



Michael Thomas Wills

October 11, 1955 - October 31, 2023

Michael Thomas Wills, 68, died unexpectedly on October 31, 2023. Mike was born to Joseph and Noreen Wills on October 11, 1955, at St. Joseph's Hospital in North Hollywood, California. Mike's family eventually settled in Huntington Beach, California where he graduated from Edison High School in 1974.

Mike had a long career in fire services which began in the California Department of Forestry (CalFIRE) in the late 70's. In April of 1979 he was hired by Palm Springs Fire Department and became a 31-year veteran and Captain, who exemplified the very essence of a leader. His remarkable tenure was characterized by an unparalleled calmness in the face of adversity, leadership, and compassion for those around him. His expertise in GIS mapping not only showcased his adaptability but also significantly supported the operational effectiveness of the department. His innovative approach and willingness to go above and beyond illustrated his commitment to his colleagues and the community. Holding a Bachelor of Business Administration from California State University San Bernardino, he brought a unique perspective that enriched his firefighting career. His thirst for knowledge and understanding was evident in every facet of his life.

After Mike retired in 2010, he spent a short time in Bellingham, Washington enjoying the Pacific Northwest and becoming an avid Seahawk fan. He then

relocating full time to Austin, Texas to be near his children and grandchildren. Mike enjoyed witnessing God's nature and creating memories with his grandkids.

After his career in the fire services and time at Austin-Bergstrom International Airport, both as security and operations, he was excited to see how much further "I can fly" with the UAS/UAV Industry. He was looking for possibilities and opportunities in the advancing technology that is the world of drones, aircraft, data, delivery, and people.

More than his professional achievements, Mike was a loving father, a devoted grandpa, and a cherished friend. His integrity, kindness, and humor left an enduring mark on all who had the privilege of knowing him. In honoring his memory, let us not only remember his exceptional service to the community but also the warmth and guidance he shared with those around him. Mike was a true patriot who loved God and country. He will be dearly missed but his impact will live on through the countless lives he touched.

Mike is survived by his children: Kimberly Wills, Jillian Wills, Jason Wills (fiancé, Rachel) and his three grandchildren: Sebastian, Austin, and Remy. His siblings: Patrick Wills (Susan), Daniel Wills, Kathleen Wills, Mary Wills-Hughes (Rick) and three nephews: Andrew, Kevin, and Joey. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Mike will be laid to rest at Eloise Woods Natural Burial Park in Cedar Creek, Texas, on Thursday, November 16, 2023 at 11 am.

Celebration of Life Service will be held on Sunday, November 19th, 2023, at 2:00 pm.

Southwest Church - Auditorium #2 Upstairs
44-175 Washington St., Indian Wells, CA 92210

*In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Wounded Warriors. <https://bit.ly/WWDonation4Mike>

Cemetery Details

Eloise Woods Natural Burial Park

115 Northside Lane
Cedar Creek, TX 78612
(512) 796-5240
<http://eloisewoods.com>

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

NOV 19. 2:00 PM (PT)

Southwest Church - Auditorium #2 Upstairs
44-175 Washington St.
Indian Wells, CA 92210

Tribute Wall

JP

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Jorge Pacheco - October 17, 2024 at 04:19 PM

JP

“ 2 files added to the album friends



Jorge Pacheco - October 17, 2024 at 04:16 PM

JP

“ I miss mi amigo el Capitán Mike a lot. He was and always will be family to me.

Jorge L Pacheco - December 06, 2023 at 07:38 AM