



Jeffrey "Jeff" Lawes Gwilliam

July 2, 1958 - January 1, 2025

U.S. Army Colonel (Retired) Jeffrey (Jeff) Lawes Gwilliam, beloved husband, father, grandfather, uncle, brother, and friend, passed away on January 1, 2025, in Washington, DC. Born on July 2, 1958, in Albany, NY, Jeff grew up in a family of five brothers and spent his youth in Plymouth, MA enjoying sailing, ice skating and playing high school tennis. He was a devoted fan of the Boston Red Sox and Boston Patriots; his love for sports remained a lifelong passion.

After graduating from the University of Arizona, Jeff embarked on a distinguished career in the U.S. Army, rising to the rank of Colonel. His service took him to posts at the Pentagon and abroad in Kuwait, Turkey, Germany, and Haiti, where he worked alongside UN Peacekeeping Forces during a six-month deployment. Following his military retirement, Colonel Gwilliam continued his dedication to public service with a 14-year tenure as a program officer for the U.S. Customs and Border Protection. He held two graduate degrees, an MBA from Babson College and a degree from the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle, PA.

In retirement, Jeff and his wife settled in Easton, Maryland's historic district, where they lovingly renovated a 1920s home. He shared a special bond with his beloved Berger Picard dog, Louis, who accompanied him on daily walks that led to cherished friendships with the "Easton Bench Boys." Jeff also found true joy in his hammock in Governor's Harbour on Eleuthera, Bahamas, where he owned a home for many years, and in traveling to California to visit his

daughters, particularly his two recent cross country car trips across the United States from Maryland to Los Angeles.

A military man, one could still set a watch by his daily routine. Before retirement, he arose every morning at 4:45 am to exercise before heading to work. After retirement, his daily ritual began at 7am with an early dog walk, then a meeting of the Bench Boys, an hour of exercise followed by lunch, reading, and then late day dog park sessions in Oxford with Louis and his friends there. His afternoon reading sessions were devoted to English history, tales of Vikings, Caribbean pirates and spy novels. Listening to music was another lifelong passion from childhood, Bob Dylan, Buffalo Springfield, Bruce Springsteen and Fleetwood Mac were on frequent play, and in recent years he developed a deep appreciation for folk bluegrass music and was a huge fan of The Dead South. Proud of his Welsh heritage, he enjoyed studying his family genealogy with his father.

Jeff was preceded in death by his first wife, Capt. (Retired) Elizabeth Gwilliam. He is survived by his wife Susan Able; his father Lt. Col. U.S. Army (Retired) Will Gwilliam and step-mother Ann Gwilliam of Hayes, VA; daughters Sarah Gwilliam of Santa Monica, CA and Lynsey Sullivan of Los Angeles, CA; brothers Tedd Gwilliam, of Plymouth, MA; Lt. Col. US Army (Retired) Bruce Gwilliam of Amherst, MA; Scott Gwilliam of Evanston, IL; Joshua Gwilliam of Alexandria, VA, step-brother Chris Wilkins, Norfolk, VA; and his beloved grandchildren Lane Thomashow and Ruby Sullivan.

Colonel Gwilliam's memory will be treasured by all who knew him. May his life and legacy bring comfort to those who mourn his passing.

A Celebration of his Life will be held on Saturday, February 1st, 2025, at Christ Church Easton, 111 S. Harrison St. Easton, MD. Interment will take place at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, those wishing to make a donation in Jeff's memory are encouraged to do so to Talbot Humane Society, P.O. Box 1143, Easton, MD 21601.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

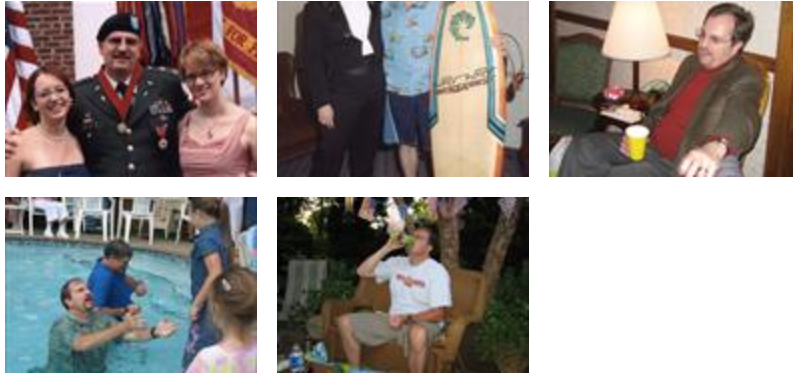
FEB 1. 11:00 AM (est)

Christ Church
111 Harrison St.
Easton, MD

Tribute Wall

KA

“ 7 files added to the tribute wall



Kathy - January 29, 2025 at 03:56 PM

BB

“ Geez, where to start...I miss the Colonel as I am sure everyone who had the honor of knowing him does. Such a huge loss to this world where we need more people like Jeff. Kind hearted, loving Husband, proud Grandfather, best bro-dad, and a great friend to many. I will remember the many excellent meals with Jeff and Susan, the great cocktails and cigars we had that led to interesting conversations. Susan, thanks for sharing Jeff with us, our lives are better for it. Hugs to all who need them. Miss you buddy.



