



Mark Alan Winstead

FEB 16, 1958 - FEB 25, 2026



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Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Tribute Wall	Page 5



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Mark Alan Winstead of Lewes, DE, died on February 25, 2026, at the age of 68. He was loved more than he could ever know.

A lifelong Delawarean, Mark was born to Margaret "Peggy" and Frank Winstead in Wilmington on February 16, 1958, the third of three boys. Raised in the Stanton area, there was no shortage of Peggy trying to wrangle three boys while Frank was at work, but she managed—most days. Mark and his brothers, Dennis and Tim—each born two years apart—grew close during that time, and that bond continued throughout their lives.

Mark attended Stanton Elementary, Skyline Junior High, and graduated from John Dickinson High School in 1976, followed by a Criminal Justice degree from Delaware Tech. When the boys went to school, Peggy went back to work managing the Linden Green Apartment complex, where Mark became the maintenance man on site. As luck would have it, a beautiful tenant named Jean DeYoung had just moved into the complex, and their life journey together began poolside.

Mark and Jean married on September 12, 1981, and would have celebrated 45 years of marriage this year. Mark served his fellow Delawareans as a Delaware State Trooper from January 31, 1983 – January 31, 2003, as a member of the 46th recruit class. Known as "Steady" to his fellow troopers, he served in various roles at Troops 1 and 2, was a School Resource Officer at Brandywine High School, and was an Instructor at the DSP Academy. He was a proud member of the Association of Retired Delaware State Police. Never one to sit still, Mark established a small home repair company with the assistance of his dad, Frank, doing small construction and fix-it jobs in homes and rental properties in Lewes and Rehoboth. He gained many friendships over the years.

There are so many memories to celebrate. Mark and Jean threw hundreds of parties over the years, where Mark achieved the status of Grill Sergeant. Some of the best were pool parties held with friends in Wilmington (luckily before social media and Jean's famous selfies). Whether it was



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Jean's colleagues from Beebe or "TrooperPalooza," they loved bringing those they loved together. He and Jean enjoyed traveling; two of their favorite places were St. Michael's, MD, and Sanibel Island, FL.

Mark loved dogs, rescuing and raising many over the years, most recently those he found separately on Craigs List: his beloved Frenchie, Rocco, and Ray Ray the pug, who survive him.

Mark was predeceased by his mother, Peggy, and his in-laws, John and Dolly DeYoung, who he cared for through illnesses, and they loved him like their own.

Mark is survived by his soulmate and wife, Jean. He is survived by his father, Frank; his brother Dennis and his spouse, Scott Egler; his brother Tim (retired Delaware State Police); his nieces Olivia and Eliza Winstead, and their mom, Emily Cunningham. He is also survived by his goddaughter, Erica Hosier, and her parents, Robin and Matt Engler.

Sadly, Mark made the decision to end his life on his own terms. His family shares this information in the hope it helps even one person who may be quietly struggling when they need it the most. You are not alone; Mark was not alone. Please talk to someone or call 988.

Mark's life should be celebrated, and his family is planning an event for the early spring to do just that. Details will be shared once they are finalized.

In lieu of flowers, please consider helping others with donations to either Delaware State Police's Camp Barnes (<https://www.campbarnes.net>) or Beebe Medical Foundation (Donate | Beebe Healthcare).

Please sign the virtual guestbook located on the tribute page.



Tribute Wall

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Wilm Guy posted:

Dennis Tim and Family I just heard this news. My sincere sympathies. I hope fond memories bring a smile at this difficult time. RAB JDHS 71

April 8 at 4:08 PM



Wilm Guy posted:

Dennis Tim and Family I just heard this news. My sincere sympathies. I hope fine memories bring a smile at this difficult time. RAB JDHS 71

April 8 at 4:06 PM



Association Of Retired Delaware State Police posted:

Our condolences for the passing of Master Corporal Mark A. Winstead #587, (Ret.) who was appointed a Trooper on January 31, 1983 and graduated from the 46th Academy Recruit Class. During his career he served Troop 1, Penny Hill; Patrol, Youth Aid, ASAP patrol & TAC Team; Troop 2 CIU, fraud investigations and SRO. He was an Instructor at the Academy. Master Corporal Mark Winstead #587 retired on January 31, 2003. Mark was a Life member of the Association of Retired Delaware State Police. He received his final transfer and is now serving on Eternal Patrol.

April 5 at 12:13 PM



Terri Surabian lit a candle in honor of Mark.

We were so sad to hear of Mark's passing. We knew him first as a handyman, and eventually as a friend. Mark seemed to love solving problems, and he was always determined to solve ours. Along with his irrepressible sidekick (and dad) Frank, he completed many projects to help make our house a home. Not only did Mark and Frank help beautify our home, but their easy and fun camaraderie was a joy to see. There was plenty of laughter along with the work! We will miss Mark's dry humor, his skill and his kindness. Our deepest condolences to you Jean, Frank and your family. Terri and Vince Surabian



March 13 at 12:46 PM



Nancy Collick lit a candle in honor of Mark.

Jean, You are in my thoughts and prayers. Nancy Collick



March 12 at 1:24 PM



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Marcy Jack posted:

I am so saddened for your inexplicable loss Jean. I know your love for Mark was/is special and immeasurable. You have my deepest sympathy. Love and condolences, Marcy Jack

March 11 at 10:02 AM



Rosalie Rutkowski posted:

I was so sorry to hear about Mark's passing. I worked with him for many years when he was at troop 1 and I was at court 15. He was always a gentleman and a professional. May he rest in peace. Rosalie O. Rutkowski retired Judge.

March 8 at 3:35 PM



Lana Robb lit a candle in honor of Mark.

So very sorry for your loss. Jeff and Lana Robb

March 8 at 10:35 AM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Mark by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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