

East TN brothers killed in North Carolina plane crash

(WBIR-KNOXVILLE) Two brothers from East Tennessee were killed in a small plane crash in North Carolina.

Family members tell 10News that the victims were Brothers David and Jerry Stubblefield. David was 68 years old and lived in Morristown. Jerry was 71 and was from Knox County.

David's wife of 44 years, Betsy, shared the memories of her husband with 10News. "Well, we started dating when I was still in high school and he was out," Betsy said. The plane crash cut their time together short. "They were extremely, extremely careful. Always were," Betsy said. David and Jerry were both Vietnam Air Force veterans. *[Correction: David was a US Army veteran. Rbm]*. They loved to fly. "If there was a sunny day and no breeze, they were out there," Betsy said.

On Wednesday, their favorite hobby took them one state over. "Their mechanic of choice was in North Carolina. They flew over there and had it inspected. Everything appeared to be OK, so I don't know," Betsy said. Investigators said the single-engine plane took off just after 2 p.m. Wednesday from Twin Lakes Airport in Advance, which is southwest of Winston-Salem. It crashed at the end of the runway and caught fire.

The entire Stubblefield family released a statement Thursday afternoon: "The Stubblefield family confirms brothers William (Jerry) Stubblefield, 71, of Knoxville and David Stubblefield, 68, of Morristown were involved in a plane crash at the Twin Lakes Airport in Davie County, North Carolina in Wednesday. The family is devastated at the loss and will not make any other comments at this time. The family requests privacy as we grieve the loss of our loved ones."

Davie County, N.C., Sheriff Andy Stokes said the men were flying in a two-seater "experimental" plane.

There were no other injuries reported. The Federal Aviation Administration and National Transportation Safety Board are investigating the crash.

WFMY contributed to this report.