet off the ground," Crouse said.

Parrish's body was not found until Sunday about 11 a.m. near the 900 block of Buena Vista Road in King and Queen County.

Skydiving schools have operated at Middle Peninsula Regional Airport near West Point since the early 1960s.

Crouse said 14 jumpers were on the plane at the time, Saturday about 7 p.m. The student jumper landed safely but is "very distraught," Crouse said. "I tried to explain that what happened wasn't anyone's fault."

A family member said Parrish was a veteran skydiver and parachute jumper of about 30 years.

"He definitely knew what he was doing," said John Parrish of Donelson, Tenn.

Parrish was the oldest of five brothers and grew up outside Nashville. He joined the Marines at 17 and was a career military officer, his brother said.

"We know he died doing something that he loved doing. Skydiving was what gave him his fix," John Parrish said.

Airborne Output

*See Chapter 5 & Charlotte Evans Neil Parrish Obt. – Denny files at: <http://www.ajlambert.com>