



Melvin Windsor

July 24, 1940 - August 24, 2014

Melvin "Gene" Windsor, 74 of Surfside Beach, SC suddenly passed away Sunday, August 24, 2014.

Born in Rockville, MD, he was the son of the late Alvin and Ruth Windsor. Mr. Windsor had retired from the United States Park Police, the Horry County Police Dept. and Wal-Mart.

Surviving are the love of his life and wife of 42 years, Maureen Windsor; sons, William and Julie Homan and Keith and Jaclyn Windsor; daughters, Kim and Dave Gabel, Deborah and Stan Fail, Kerry and Mark Brown and Gina and Jerry Greenwood; sixteen grandchildren; seven great grandchildren; brothers, Donald and William Windsor; sister, Janet Thompson; numerous nieces and nephews and his many dogs. His son, Kenny Stratton, daughter, Tina Scott and brother, Richard Windsor all preceded him in death.

Services will be 2:00 PM, Thursday at Goldfinch Funeral Home, Beach Chapel. The family will receive friends from Noon until 2:00 before the services.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to St. Jude's Children Hospital, PO Box 1000, Dept 142, Memphis, TN 38101 or to the Ark Animal Hospital, 1011 6th Ave. N. Ext Surfside Beach, SC 29575.

Sign a guestbook at www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 28. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Celebration Center
11528 Hwy 17 Bypass
Murrells Inlet, SC 29588
(843) 651-3295
info@goldfinchfuneralhome.com
<https://www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com>

Service

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Tribute Wall

LH

“ *It was a pleasure to grow up with Gene "bubba" in Rockville. He was a good friend and I have many great memories of those days. My condolences and prayers are with you all. Lou Hash*

Lou Hash - September 10, 2014 at 05:26 PM

JC

“ *Maureen,
We are so happy that our Uncle Harv and Gene had shared the USPP and such a wonderful friendship for so many years! (What a pair when they were together!) We will always remember how kind he was to our family.
May God comfort you and family, and may Gene have a peaceful rest.*

*With prayers and deepest sympathy,
Jennee Chin and Gaye Schiller*

Jennee Chin - September 06, 2014 at 09:32 AM

BA

“ *I am glad that I became friends with Gene and always loved his humor. Gene will be missed by many . Rest in Peace and God Bless.*

Bill Asher - September 03, 2014 at 07:23 PM

KE

“ I looked for you every time I went in Walmart to give you a big hug and kiss! You were a warm, wonderful, kind man and I miss you telling me the story behind your pictures in your home. God Bless you, Gene as I know you are with our Lord! Hugs and kisses to you always! -Karyn Edmonds-Asher

Karyn Edmonds-Asher - September 03, 2014 at 07:15 PM

DM

“ Our Prayers go out to you in this sad time. We were so happy to have you to our home in Myrtle Beach. Gene was a lovely man. He was a hero. He will be missed by all.
Danny McFadden retired USPP New York and his wife Patty McFadden

danny mcfadden - August 29, 2014 at 07:34 PM

PG

“ I am very sad to hear of this great loss. Gene and I worked together both in Aviation and Communications. Being a Rescue Tech was a demanding and challenging assignment and Gene had been through everything and then some by the time I came on. He showed me how to treat the dead and dying with compassion and respect, and walked me through the subtle nuisances between getting the job done and being professional at it. For this I will always be grateful.

Rest in peace Pappy, your work here is done.

Pat Gavin

Pat Gavin - August 29, 2014 at 11:30 AM

SJ

“ TO THE FAMILY OF MR. GENE WORDS CAN NOT EXPRESS HOW HE WILL BE MISSED AT WALMART #574. HE WAS SWEET MAN. I WILL NEVER FORGET HIM. R.I.P. MR. GENE.

Sheila D. Jiles - August 28, 2014 at 06:24 PM

MM

“ Our prayers and thoughts are with the Windsor family at this time. Gene was truly a special guy who was admired and respected by all who knew him. It was an honor to have known him and worked with him at U.S. Park Police.

*Mickey and Coy McQueeney
Retired USPP, Baton Rouge, LA*

Mickey McQueeney - August 28, 2014 at 05:46 PM

BW

“ Worked with Gene at Surfside P.D. Great person will be missed

Bob Watkins - August 28, 2014 at 09:54 AM

SA

“ As the Current Commander of the US Park Police Aviation Section, I did not have the pleasure of meeting Gene, He retired before I came on the job, but his story, motivated me to become an Aviation Rescue Technician. I remember watching the Palm 90 rescue on TV and saying "I want to do that one day". 23 years later, I was in the unit as a Rescue Technician, before leaving, and returning as the Commander. I spoke to several of Genes co-workers who knew him well, and wanted to share some of these kind remarks with friends and family.

Gene served as as USPP Officer from 1972-1993, and as a Rescue Tech from 1979-1989.

