



Vernon Curtis "VC" Campbell

December 12, 1932 - May 1, 2016

Campbell, Vernon Curtis "VC" was born in Dallas, Texas on December 12, 1932. He passed away on May 1, 2016 after battling cancer for the past several years.

He is preceded in death by his mother, Winnie Mae "Susie" Ferguson and his brother, Howard M. "Pete" Newhouse.

He first met his future wife, Rayneva "Alida" Jay, at Compton Citadel Community Center when he was eleven years old. They married in 1957 and have 2 daughters, Cheryl Campbell and Lisa Lawrence. In addition to his wife and daughters he is survived by his son-in-law Roger Lawrence, grandson Christopher Lawrence, brother-in-law Bob Brandon and 2 sister-in laws; Ruth Newhouse and Lillian Jay, as well as cousins, nieces & nephews. He also leaves behind his best friends from his Dallas/Carrollton days as well as his very special group of golf and poker playing buddies in Tyler.

He loved his family very deeply and felt blessed to have lived a life that was "beyond his wildest imagination".

Vernon spent 3 years in the Navy and served in law enforcement for 38 years; 23 years with the Dallas Police Department followed by 15 years as Chief of the Carrollton (TX) Police Department before retiring in 1996.

Visitation will be held on Saturday, May 7th from 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Stewart Family Funeral Home
7525 Old Jacksonville Highway
Tyler, Texas 75703

His Memorial Service will be held on Monday, May 23rd at 2:30 p.m.

Dallas –Fort Worth National Cemetery
2000 Mountain Creek Parkway,
Dallas, Texas 75211

If desired, in lieu of flowers, donations can be made to:

St. Paul Children's Foundation,

PO 1238, Tyler, TX 75710

903.531.9455

www.stpaulchildren.org .

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 7. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Stewart Family Funeral Home
7525 Old Jacksonville Hwy
Tyler, TX 75703
(903) 581-2008

Tribute Wall

TS

“ Alida, Cheryl, and Lisa (Roger and Chris)
There are no words to express my heartfelt sympathy for the loss of your beloved husband, father, and grandfather. May the loving memories you hold so dear bring some comfort and strength during this difficult time. I'm so sorry... With much love, Taimi Steigmeyer



Taimi Steigmeyer - May 05, 2016 at 10:33 PM

LL

Thank you, Taimi.

LISA LAWRENCE - May 14, 2016 at 07:53 PM

RE

“ VC was not only a great and cheif in Carrollton but also a good friend and a mentor for me in golf. We enjoyed visiting him in east Texas playing golf and fishing. I have so many memories of the years of our friendship. The one thing true was VC had a great smile and very subtle leadership style, RIP my friend.

Richard Erickson - May 05, 2016 at 05:16 PM

RP

“ Renee A Parton purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Vernon Curtis "VC" Campbell.



Renee A Parton - May 05, 2016 at 02:31 PM

RP

“ Renee & Don Parton lit a candle in memory of Vernon Curtis "VC" Campbell



Renee & Don Parton - May 05, 2016 at 01:32 PM

BN

“ My partner for years and my friend forever.

Benny Newman

Benny Newmn - May 04, 2016 at 06:15 PM

LL

Amen to that!

Lisa Lawrence - May 05, 2016 at 12:59 AM

LT

*My long time friend and golfing partner, I learned a lot from you over the years and have the best of Memories. You will always be known as "The Chief", what good times we had hunting, fishing and golfing.
Leddie and Linda Taylor*

Leddie Taylor - May 05, 2016 at 02:20 PM



“ Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Vernon Curtis "VC" Campbell.



May 04, 2016 at 01:31 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Vernon Curtis "VC" Campbell.*



May 04, 2016 at 01:45 AM

“ CHIEF IS STEADFAST UNDER FIRE - DMN 9/20/86

Former colleagues describe Carrollton Police Chief Vernon Campbell as a man unlikely to tolerate bad police work. They say Campbell, a former Dallas Police Dept captain, is a brilliant tactician who brought Texas-OU Weekend under control, a tough reformer of Dallas' Internal Affairs Division and a skilled manager who has doubled the size and increased the professionalism of Carrollton's force.

