



## Brian D. Winnell

March 25, 2021

Brian D. Winnell, 52, of Chesterfield, VA. formerly of Nitro, WV. flew his last mission on Thursday, March 25, 2021. He is survived by his beloved wife of 21 years, Karen Annette Winnell; daughter, Carrington Nicole Winnell; son, Evan Christopher Winnell; mother, Linda Marie Canterbury; sisters, Ylonda Smith (John), Mandi Winnell; brother, Bill Winnell (Amy); biological father, Mickey Raynes (Kathy); grandmother, Ann Winnell; Mother & Father-in-law, Roy Jr. & Joyce Clark; brother-in-law, Shawn Clark (Jonelle); special cousin, Lisa Ocampo (Tony); numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins. Brian was preceded in death by his father, Daniel Edward Winnell; maternal grandparents, Freda & Dayton Lovejoy; paternal grandfather, Emory Winnell. Brian was a man's man as evident by his career path, beginning as a Police Officer with the St. Albans Police Department in St. Albans, WV, then as a Deputy Sheriff with the Kanawha County Sheriff's Department in Charleston, WV, then as a Special Agent and a Special Agent Pilot with the Drug Enforcement Administration in Albuquerque, NM, Baltimore, Md, and Richmond, VA. Brian started his Military career in 1988 at the age of 19. He was in the United States Army Reserves as a Military Policeman, transferring to the West Virginia Army National Guard with a clear intent of becoming an Aviation Warrant Officer. He graduated from Warrant Officer Candidate School in 1997. Immediately he began Rotary Wing training, he graduated March 26th, 1998 with Class 97-16. Brian returned to the WVARNG and was assigned as a UH-1 Huey Pilot with Detachment 1, Company Charlie 2nd

/104th General Support Aviation Battalion at Williamstown and then later joining WVARNG Reconnaissance and Interdiction Detachment as an OH-58A + Kiowa Pilot in Command. Brian's civil job took him to New Mexico where he joined the NMARNG and was assigned to the 717th Medical Company in Santa Fe, NM as a UH-60 Blackhawk Aeromedical Evacuation Pilot-In-Command. Another civil job move took Brian to the MDARNG where he served as a UH-60 Aeromedical Evacuation Pilot-In-Command with the 104th Medical Company and Detachment 1, 1159th Medical Company. He answered his Nations call and deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Brian was widely known for his calm and unflappable character, even while under fire. Once again, he relocated, this time to Richmond, Virginia where he joined the VAARNG and was assigned to Detachment 1, Company Alpha 2nd/151st Aviation Regiment as an OH-58A+ Pilot-In-Command and shortly thereafter achieved the role of Instructor Pilot. Brian deployed on a combat deployment to Afghanistan in Support of Operation Enduring Freedom in September 2013. After more than 30 years of service Brian elected to make one more career change and transfer to the U.S. Army Reserves in order to serve with the Operation Support Airlift Unit at Pope Army Airfield, assigned to Company Charlie, 2-228th Theater Fixed Wing Battalion as a C-12 Huron Pilot. CW4 Winnell's awards include the Air Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Combat Action Badge, and the Army Master Aviator Badge. He will be greatly missed by his family and by all that had the privilege to call him their friend.

The family will receive friends from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm on Thursday, April 8, 2021 at Twin City Bible Church, 100 First Avenue S., Nitro, WV. with a Celebration of Brian's Life to begin at 6:00 pm. In lieu of flowers the family suggests that memorial contributions may be made to the Brian Winnell Memorial Fund at <https://inmemof.org/brian-winnell> to be used for Glioblastoma research. You may visit Brian's tribute page at [BartlettNicholsFuneralHome.com](http://BartlettNicholsFuneralHome.com) to share memories or condolences with the family.

Bartlett-Nichols Funeral Home, family owned and located at 409 Sixth Ave., St. Albans is honored to serve the Winnell family.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR 8. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Twin City Bible Church  
100 1st Avenue S  
Nitro, WV 25143

## Memorial Service

APR 8. 6:00 PM (ET)

Twin City Bible Church  
100 1st Avenue S  
Nitro, WV 25143

# Tribute Wall

SV

“ My heart is saddened to hear of Brian’s passing. He was a student of mine at Nitro Jr. High. I remember him as a nice and soft spoken young man, kind to everyone. Please know that my sincerest healing and comforting thoughts are with the family at this most difficult time. Susan Hogshead Valleau

Susan Hogshead Valleau - April 08, 2021 at 07:33 AM

JM

“ I knew Brian when he worked for St. Albans Police Dept. and worked with him at the Kanawha County Sheriffs Dept. I attended the State Police Academy 55th Basic Class with his father Danny. Brian was one of the nicest people I ever met and was always smiling and was always good to everyone. He will be missed.

Jim Meddings - April 07, 2021 at 06:37 PM

DR

Evidently all those who knew Brian were touched by his service for the USA. He was well loved by the comments we see on this tribute page. Thank you Brian for using 30 years of your life to protect all of us. You showed bravery for your service, your children will always be proud to speak of their dad. May Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ wrap His loving arms around your loved ones.

Dick and Anna Riffe



Dick Riffe - April 08, 2021 at 12:46 PM

LH

“ I went to school with Brian class of 87 . He was the sweetest guy . I also worked him at Kfc we had so much fun working together so many laughs. I’ll we’ll miss him, he we’ll always have a place in my heart . Leslie Angell Hardman

Leslie Hardman - April 07, 2021 at 05:39 PM

PJ

“ I went to Nitro High School, class of 1987. I remember Brian always was one of the good guys. Got along well with all and would help out anytime he was needed. I know he will be missed greatly by his family and friends. You all will be in my thoughts and prayers as you are going through the grieving process. May he RIP until you meet again. God bless you all.



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**Pam Null Jacobs** - April 06, 2021 at 09:55 PM

PJ

“ I went to Nitro High School, class of 1987. I remember Brian always being a nice polite young man. He seemed very laid back, not very outspoken. I just always thought of him as a good guy. Haven't seen him since he was a policeman in St. Albans. I'm so very sorry for your loss. His career shows what a stand up kind of guy he was. I'm so sorry for the pain and grief his family and friends will surely endure. May he RIP until you meet him again. You are in my thoughts and prayers



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**Pam Null Jacobs** - April 06, 2021 at 09:48 PM



“ Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of Brian D. Winnell.



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April 06, 2021 at 03:08 PM