While he is most widely remembered for the dramatic rescues he and Don Usher Performed during the Air Florida crash, Here is what some of his co-workers said about him this evening

Sgt. Kevin Chittick remembers working with him in Commsec in 1989 or 1990.

Former Section member Dave Duffy lived near him and they often commuted to work together.

Dave remembers Gene as a good family man, who cared deeply about his family, and as a good, hard, conscientious worker who was dedicated to his job.

Sgt. Chris Perkins remembers working with him in 1993 on the BW Parkway.

Chris remembers him as "the old guy, we referred to him as Pops", I was 23, and he was in his early 50's, Chris said he left Aviation and

went to Commsec and then D-4 because he wanted to work as a street cop when he retired to South Carolina.

Chris remembers him as a kind, humble man, and he was liked by everybody at the station and got along with everybody..

Gene was so humble, ChrIs said " didnt even know he was involved in the Air Florida Crash rescue until after he retired and I found out much later in my career when I got to Aviation in 2000." Thats the kind of guy he was humble,

D-4 officer Jimmy Hall, who has been assigned to the Baltimore Washington Parkway station for close to 30 years remembers that Gene wanted to retire from the Street where he started, at the the station he first started.. D-4, the Baltimore Washington Parkway.

Jimmy, who was 33 at the time remembers thinking "this is one of the most honorable things he has ever heard of and Gene was widely respected for that... Many officers from Prince George's Co, Maryland State Police, Greenbelt PD that knew his story held Gene in the highest regard and I did too" "he was a cops cop that knew his business.

Simeon Klebaner USPP Avn - August 27, 2014 at 08:43 PM

RC

“ Our prayers and condolences to Maureen and family. Gene was one of a kind and it was my pleasure to have known and worked with him. Rick and Carol Cusick

Rick Cusick - August 27, 2014 at 08:05 PM

DO

“ I was saddened today, to hear of Gene's passing. I had the pleasure of meeting him, several years ago, through the Massachusetts Club. We enjoyed bus trips, cruises, and other fun filled gatherings. I have fond memories of them all. Gene always had a smile, was kind hearted, and a friend to all. He will be missed. With deepest sympathy, Dolly Mattson

dolly - August 27, 2014 at 07:25 PM



“ Secret Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Melvin Windsor.



August 27, 2014 at 04:53 PM

JM

“ We are so sorry to hear of Gene's passing. We have many fond memories even before our days with the USPP. We remember attending Redeemer Lutheran Church in Damascus, MD. We send our peace and love to you all,
John and Vicky McClure

John and Vicky McClure - August 27, 2014 at 03:56 PM

BB

“ I am shocked and sad to hear of Genes passing. I dispatched for him in his first job after retirement at the police department. He was such a thoughtful person. He was good to all of us and always had a smile, especially when talking about his dogs. His wife Maureen used to call the department for him and she was such a sweet lady. I would relay messages to him from her and always messed it up because she had a strong northern accent and I am just a country bumpkin. I would tell him the message and he would be like, "what"? Lol. Somehow he always was able to translate it. My prayers are with you Maureen and family. Gene was one of a kind. For some reason he has been on my mind lately and even commented to my husband the other day that I wondered what Gene was up to these days. You will be missed Gene.

Brenna Brantly - August 27, 2014 at 11:59 AM



“ I'm So Proud To Have Known And Served With Gene, While We Both Were Att Surfside Beach Police Dept. He Was A Great Person And Will Be Sadly Missed. To Maureen And Family Please Remain Stong And Know That He Lived His Life And Earned The Most Respect And Gratitude Anyone Can. I'm Sorry For You Loss.



James Carman - August 27, 2014 at 11:06 AM

TD

“ Thomas Herlong & Andrew Doran purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Melvin Windsor.



Thomas Herlong & Andrew Doran - August 27, 2014 at 10:56 AM

GA

“ As one of the young officers mentioned in a previous post that was beginning a career as Gene’s neared a close; I have always remained profoundly grateful for Gene’s remarkably kind and supportive mentorship. I worked very closely with Gene for those first -and very impressionable- years of my career on the B/W. Indeed I knew then, as I do now, I was blessed to have such a fabulous role model, leader and friend. I’m so glad I had the chance to visit with Gene & Maureen after retirement sent the family south.

Farewell friend, you’re legacy as a true gentlemen and leader will always live on. Rest well, I’m sure you’re your looking over us; we’ve got your watch covered from here.