The department's image, however, came under fire Sept. 12 when a district judge released 22-year-old Marvin Wells after determining Carrollton police had charged the wrong man in a robbery-murder at a convenience store. Carrollton police have steadfastly refused to discuss the specifics of the robbery-murder, which achieved national attention with the release of a surveillance camera videotape of the slaying.

"My people are as good as any and better than most in this state, and I am with them 100 percent," said Campbell, in his only comments after Wells' release.

Campbell's steadfastness under fire comes as no surprise to those who know him.

"He was easy to get along with and easy to like," said Frank Dyson, Dallas' police chief from 1969 to 1973. "But he was very determined -- he stood his ground, even with the chief."

"He's tough. If you don't believe it, just try to threaten him," said Irving Police Chief Benny Newman, a former partner. "He'll let you know that you are wasting a lot of effort because he's probably a lot meaner than you are."

Campbell, 53, said Friday that he joined the Dallas force after leaving the Navy in 1955 "because I needed a job."

He worked as a patrolman, as a detective on vice, narcotics and theft cases, and as a manager in the traffic and patrol divisions. Newman said he regularly scored among the top three or four on promotion exams.

By 1968, Campbell was a captain in charge of the 90-man Special Operations Division, handling everything from special crime

problems to crowd control.

At the time, Dyson said, football fans from the University of Texas and University of Oklahoma, in town for the annual game, caused problems for all of downtown Dallas. Campbell devised the "moving sidewalk" technique of crowd control.

"They would have to walk six blocks one way without turning around, and then walk six blocks back the other way," Campbell said. "It didn't take long for them to get tired of that."

He said his proudest innovation is a 2-inch strip of cloth with alternating bands of red, gold and blue-black, which he and Lt. W.P. Livingston sewed together in Campbell's kitchen in 1969. Select officers in Dallas still wear those strips on their shoulders, as morale-boosting tokens of membership in the Special Operations Division.

"We picked those colors because they're the exact colors of a coral snake," Campbell said, adding that the division, like the snake, was "small but highly effective."

In 1970 Campbell, became director of the department's Internal Affairs Division. Until then, division commanders had been responsible for investigating complaints made against their subordinates. Campbell saw that internal affairs reported directly to the chief of police, and that it oversaw any investigations by field supervisors.

By 1979, Campbell said, he had put in the 20 years needed for his Dallas pension and felt he had risen as high as he ever would. Carrollton's department was suffering serious personnel problems at the time and was seeking a new chief. Campbell beat 60 contenders for the job.

City officials credit him with improving morale, recruiting college-educated officers, writing policies on shooting and high-speed chases, adding a full-time legal adviser and training officer to the staff -- which has grown to 109 officers -- and sending promising men and women to some of the nation's most prestigious police schools.

"He has upgraded the quality of our people more than anyone in the history of Carrollton," City Council member Dave Oldfield said.

Lisa Lawrence - May 03, 2016 at 10:53 PM

JA

Great article. He had a tough job. He made those cities more safe to live in. I have memories of him as well. Steak and Ale, and Campisi's.

Jennifer Adams - May 06, 2016 at 09:12 PM

LL

Oh, goodness! I remember you liked your steaks rare! And Campisi's - now you are going w a y back! Thank you again for coming to the Visitation.

LISA LAWRENCE - May 14, 2016 at 07:55 PM

LL

“ 3 files added to the album *Family Photos*



Lisa Lawrence - May 03, 2016 at 10:19 PM

“ Chief Campbell's Accomplishments

Vernon Campbell began as a patrol officer with the Dallas Police Department in 1955 and rose to the rank of Captain. He commanded several divisions, including Special Operations, Traffic, Internal Affairs and others. He resigned in 1979 to become Chief of Police in Carrollton.

Many positive changes and improvements were made under Chief Campbell's leadership; the opportunity for youth, and improved training opportunities for officers were two areas of particular concern & interest to him.

Under Campbell's leadership the Carrollton Police Department grew from a small department of 55 employees serving a city of 48,000 people, to a mid-sized law enforcement agency with more than 200 full and part-time employees serving a city of 90,000 people.

