

Veteran Calvert deputy remembered by friends and family

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On January 26, 2015 funeral services were held for Calvert County Sheriff's Office Lt. William "Bill" Soper. In excess of 300 family, friends and agency personnel attended the funeral services which were held at Grace Brethren Church in Owings. An escort involving numerous allied police agencies, volunteer fire and EMS and a motorcade lead Lt. Soper to his final resting place in Miranda Cemetery in Huntingtown.

Lieutenant William "Bill" Soper was born on October 1, 1957 in the Panama Canal Zone where his father was stationed in the Air Force at the time. Bill was raised in Montgomery County, Maryland and graduated from Thomas S. Wootton High School in 1975. After graduation he attended Montgomery College where he obtained an Associates of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice. Lt. Soper then went to the University of Maryland and graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Criminology in 1980.

In 1980, Bill landed a job at the University Park Police Department as a Police Officer while still attending the University of Maryland. In 1983, he transferred to the Rockville City Police Department. During Bill's tenure at the Rockville City Police Department he was not only assigned to the patrol bureau, but spent over three years in narcotics assigned to a task force working with U.S. Park Police in Washington DC. In 1984, Lt. Soper was nominated for Police Officer of the Year by the Rockville Chamber of Commerce.

In 1988, Lt. Soper was hired by the Calvert County Sheriff's Office. He worked in patrol for one year and was transferred to the Southern Maryland Narcotics Task Force where he worked for 3 years. After leaving the Task Force, Lt. Soper worked in the Criminal Investigation Unit for 9 years and in 1993 he was promoted to Sergeant. In 2001, he was transferred to the Internal Affairs Unit.

On June 27, 2005, he was promoted to the rank of First Sergeant and transferred to hold the position of Assistant Commander of the Administrative and Judicial Services Bureau. In July 2013, he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant and became the Commander of the Administrative and Judicial Services Bureau, where he remained until his death. Lt. Soper was a Polygraph Examiner for over 20 years and was currently managing the Bike Patrol Team and Conflict Management Team. While at the Sheriff's Office, Lt. Soper received numerous awards including Law Enforcement Officer of the Year and Detective of the Year.

Lieutenant Soper was married to his beloved wife Molly for over 20 years. He is survived by a son, Trevor, a step-daughter, Lauren and grandson, Carter, all of Huntingtown and a daughter, Christi Milam in Texas. In his spare time, Bill enjoyed running, motorcycle riding, water sports, snow skiing, and spending time with his family. He was a leader and mentor for a Boy Scout troop in Huntingtown for many years. In 2003 he completed his first marathon and was proud to receive the Marine Corps Marathon Medal.

Lt. Soper's grandfather was a Montgomery County Police Officer for 36 years and retired as a Sergeant. Lt. Soper was proud to follow in his grandfather's footsteps and serve in the Law Enforcement community for 35 years. He will be greatly missed by his friends and colleagues at the Calvert County Sheriff's Office.

William Claiborne "Bill" Soper, 57, of Huntingtown passed away Jan. 20, 2015 at Calvert Memorial Hospital in Prince Frederick.

He was born Oct. 1, 1957 in Canal Zone, Panama to William Franklin, Jr. and Mary Elizabeth (Bagley) Soper.

Bill was raised in Rockville and graduated from Thomas S. Wootton High School. He received an associate's degree from Montgomery Community College and went on to earn a Bachelor of Arts in sociology/criminal justice from the University of Maryland in 1980.

Bill was first employed with the Rockville City Police, and then transferred to the Calvert County Sheriff's Department, where he has served since 1988.

Bill rose to the rank of Lieutenant, and served in many roles including polygraph operator, narcotics officer and as hostage negotiations team leader.

He married Molly Beth Swann on March 4, 1995 and they made their home in Huntingtown. He was a member of Huntingtown United Methodist Church and the Fraternal Order of Police. He served as an adult leader in Boy Scout Troop 903. Bill enjoyed boating, the beach, going to Ocean City, and most of all spending time with his family.

Bill is survived by his loving wife Molly Beth Soper, a son Trevor W. Soper, step-daughter Lauren M. Fowler and grandson Carter B. Dailey, all of Huntingtown. Also surviving are brother John F. Soper and wife Sharyn of Gold Canyon, AZ, and sisters Mary E. Soper of Boise, ID and Linda S. Bellofatto of Elkridge, MD.

Services for Lt. Soper will be held Monday, Jan. 26 at 11 a.m. Grace Brethren Church in Owings. Contributions in his memory may be made to the American Cancer Society.

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