

Dr. Damien O'Neill, 46, of Franklin, died suddenly on Monday, April 9, 2007.

Born in Providence, R.I., he was the son of Gerald O'Neill and Eileen Ward Bourget; the husband of Tori Schronce O'Neill; and father of Erin Morgan, also of Franklin.

Damien was a Major in the U.S. Army, where he served with distinction for 13 years. He was a graduate of Western Carolina University and East Carolina University Medical School. Damien was a physician with Franklin Family Practice for three years and also practiced at Murphy Medical Center for the past 10 years.

Damien personified a "larger-than-life" spirit and fearless attitude, which he demonstrated through his boundless energy and love for adventure. In addition to flying, his many hobbies included hunting with his beloved dogs, Tucker and Molly, dirt bike and Harley riding and sailing. But he was also a devoted husband, father, grandfather, brother, son and friend, always available to lend his time and his attention to those he loved. Fittingly, Damien died alongside one of his closest life friends, Alan Martin.

In addition to his parents, wife and daughter, Damien is survived by his stepfather, Bertrand Bourget; son-in-law, Jason Morgan; two brothers, Peter O'Neill and partner Humberto Gonzalez of Las Vegas, Nev., and Paul O'Neill and wife Ryan of Hendersonville. Damien was grandfather to Clara Eileen Morgan. He was also uncle to two nieces.

A memorial service will be held Friday, April 13, at 2 p.m., in the Chapel of Macon Funeral Home. Rev. Vic Greene, Junaluske Masonic Lodge 145, VFW Post 7339 and American Legion Post 108 will officiate. An Honor Guard from the 101st Airborne Division will be present.

Memorial donations may be made to a charity of choice.

Macon Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

Online condolences are available by visiting www.maconfuneralhome.com.

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