



Larry E. Williams

May 19, 1949 - October 15, 2025

Larry E. Williams, 76, of Salisbury, North Carolina, entered his heavenly home on October 15, 2025, following a sudden illness. He passed peacefully into the arms of Christ, surrounded by his loving family.

Larry was born on May 19, 1949, in Hickory, North Carolina, the son of the late George Pinkney Williams and the late Mary Greene Williams. He was also preceded in death by his former wife, Kay Finley Williams, and his sister, Brenda K. Pardue.

Larry dedicated his life to service—both to his country and his community. He proudly served in the United States Coast Guard, where he developed a steadfast commitment to duty, integrity, and helping others. Following his military service, he began a distinguished career with the North Carolina State Highway Patrol, where he built lasting friendships and earned the respect of all who served alongside him. Over his 25-year career, Larry rose through the ranks to retire as a Lieutenant in 1998, having served in Rowan, Iredell, Nash, and Forsyth Counties, at Patrol Headquarters in Raleigh, and in his final years with the Highway Patrol's Interstate Troop in Cary. His colleagues often described him as “one of the best,” “a man of the highest integrity,” and “an honor to have worked for.”

Following his retirement from law enforcement, Larry continued his professional journey with Harleysville Insurance, where he worked in the Special Investigations Unit as a Senior Special Investigator until his second retirement in 2010. His dedication to excellence and fairness continued to

shine through in all that he did.

Larry was a proud graduate of Granite Falls High School, Davidson Community College, and Gardner-Webb University, and he completed advanced training at the Southern Police Institute at the University of Louisville. A lifelong learner and respected leader, he served as past president of the state chapters of the International Association of Special Investigation Units (IASIU) and the North Carolina Insurance Crime Information Exchange (NCICIE).

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Larry was best known as a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. His greatest joy and accomplishment was his family. He cherished time spent with his grandchildren and could often be found in the stands or the audience—smiling, cheering, and celebrating their every success at countless recitals, ballgames, and award ceremonies. He always prioritized being there for his family.

A faithful member of First Methodist Church of China Grove for more than 45 years, Larry served wherever he was needed—from ushering to putting away chairs—always guided by a humble heart and a servant's spirit. He was also a proud member of Eureka Masonic Lodge in China Grove. His faith in the Lord was evident in the way he lived: steadfast, kind, and grounded in love.

Larry was also an active member of his neighborhood community, where he served as President of the Homeowners Association. However, he was best known, not for his title, but for his willingness to lend a helping hand to anyone in need—whether fixing something around a neighbor's home, sharing advice, or simply offering a kind word. His generosity and servant's heart left a lasting impression on all who knew him.

Larry shared 47 wonderful years of marriage with his beloved wife, Sue, whose unwavering love was his greatest blessing. Together they built a beautiful life filled with laughter, faith, and adventure. With Sue's career as a travel agent, they were blessed to see the world—often enjoying extended voyages, including several 30-day cruises that took them to faraway places

across God's magnificent creation. From Antarctica to the Great Wall of China to the rolling hills of Italy, they cherished every journey and the joy of exploring new cultures and people, always side by side.

Larry is survived by his wife, Sue Williams; three sons, Scott Williams (wife Beth), Mark Williams (wife Jennifer), and Bryan Overcash (wife Meredith); seven grandchildren—Blake, Sloan, Brayden, Ali, Brock, Ivy, and Marshall; and one great-granddaughter, Collins, who all lovingly called him "Top Pop." He also leaves behind many dear friends who were like family.

Larry will be remembered for his faith, strength, humility, and unwavering devotion to his family and friends. His legacy of integrity, love, and service will continue to shine brightly through those who knew him best.

A celebration of Larry's life will be held Sunday at First Methodist Church of China Grove, with visitation at 2:00 p.m. and a service to follow at 3:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to First Methodist Church of China Grove, 110 W. Church St., China Grove, NC 28023.

"Well done, good and faithful servant." — Matthew 25:23

Summersett Funeral Home is serving the Williams family. Online condolences may be made at www.summersettfuneralhome.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 19. 2:00 PM (ET)

First Methodist Church of China Grove
110 W. Church Street
China Grove, NC 28023

Memorial Service

OCT 19. 3:00 PM (ET)

First Methodist Church of China Grove
110 W Church Street
China Grove, NC 28023

Tribute Wall

EV

“ Larry was a great man, good example for others to follow and faithful friend! He left this world as he lived in it, with dignity and respect of all who knew him! He will be missed! May God spread his grave upon Sue and all of the family he lived so much!

*Ed & Pat VunCannon
Norwood, NC*

Edward E. VunCannon - October 25, 2025 at 12:09 AM

MW

“ As a grade school classmate he was a dear friend. So very sorry that Larry has passed away. I extend my sincere sympathy to his family.

Martha Winkler Wycoff - October 19, 2025 at 07:40 PM

NB

“ Neil, Crystal, Miranda & Ben purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Larry E. Williams.



Neil, Crystal, Miranda & Ben - October 18, 2025 at 02:07 PM

JH

“ Sue-we are so sorry for your loss. Our hearts go out to you and family at this time. Hugs and prayers 🙏

Jeanne and Dennis Haldiman - October 17, 2025 at 11:39 AM

PD

“ So very sorry Sue and kids, I remember Larry being so kind, you all are in my prayers 🙏

Priscilla(Finley) Duncan - October 17, 2025 at 11:10 AM

MV

“ I am so very sorry for your loss. Just the short time we were with you two in China it was so evident that you two completed each other. Such a fun couple. John and I still reminisce about the trip and all the Chinese wanting to have pictures taken with Larry with his large statue. Going as far as having him hold their babies. My thoughts are with you Sue along with the rest of the family. Martha Vignati

Martha Vignati - October 17, 2025 at 10:03 AM



“ Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of Larry E. Williams.



October 17, 2025 at 09:27 AM

SG

“ Steve and Linda Gunsallus planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Larry E. Williams.

Steve and Linda Gunsallus - October 17, 2025 at 09:27 AM

DL

“ So sorry for your loss. Larry was wonderful person and I am proud to have called him a friend.

David Linker - October 17, 2025 at 08:56 AM

RK

“ I first met Larry fresh out of Patrol School when he came to Salisbury. A fine young man eager to learn and become one of our finest. May blessings be with his family today and in the future.

Retired F/Sgt Ward Kellum - October 17, 2025 at 07:53 AM

FB

“ Condolences to the Williams family. Larry was a good friend and I enjoyed my interactions with him over the years. He will be missed but not forgotten. May God bless his family during this difficult time.

Frank Brown - October 16, 2025 at 09:38 PM

LB

“ Love, The Barrs purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Larry E. Williams.



Love, The Barrs - October 16, 2025 at 09:37 PM

RG

“ Condolences to the family. I had the pleasure of working for him in Iredell County when I was all of 22 years old. He was a great mentor and role model.

Robert Grayson
SHP Retired

Robert B Grayson - October 16, 2025 at 05:17 PM

LH

“ Sue we are so sorry to hear of Larry's passing. He will certainly be missed. Larry rest in peace. Love, Lou and Lester Honeycutt

lou honeycutt - October 16, 2025 at 01:37 PM