The departmental accomplishments achieved during Chief Campbell's term were:

1979

- Hired January 22nd*
- Reorganized and expanded the command structure*
- Created the first Internal Affairs function*
- Expanded the Written Directive system*
- Began educational and certification pay for officers*

1980

- Moved into new police facility three times the size of the previous building*
- Began a city-wide communication center including Dispatch*
- Began advanced training for Supervisors and Commanders*

1982

- Updated communication equipment including portable radios which improved the quality and range of field communications.*

1983

- *Began formalized Field Training Officer Program*
- *Began First Offender Program*
- *Began computerization of Records section*
- *Established Crime Prevention Unit*
- *Added fulltime legal advisor to staff*
- *Added classroom facilities and movable targets to gun range*

1984

- *Organized Law Enforcement Explorer Program*

1985

- *Established Crime Scene Search Unit*
- *First used Assessment Center in promotions*
- *Began self-assessment phase of accreditation process*

1986

- *Initiated 10-week training program for dispatchers*
- *Created jail section of S.O.P. manual*
- *Began annual voluntary physicals*
- *Added 8,000 square foot wing to police building*

1987

- *Received certification for Training section as an in-service training academy from the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards & Education*

1988

- *Formed Community Relations/Public Information*
- *Began receiving certification from T.C.L.E.O.S.E for Dispatchers*
- *Expanded School Resource Officer Program*
- *Became the 3rd agency in Texas and the 65th in the nation to be accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc.*

1989

- *Used confiscated drug funds to issue Glock semi-automatic pistols to all officers.*
- *Started Physical Fitness Assessment Program*

1990

- *Purchased Crime Awareness trailer*
- *Began involvement in Texas Special Olympics torch run*
- *Conducted first Civilian Police Academy*
- *Enhanced 911 and installed computer aided dispatch*

1991

- *Published coloring book for small children entitled "Carrollton Kids" emphasizing safety issues*
- *Purchased "PC", the robot police car*
- *Created Special Operations Division*
- *Sponsored youth boxing program*
- *Redesigned uniforms and badges*

1992

- *Added child abuse counselor to staff*

1993

- *Began Dispatcher training in Emergency Medical Dispatch*
- *Started Volunteers in Policing Program*
- *Began using new striping design on patrol vehicles*
- *Reaccredited by Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc.*

Lisa Lawrence - May 03, 2016 at 10:03 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Jim Grayson - May 03, 2016 at 05:46 PM

CA

“ *Carrollton Police Officers Association purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Vernon Curtis "VC" Campbell.*



Carrollton Police Officers Association - May 03, 2016 at 11:15 AM

VT

“ *R.I.P. Chief Campbell. You were a true professional that I had the pleasure of working closely with as your Administrative Assistant at CPD.*

Deepest Sympathy to the Family.

Valerie Tarren

Valerie Tarren - May 03, 2016 at 06:58 AM

LL

Thank-you, Valerie.

Lisa Lawrence - May 05, 2016 at 12:58 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Vernon Curtis "VC" Campbell.*



May 03, 2016 at 02:04 AM



“ *I worked with Chief Campbell at the Carrollton Police Department for many years. He was a role model for professionalism and as friend said to me yesterday "He taught us how to be professional"*

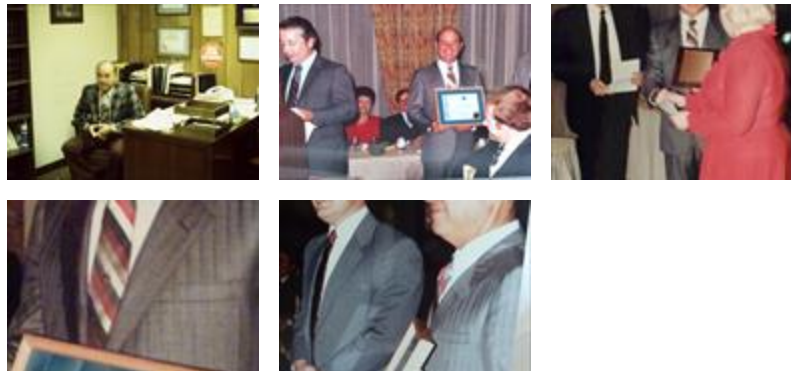
He insisted on Officers doing things the right way and to treat all people with respect but he also encouraged police officers to work to enforce the law.

I admired him greatly for his intelligence and ability to see the future in law enforcement.

Jim Grayson - May 03, 2016 at 12:57 AM



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



Jim Grayson - May 03, 2016 at 12:50 AM