Beau Bosley - January 16, 2025 at 05:12 PM

Jl

“ Jeff...when I think of you I can't help but smile. To me (and I'm sure others), you were always so full of life and your love for Susan showed in so many ways. I'm so grateful that I was able to meet and have you as part of my life, and am so thankful for what you brought to Susan and everyone around you. You will be missed always...

Jen Iwu - January 16, 2025 at 04:54 PM

PK

“ Paula and Malik Khan planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jeffrey "Jeff" Lawes Gwilliam.

Paula and Malik Khan - January 10, 2025 at 09:29 AM

PK

“ Paula and Malik Khan purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Jeffrey "Jeff" Lawes Gwilliam.



Paula and Malik Khan - January 10, 2025 at 09:29 AM

Susan Galanek

“ I met Jeff and Louis at the Oxford Dog Park. He was welcoming and friendly with everyone and didn't hold back his incredibly sharp, quick wit. We often talked about music, politics, travel, and family. He will be missed by all who knew him.

Susan Galanek - January 09, 2025 at 08:34 PM

DW

“ Dad, Mom, Nancy, Cindy, Wally purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Jeffrey "Jeff" Lawes Gwilliam.



Dad, Mom, Nancy, Cindy, Wally - January 09, 2025 at 03:49 PM

MD

“ Mom & Dad planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jeffrey "Jeff" Lawes Gwilliam.

Mom & Dad - January 09, 2025 at 03:49 PM

 Tim Ebner

“ We will always smile and we think of Jeff! From beach time in Cape May and Eluthera, to pool parties in the backyard, or a day spent out on the Bay with crabs and orange crushes! Jeff lived the good life but he also shared it with everyone he loved. We are sending our love and prayers for healing to Susan and his family. -Tim & Heather

Tim Ebner - January 08, 2025 at 07:08 PM

DM

“ I remember a memorable meal my wife Michele and I shared with Susan and Jeff at the Rathskellar restaurant at the Athenaeum in Indianapolis, IN when he was getting to know the Able side of his new family. Jeff was so gracious, and personable with all in attendance. His love for Susan showed. - David Wagner, M.D.

David L. Wagner, M.D. - January 08, 2025 at 04:30 PM

DM

“ Dave, one of the “Bench Boys” from the walking trail called to share the new of your loss, Susan. Paul & I always enjoyed a talk with Jeff, such a positive conversationalist and he did love his grand babies.. Jeff will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

debbie meredith - January 08, 2025 at 02:11 PM

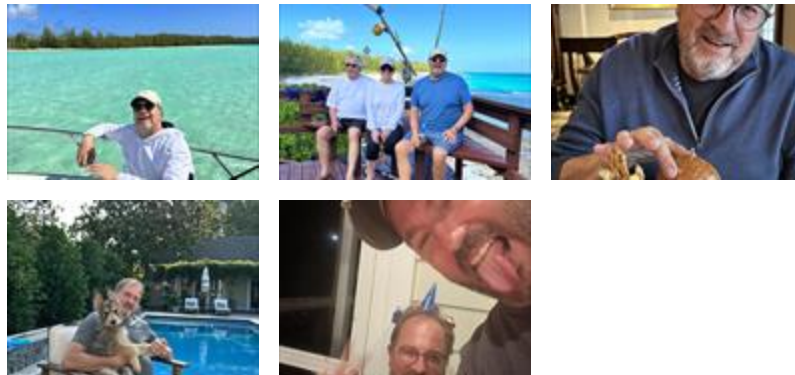
SU

“ To my dear, sweet husband, thank you for being in my life, cherishing me and making my world such a big and happy place full of friends, family and so many adventures and good memories. I love you.

susandable@gmail.com - January 08, 2025 at 11:34 AM

SU

“ 24 files added to the tribute wall



susan - January 07, 2025 at 08:48 PM

SU

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



susan - January 07, 2025 at 08:35 PM

SU

“ 15 files added to the tribute wall



susan - January 07, 2025 at 08:32 PM