



Melvin Lee Utz Sr.

July 9, 1939 - June 29, 2025

Melvin (Mel) Lee Utz, Sr.-A man among men!

Melvin Lee Utz, Sr. left this world on June 29, 2025, after a lengthy battle with COPD. He was born on July 9, 1939, in Burtonsville, Maryland, to Bill and Grace Utz. His wife of 49 years, Linda Utz, went to meet her Lord in 2009. He is survived by his three children, Buddy, Melissa, and Melinda; six of his seven grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

After graduating from Sherwood High School in 1956, Mel enlisted in the U.S. Army. He was fiercely proud of following his father in serving with the 2nd Cavalry. After returning from Germany, Mel met Linda Anne Beall, where else, but at a stock car race. They married in 1961 and lived in the Laurel area until moving to Kent Island in 1990, where they truly embraced the shore life.

Melvin worked in the automotive and insurance industries until he found his true passion: police work. Serving most of his 26-year career in the drug unit, Mel was instrumental in standing up the HIDTA (High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area) program in the late 1980s. After retiring in 2002, he truly embraced the shore life, spending his time either racing or working on his beloved boats.

Mel was as fearless in his death as he was in his life. He never met a

challenge he would not rise to. From jumping out of airplanes, to racing anything that was raceable, to policing the streets of Baltimore, he thrived on challenges and rose to meet each one. He was stubborn, determined, and courageous and will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

Please join us as we celebrate the life of this amazing man.

A viewing will be held on Sunday July 6th from 2-4pm and 6-8pm at Fellows Helfenbein and Newnam Funeral home 106 Shamrock Road Chester MD 21619

The Funeral Service will be held on Monday July 7th at 1pm at the Kent Island Baptist Church 300 state street Stevensville MD with a celebration of life to immediately follow.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Maryland Concerns of Police Survivors in memory of Melvin L. Utz, Sr. Donations can be made at <https://mdcops.org/donations/>.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 6. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Fellows, Helfenbein, & Newnam Funeral Home, P.A.
106 Shamrock Road
Chester, MD 21619

Visitation

JUL 6. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Fellows, Helfenbein, & Newnam Funeral Home, P.A.
106 Shamrock Road
Chester, MD 21619

Funeral Service

JUL 7. 1:00 PM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Kent Island
State Street
Stevesville, MD

Tribute Wall

CR

“ My deepest sympathy to Mel’s family. Mel was a devoted husband and family man. I worked with Mel in the BPD. He was dedicated police Detective who served with tenacity and integrity. May his memory be eternal. Col. John E Gavrilis , retired Chief of Detectives and Patrol Division.

Col John E Gavrilis, retired - July 14, 2025 at 12:42 PM

SR

“ Mel was a great guy. He always had a smile for me along with something funny to say. He will be very missed at the VFW as part of the lunch bunch. Yes, I know you want bread with your spaghetti!

Sharon Robertson - July 06, 2025 at 11:09 AM

EF

“ Eddie Hairfield, Sr, Laura and Family.. purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Melvin Lee Utz Sr..



Eddie Hairfield, Sr, Laura and Family.. - July 06, 2025 at 08:37 AM

EF

“ Eddie Hairfield, Sr, Laura and Family.. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Melvin Lee Utz Sr..

Eddie Hairfield, Sr, Laura and Family.. - July 06, 2025 at 08:37 AM

CF

“ Charlene F. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Melvin Lee Utz Sr..

Charlene F. - July 04, 2025 at 12:58 AM



“ Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Melvin Lee Utz Sr..



July 02, 2025 at 10:24 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Melvin Lee Utz Sr..

July 02, 2025 at 10:24 AM

VW

“ Mel was such a wonderful Man! Every time I would see him (At a boat race of course) he would always have a smile on his face and was always active and running around getting ready to race his 2.5 Mod... He and his family mean the world to me. Hydroplane racers are our second family always!!! 🏆🚩 God Speed Our Dear Friend...

Valerie Wilson - July 01, 2025 at 10:22 PM

MM

“ My family is very sorry for the passing of Mel, he was a great person, been along time since I have seen you all. Hugs to you. Mindy (Rorabacher) Moran.

Mindy Moran - July 01, 2025 at 02:09 PM

TS

“ Tracy Schulz sent a virtual gift in memory of Melvin Lee Utz Sr.



Tracy Schulz - July 01, 2025 at 09:45 AM

EC

“ Eastern Shore Dental Care lit a candle in memory of Melvin Lee Utz Sr.



Eastern Shore Dental Care - July 01, 2025 at 08:04 AM

DM

Mel Ute was a great narcotics detective in the BPD. Very aggressive in his investigations. Helped break in the newer detectives, such as myself and Glenn Olivi in the 1980's. He will be missed. RIP Mel

dorsey mcvicker - July 17, 2025 at 04:12 PM