



John Walton - Wal-Mart heir - Dies in Plane Crash

I had the great pleasure to know both Sam and John Walton and John's family. John was not only a good man – he was a great man. A great champion of education and alternative cancer therapy. The world will miss John Walton. - Frank D Wiewel, Founder, People Against Cancer.

(CNN) – June 28, 2005 - Wal-Mart heir John Walton died Monday when his ultralight aircraft crashed after taking off from an airport in Jackson, Wyoming, the company announced.



Walton, 58, was the second son of Wal-Mart founder Sam Walton and served on the board of directors of the world's largest retailer.

He was ranked No. 7 on the Forbes magazine list of the 400 wealthiest Americans in 2004, with a fortune estimated at \$20 billion.

Wal-Mart has stores in the United States, Britain and Central and South America. ([Research](#))

Walton died when his plane crashed shortly after takeoff from Jackson Hole Airport shortly after 12:15 p.m. (2:15 p.m. ET), said Joan Anzelmo, a spokeswoman for Grand Teton National Park.

The airport, which serves the resort town of Jackson and the surrounding area, is on the park grounds.

The aluminum-frame aircraft went down "almost immediately after takeoff" and in full view of passing motorists on an adjacent highway, Anzelmo said. The cause of the crash was under investigation, she said.

Walton served in the Vietnam War as a combat medic with the Army's elite Special Forces, winning the Silver Star for saving lives under fire, according to a statement from the Bentonville, Arkansas-based company.

He sat on the board of the Walton Family Foundation, the family's philanthropic enterprise.



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The foundation supports the establishment of charter schools, offers scholarships for children to attend private schools and lobbies for education reform in Arkansas schools.

He is survived by his wife, Christy, and son Luke; his mother, Helen; brothers Rob and Jim Walton; and sister, Alice.

Helen Walton and all four of her children were ranked among the top 10 on the Forbes list.

June 27, 2005

John Walton Wal-Mart Heir Dies in Crash

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Filed at 11:03 p.m. ET

BENTONVILLE, Ark. (AP) -- John Walton, the billionaire son of Wal-Mart founder Sam Walton and a member of the company's board, died Monday in a plane crash in Wyoming.

Walton, 58, of Jackson, Wyo., was piloting an ultralight that crashed shortly after takeoff from the Jackson Hole Airport in Grand Teton National Park, the company said. He was pronounced dead at the scene, and the cause of the afternoon crash was not known, officials said.

The plane was an experimental ultralight aircraft with a small, gasoline-powered engine and wings wrapped in fabric similar to heavy-duty sail cloth, officials said.

In March, Forbes Magazine listed John Walton as No. 11 on its list of the world's richest people with a net worth of \$18.2 billion. He was tied with his brother Jim, one spot behind his brother Rob, and just ahead of his sister Alice and his mother Helen.

Walton joined the board of Wal-Mart Stores Inc. in 1992, but did not work for the company.

"We're sad that John Walton, who was well-known and much-loved in this valley, died doing something that he loved to do, which was fly aircraft," said Joan Anzelmo, a spokeswoman for Grand Teton National Park.

"I saw parts of it," she said of the plane. "I didn't realize what I was seeing at first. It was so lightweight it looked like a giant model airplane."

Anzelmo said officials notified the Federal Aviation Administration and National Transportation Safety Board.



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"Because this is a homemade, non-registered, experimental aircraft, at least today they told us there was not going to be an investigation," she said. Grand Teton rangers will conduct their own probe, as is done with any major accident in the park, she said.

Wal-Mart spokeswoman Mona Williams said the company notified its employees worldwide of Walton's death.

Walton was an Army veteran who served with the Green Berets as a medic during the Vietnam War. He was awarded the Silver Star for saving the lives of several members of his unit while under enemy fire, according to the company. He attended the College of Wooster in Wooster, Ohio, and served as a board member of the Walton Family Foundation.

The company said Walton pursued a variety of business interests including working as a crop duster in the 1970s and building boats in the 1980s. More recently, he had formed a holding company, True North, to oversee various business interests.

Walton is survived by his wife, Christy, and son, Luke; his mother, Helen; two brothers, Rob and Jim; and a sister, Alice.