

Major Clayton Carpenter Square

Contact Information

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Major Clayton Carpenter Square

Proposed Name

Name: "Major Clayton Carpenter Square"



Major Clayton O. Carpenter
12 August 1983 - 15 January 2014

Major Clayton O. Carpenter died 15 January 2014 when his MH-60M Black Hawk helicopter crashed at Hunter Army Airfield, Georgia, following a night training mission.

MAJ Carpenter was born 12 August 1983 in Brooklyn, New York. He was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in May 2005 from the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. After graduating, he was assigned to Fort Rucker, Alabama, for Initial Entry Rotary Wing Training. After completion of the Aviation Officer Basic Course, he was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 25th Aviation Regiment at Wheeler Army Airfield, Hawaii, and deployed in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM from 2006-2008. He further served as a Headquarters and Headquarters Company Commander and deployed in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM from 2009-2011. He arrived at the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne) at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, in September 2012 for Officer Green Platoon. Following Green Platoon, MAJ Carpenter was assigned as an MH-60M Platoon Leader in Charlie Company, 3rd Battalion, 160th SOAR(Abn) at Hunter Army Airfield, Georgia.

MAJ Carpenter was a graduate of the Initial Entry Rotary Wing Course, Aviation Officer Basic Course, UH-60 Flight School XXI, Aviation Captains Career Course, Air Assault School, Aviation Tactical Operations Officer Course, Aviation Safety Officer Course, UH-60M Aircraft Qualification Course, the Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape (SERE) Course (Level C), Combatives Level 1 Course, and Officer Green Platoon.

MAJ Carpenter's awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal (w/1 OLC), Air Medal (w/Numeral 2), Army Commendation Medal (w/"V" Device), Meritorious Unit Commendation (w/1 OLC), National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal (w/3 Bronze Service Stars), Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon (w/Numeral 3), NATO Medal, Army Aviator Badge, and Air Assault Badge. He was posthumously awarded the Meritorious Service Medal and the Senior Army Aviator Badge.

MAJ Carpenter is survived by his father, Paul; mother, Colette; and brother, Chris. He is laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery, Section 60, Site 10227.

Why “Major Clayton Carpenter Square”

After his graduation from the United States Military Academy at West Point, Major Clayton Carpenter became an Aviator, served multiple tours in Iraq, and ultimately joined 3rd Battalion, 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment of Savannah. From his time in the unit, both at home and during his deployments to Afghanistan and elsewhere, Major Carpenter’s deep dedication to his country and fellow soldiers, alongside his natural aptitude for putting others before himself, made him not only an excellent leader, but a trusted and inseparable friend for many in the Regiment. Tragically, however, Clayton’s time was cut short.

During a night operation in an MH-60M helicopter, a tail rotor failure caused Clayton and his crew to enter a rapid unrecoverable spin. In his final moments, Major Carpenter strained against immense centrifugal force to cut engine power, ultimately laying his life down while saving his crew.

I know all this because I am one of many who was fortunate enough to have known Major Carpenter and one of few to have been on board that fateful night when he made the ultimate sacrifice. I cannot begin to comprehend the amount of bravery and care that such decisive action must have taken, but I am left eternally humbled and grateful for it. Clayton’s golden valor and character are the reason why I am here today. The reason why I can now proudly watch my son go off to college this coming semester and why another crewmember can celebrate the birth of his daughter and son.

These moments are just a few of the living testaments to the soldier, son, brother, fiancé, and friend who was Major Clayton Carpenter. Major Carpenter has been commemorated yearly on Hunter Army Airfield as a representation of the highest moral values we as a unit attempt to live by. As the Hunter Army Airfield and military community play a significant role in the Savannah area, it is only fitting that Major Clayton Carpenter, someone we collectively agree represents the best of us, should be properly memorialized so that, even in death, he can continue to lead by example and be an inspiration to all.

On behalf of all of us in the military community of Savannah, and those who Major Carpenter’s shining valor has personally touched; it is the least we can do to consecrate a square for an army aviator who loved Savannah and this great Nation.





Office of the Mayor Savannah, Georgia

Van R. Johnson, II
Mayor

April 18, 2023

City Hall
2 East Bay Street
Savannah, Georgia 31402

Re: Naming Request Endorsement for Consideration- 'Major Clayton O. Carpenter'

To Whom It May Concern,

I, Mayor Van Johnson, officially endorse the naming request for consideration to name the public square located on Abercorn and East Wayne Streets, to 'Major Clayton O. Carpenter Square' in accordance with City Ordinance and the process outlined within 'Article E. Naming of Public Property, Facilities, and Streets.'

I look forward to this application advancing within the process as required by City Code.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Van R. Johnson, II", is written over the typed name and title.

Van R. Johnson, II
Mayor