- Greg Alter

Greg Alter - August 27, 2014 at 08:37 AM

BS

“ *Maureen & Family,*
I was honored to have served with Gene (Pappy) for several years in District 4 (B&W Pkwy). Gene was someone that we all admired. His kindness and love of the US. Park Police set an example for everyone to follow. I will always remember his love for his family. Gene was a great friend and fellow officer. You may be gone, but will never be forgotten. RIP my Brother. Bernie T. Stasulli

Bernie Stasulli - August 27, 2014 at 08:15 AM

CM

“ *Our condolences and prayers to Maureen and family.*

Chris & Joan Merillat

Chris Merillat - August 27, 2014 at 07:05 AM

JG

“ Gene was one of my heroes, and I don't have many. I never had the honor of meeting him in person, but I was privileged to have spoke on the phone with him a few times. I've been telling people in the police aviation community for years, what he and Don Usher did in January 1982 with Air Florida, was the greatest helicopter rescue ever done, to this day. When I asked him about it, he was far too humble. He acted as if it were just another day on the job. What a gentleman! The world lost one of it's greatest heroes. My heart felt condolences to Maureen and his children.

Jon Goldin - August 26, 2014 at 09:38 PM

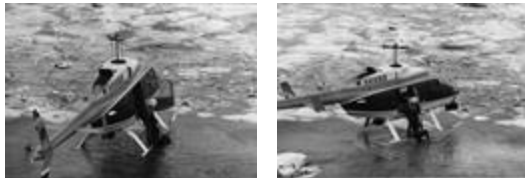
SD

“ Maureen and family, I am so sorry for your terrible loss. Gene was such a wonderful man whom I had so much respect for. He was such a kind man and I'll never forget how nice he was to me when I stayed at your home four years ago. I so enjoyed listening to all his stories. Please know that you are all in my thoughts and my prayers and I'm so sad for your heartbreak. Love you all.

Stephanie Damata - August 26, 2014 at 09:24 PM

DU

“ 2 files added to the album *New Album Name*



Don Usher - August 26, 2014 at 09:11 PM

DU

“ *Maureen and family,*

Carol and I send our deepest condolences and share your heartache over Gene's passing. Pappy and I spent a lot of time together over the years with the USPP on the B&W Parkway and in the Aviation Section. I was fortunate to have Gene as my partner during the Air Florida rescue and we developed a special camaraderie in the media blitz that followed the rescue. Always a gentleman, I looked forward to seeing him on those rare occasions after retirement and treasured the moments. A solid, wonderful man, ...he will be missed by all who had the opportunity to spend time with him.

Don Usher - August 26, 2014 at 09:08 PM

AW

“ *You could NEVER walk through the door at Walmart and not have a kind word said to you...Gene was one sweet man and a person you could always talk to..he will be missed and will forever have a spot in my heart!*
Angie Whitesides

Angie Whitesides - August 26, 2014 at 04:32 PM

JH

“ Our Hearts are truly broken to learn of the passing of our Dear Friend, Gene . Gene was our real life HERO, he and his partner performed the rescue of Air Florida crash victims from the icy Potomac River in the winter of 1982.....One thing was certain to anyone that knew Gene, was his love for his Wife Maureen there children and Grandchildren.
I can truly say, I am a better person for having known such a kind, caring friend.....
We will never forget.....Rest in Peace Gene.....We Love You!
Dean and Janice Hansen

Janice Hansen - August 26, 2014 at 03:41 PM

PO

“ I knew Gene towards the end of his career when he transferred back to the Greenbelt Station. He was a mentor for the younger officer and someone that I would go to and seek advice. He always had a kind word and was always upbeat. I knew when he retired it was the end of an era. May he rest in peace.
Patrick O'Brien

Patrick O'Brien - August 26, 2014 at 02:34 PM

CC

“ I was very saddened to learn of Gene's passing several days ago. Although I did not know him well, I was only on the Force approximately two years on the night that the Air Florida crash occurred, and I watched it all unfold at first on television, as many other Force personnel did, and did so with a sense of awe and pride in the way that he and Don Usher performed their jobs on the Eagle with such bravery and professionalism. In the various times that our paths would cross in the years before he retired, I remember Gene as a person who, as others have said, seemed quiet but always acting as a professional member of the Force and to be quick with a smile and a kind word. His family can rest knowing that Gene was a well respected member of the Force and law enforcement and will be missed.

Clarence Clark
US Park Police, Retired

Clarence Clark - August 26, 2014 at 02:33 PM

JJ

“ It has been a pleasure to have known Gene for the past 30 years. We loved him dearly and miss our very entertaining card nights. Gene was a warm, kind and gentle soul, with a heart as big as the world. Words cannot describe the loss we feel. Maureen, our hearts break for you and your family. We love you and will always be there for you. Wonderful memories Jackie & Woody

Jackie Johnston - August 26, 2014 at 11:49 AM

JW

“ *Maureen & Family, Linda & I are saddened to learn of Gene's passing. As you know, I worked with Gene on the Baltimore / Washington Parkway for years and commuted daily with him and the rest of our squad from Frederick County. He was a great friend & mentor for all of us . . . He will live on in our memory. Joe & Linda Winter*

