



# Wilfried Richard Czaja

November 12, 1948 - November 12, 2021

Wilfried Richard "Big Will" Czaja, of Indian Trail, NC passed away peacefully on his 73rd birthday, November 12, 2021, after a brief illness.

Wilfried was born on November 12, 1948 to the late Adolf and Erika Czaja in Stuttgart, Germany.

Wilfried proudly served the U.S. Army as a Military Police Officer, and served two tours in the Vietnam Conflict. Wilfried retired from the New Jersey Department of Corrections before moving to North Carolina to be with family. Since arriving to Indian Trail, Wilfried became a very active member of the Indian Trail VFW Post 2423, Charlotte ASA and Hometown Heroes of Monroe.

He is survived by his sweetheart of 51 years, Margaret "Peggy" Czaja; three children, Jennifer Rehberg Keistler and her husband Monty, Barbara Negron and her husband Martin and Richard; two sisters, Margaret Morris and her husband Mark and Doreen Gillespie and her husband Glenn; seven grandchildren, Erika and her husband Ryan, Brandon, Tyler, Danielle, Elizabeth, Martin, and Michael; and his feline Miracle and beloved ferret family: Chuck, Jake, Peppy, Bandit, Sonny, Misty, Samantha and Ms Amie.

A celebration of his life, with full military honors, will be announced (on this page) at a later date when his wife and family are healthy.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to: Indian Trail VFW Post 2423, Charlotte ASA or Hometown Heroes of Monroe.

Arrangements are in the care of Heritage Funeral Home, Indian Trail Chapel. Online condolences may be left at <http://www.heritagecares.com>

# Comments

---



“ I can't share all the memories, not enough room. I love when he used to go and play Santa. Hell he looked like Santa, and he loved it when children would ask him if he was. I loved him like a dad, he helped to fill some of the void I had in my life after my father passed. We always joked around with each other, nothing I can share, just between me and Dad. He loved me, and I knew it. We had big plans for a new life in Jefferson. Dad I'm sorry things changed, but your road will have your "Psycho Path" sign, and the other one saying "half way there". Not sure about the gun towers through. We will all be ok Dad, just watch over us as I know you will. Love you Dad, will forever miss you.

**Monty Keistler** - November 18, 2021 at 01:45 PM

---



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



**Kasondra Tracy** - November 17, 2021 at 08:53 PM

---



“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



**Kasondra Tracy** - November 17, 2021 at 08:33 PM

---



“ I met Will and his entire family through the fire company. Will was one of the fire police for the station and always ensured that the responding apparatus was able to get out of our entrance onto a busy state highway safely and then would some how get a head of us to secure traffic in the circle, especially during the busy Jersey shore season to get us safely through. Will always had our backs and would keep us safe as we operated on an emergency scene. He was the eyes in the back of your head. Thank you Will for all the times you kept our scene safe. Even though it might not have been communicated I want to say thank you for all your did for the fire company. Gods speed brother. We got it from here....

**Kevin** - November 17, 2021 at 06:41 PM

---



“ There are so many memories I have of Dad. I know he was a little different than other Dads, but I loved him and looked up to him. Here are just a couple of my stories with him. I'll more than likely sprinkle in a few more stories here and there.

He was always known to be a joker. Most of my friends knew that already when they came over. He loved to see their faces whenever he played the hot dog joke. He'd say "Are you sure you don't want one?" as he sat at the table eating hot dogs. "They're really good and fresh" continuing to eat while looking out the window at the dog run. "Did you ever meet George?" I'm trying not to laugh at that point because I thought it was funny AND it was a little embarrassing at the same time. George was ok. He was just hanging out in his dog house. No animals were harmed in this story...

I remember going to the gun club with him. I loved that special time we spent together. He'd escort me in with ammo cases in his hands and guns cases under his arms. I'd walk next to him with my little gun case, just like any other girl would carry her Barbie dolls. He made me feel like his pal. Only I wasn't his pal. I was his princess who preferred wearing NRA caps instead of silly old, expensive tiaras.

**Barbara Negron** - November 17, 2021 at 05:06 PM

---



“ One of the most precious moments I had shared with Wilfred was the time he introduced me to all of his Ferrets. He adored each and every single one of them. He spoke of them like his children also, they helped him with his everyday struggles. He would get so emotional when speaking about all his babies. Those babies will miss you dearly.



**Susie Q Currie** - November 17, 2021 at 01:45 PM



“ Rest easy, Brother. The world is a better place because of you. Capt. Bob Tesoroni, retired.

**Robert Tesoroni Jr.** - November 17, 2021 at 03:39 PM

---



“ Willie was an awesome human being. I loved when he came into Costco and he would just talk to me for a bit and tell me jokes. I think he knew when I was having a bad day because he always made me smile. Thank you Willie for your service and for being a sudden to earth human being. R.I.P.



**Doreen** - November 17, 2021 at 01:44 PM



“ Thank you for your service and for being a down to earth human being. R.I.P.

**Doreen** - November 17, 2021 at 01:47 PM