

Guardsmen Memorialized in NCNG Service

Written by Steve Frank

Wednesday, 11 July 2012 06:04

Family members and friends gathered yesterday morning at the Air National Guard armory near Charlotte/Douglas International Airport for a service in memory of four Charlotte-based airmen who died July 1 in the crash of a tanker plane battling a wildfire in South Dakota. Those killed included a Boone man, Major Ryan David, 35, along with Lt. Col. Paul Mikeal, 42, of Mooresville; Major Joseph McCormick, 36, of Belmont; Master Sgt. Robert Cannon, 36, of Charlotte. Gov. Bev Perdue and a number of Air Force officials were among those attending the service, in the hangar that serves as home for the Air National Guard's 145th Air Wing, and the governor memorialized the four killed, "They were doing what they had done so many times before. To a man, they were all eager to go on this mission. They had trained hard. They lived by the National Guard motto: Always Ready and Always There." Two other airmen aboard the C-130 suffered serious injuries when the plane crashed in southwest South Dakota while fighting South Dakota wildfires.