Joe Winter - August 26, 2014 at 09:49 AM

DU

“ *2 files added to the album New Album Name*



Don Usher - August 26, 2014 at 08:06 AM

MA

“ *Maureen, my heart breaks for you! Gene is in loving hands now, and I know you have family and many friends who are there to ease the pain for you. I'm thinking about my mom meeting Gene for the first time and it makes me smile! I still have that little battery-operated fan Gene gave me at the beach several years ago! I will always remember him for his quirky smile! Know that I love you always! marta*

Marta - August 26, 2014 at 07:25 AM

RG

“ Gene was a dedicated professional in every way. You get to know someone in a very unique way when you share the cockpit of a helicopter with them. Gene and I performed many missions together and his dedication and professionalism was exemplary. There is nothing this guy would not do for a brother officer. My sympathy goes out to his family. The US Park Police community will certainly feel his loss.

*Ron Galey
Retired Sgt/Pilot*

Ron Galey - August 26, 2014 at 05:42 AM

CS

“ Gene was one of those few special people that were truly a pleasure and blessing to get to know. Now is the time to celebrate his life and the impact he had on others. May God Bless Gene Windsor.

Chip Smallwood

Chip Smallwood - August 26, 2014 at 04:42 AM

CG

“ I was a little boy when Mr Windsor and Mr Usher performed the rescue of Air Florida crash victims from the icy Potomac River in the winter of 1982 and still can see those scenes in my mind these many years later. I have followed stories about Mr. Windsor and Mr. Usher since that time and as a volunteer firefighter I am aware of the changes in the technology of rescue equipment that was brought about because of the heroic work of Mr. Windsor that day. My prayers are with his loved ones who should know that he will be fondly remembered by people they have never even met. May they be comforted by the knowledge that strangers to them admired him and also mourn his loss.

Chuck Gross
AVFD
Crofton MD

Chuck Gross - August 25, 2014 at 10:06 PM

PM

Gene was a true professional and a nice guy. I was happy to know and work with him. God bless him and his family.

Paul Mitchell
Retired USPP

Paul Mitchell - August 26, 2014 at 03:54 AM

JC

“ We were so sorry to hear about Gene's passing. We want to send our deepest sympathy.

Jim & Mary Ann Currey

Jim Currey, Retired
U. S. Park Police

Jim Currey - August 25, 2014 at 09:44 PM

LR

“ We are so sorry to hear about Mr. Gene passing. He was a wonderful man who will be greatly missed. Y'all are in our hearts and prayers. Lynneredfield, & Family

Lynne Redfield - August 25, 2014 at 08:02 PM

GD

“ I was so sorry to hear of Gene's passing. Gene (Pappy) and I went through the academy together and shared a great career with the USPP. He loved what he did with the helicopter division and he definitely made a difference in many people's lives. He will be greatly missed at the next RUSPPA reunion. Our deepest condolences. Greg & Jonny Dalrymple

Greg Dalrymple - August 25, 2014 at 07:12 PM

 John Shultz

“ One of my brightest memories from the Park Police is the times that I got to work with Gene in communications. Gene was such a gentle man, such a patient man...I loved the guy and loved learning from him. He was always uncomfortable talking about one of the things he was famous for, the Air Florida plane crash. He didn't like to talk about it. My thoughts and prayers go out to the entire family during this time of sorrow, both personal and Park Police family.

John Shultz - August 25, 2014 at 06:57 PM

BR

“ To the Windsor Family,

On behalf of the Reilly Family and All Members of the Colorado Emerald Society, we convey our sincere sympathy on the passing of Gene. Our thoughts and prayers are with Your Family during this difficult time. Gene's heroism touched many lives. His professionalism will be remembered always.



*Brian Reilly
US Park Police, Retired*

Brian Reilly - August 25, 2014 at 06:04 PM

JL

“ So sorry to hear of Gene's passing. Maureen, I was glad that my wife I could spend time with you and Gene at the 2014 Get together. He will be truly missed. Maureen and your family will be in our thoughts and prayers.

*Love In Christ,
Jim & Pam Lynn*

Jim Lynn - August 25, 2014 at 04:34 PM

M(

“ A well respected co-worker of my deceased husband, John J. McLeod, Jr. He spoke of Gene often and with great fondness. So sorry.

Carol McLeod

Mrs. John J. McLeod, Jr. (Carol) - August 25, 2014 at 04:19 PM

DS

My prayers for Gene's family during this difficult time in the loss of Gene. Our paths crossed many times from the time Gene joined the United States Park Police until I retired in 1981. Gene always had a positive attitude and a friendly smile. Gene made the USPP proud on many occasions by his faithful dedication to his duties and it was my pleasure to know him.

Denny Sorah, Retired USPP

Denny Sorah - August 25, 2014 at 09:11 PM