



Our Friend

Al Wahlberg

*Went to be with his Lord
on 04-25-09*

From: Linda Wahlberg - LW6331@aol.com

Sent: 4/26/2009 11:38:59 PM

Subject: My Al is now with the Lord

Dear family and friends,

It is with deep sadness that I'm sending this email. My precious Al went to be with the Lord

yesterday morning about 6:15. He fought a courageous battle with the dreadful cancer he had, but Praise the Lord he is now resting in the arms of God. No more pain and suffering. I am in deep pain from losing my best friend and soul mate. I feel like there is a big hole in my heart.

Al started getting worse last weekend and daily went down hill. His sister, Martha Lee from Virginia flew down last Wed. and was with him along with our daughter Kathy and her husband. I called our son Howie in Crestview and told him he was dying and they left right away to try and get here. Sadly he was not able to make it in time but we did call him on his cell phone so he could tell Al he loved him and it was all right to go on and be with the Lord. Al did just that about a minute after the call. When he left this earth, he got the most peaceful look on his face.

At Al's request, he will be cremated and when my time comes our ashes will be mixed together and scattered somewhere. We will have a memorial or celebration of his life on the 9th of May here in Panama City at our church. I will send out the exact details a little later.

Please pray that God will help me to be strong. Oh how I miss him, I love him so very much and he'll always be in my heart. May God bless each of you. Love, Linda

My darling Al's obituary is on this web site. Just in case you don't view the site today, here is a copy. The photo was taken at my sister's house at one of the times Al was in remission.

Wahlberg, Albert Frank



Albert Frank Wahlberg, fondly known by many as "Big Al," went to be with the Lord on Saturday, April 25, 2009.

He fought a rare type of cancer for a year and a half. Born May 8, 1944, he was loved and respected by many. He served in the U.S. Army as a sergeant and spent two years in Vietnam as a helicopter gunner. He returned to Orlando, Fla., and became a sergeant with the Orlando Police Department, serving for 25 years. He retired with his loving wife, Linda, in Panama City, Fla.

He always was there for his family and always willing to lend a hand to anyone in need.

He was preceded in death by his father, Adrian Jacob Wahlberg; mother, Agnes Lucille Wahlberg; and infant sister. He is survived by his wife and soul mate, Linda Wahlberg; stepdaughter, Kathy Buchanan and husband, Bonny, all of Panama City, Fla.; stepson, Howard "Howie" Haverstock and wife, Leeann, of Crestview, Fla.; sister, Martha Lee Hoke and husband, Preston, of Roanoke, Va.; brother, Adrian "Jr." Wahlberg and wife, Judy, of Custer, Wash.; five grandsons, Josh, Tristen and Jacob Haverstock, Travis Wester and Jesse Buchanan; granddaughter, April "Sweet Pea" Wester; nephew, Frank Hoke; and four nieces, Diane Hoke, Marie Brooks, Becky McHugh and Teresa Finn.

He loved the Lord dearly, and he always told others: "God, family, friends. Keep your priorities in order." He was a faithful member of East Bay Baptist Church. He loved his church family. Even when his health was wavering, when asked how he was doing, he replied, "It's all good." He will be greatly missed by his family, his many friends from church, the police force and Vietnam veterans.

At Al's request, his remains will be cremated. At the passing of his soul mate, Linda, their ashes will be scattered at a place of Linda's choosing. There will be a memorial service at 11 a.m. Saturday, May 9, 2009, at East Bay Baptist Church, 508 Highway 2297, Panama City, Fla.

Expressions of sympathy may be submitted and viewed at our Web site, www.southerlandfamily.com.

**Southerland Family
Funeral Homes
100 E. 19th St.
Panama City, Fla. 32405
850-785-8532**

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Messages left on the Guest Book of the:

<http://www.legacy.com/gb2/default.aspx?bookid=9461939579586>

April 28, 2009

We love ya'll. We will see that big ol rascal again.....

David and Wanda Cutchin,
Panama City, Florida

April 28, 2009

Dear Linda, family, & friends of Al,

Greetings in the wonderful Name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

I knew Al as the kind, very patient man who always graciously sent me the "Kids Typing Program" for the children of our Net Church Family, no matter how many times I asked for it over the years!

May God bless the Wahlberg family during this difficult time. You can rejoice knowing Al is with his beloved Lord, and also you can rejoice in this life well lived!! Glory be to our eternal God!

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints!"

Al is more alive today than he has ever been before. He is dancing down the streets of glory!

Sending hugs to all,
Pauline Pickering
Net Church Secretary
Woodbury, Tennessee

April 28, 2009

April 28, 2009

Dear Linda,

Leonard and I wish to extend to you our thoughts and prayers. Al was a wonderful sargeant to Leonard on the polic department. Both of you were so courageous and strong through this tough battle. I am glad we got to know you more through our email correspondence. Love created many memories for you and Al and those happier memories will lift your spirits and give you peace at this very sad time.

Leonard and Gail Blitch,
Sparta, Tennessee

April 28, 2009

Dear Wahlberg Family,

We have enjoyed being your next door neighbors for the last (6) years, and just isn't going to be the same not seeing Al doing his many routines such as: mowing his "beloved" grass (lol), patrolling the neighborhood and checking to see if everyone was doing alright or if anyone needed a hand, etc. Al was always wonderful about helping with any project anyone had going; I would say "I appreciate your help Al" and he would usually reply something like "I don't mind helping....It keeps me out of Linda's hair" and he then would chuckle. One thing for sure is that he truly loved Linda and his family (friends included). Al, you will truly be missed...and Linda if you need anything at all, we'll be right next door.

Tyson, Trisha, Brittany Scott,
Panama City, Florida

April 28, 2009

Linda, our thoughts and love are with you and yours. Al had to be a special man. I know how long you waited to find him. Stay strong. You are special also.

~

Keith Haverstock,
Nazareth, Pennsylvania

April 28, 2009

Dear Linda and Family,

Pam and I share your grief in Al's passing and your rejoicing that he is no longer in pain but at the right hand of the Father. Big Al, the Gentle Giant, was one of a kind!

~

Tom and Pam Langford,
Orlando, Florida

April 28, 2009

Al, I hardly knew you. But the evening we shared in Abingdon with you and Linda and our friends was truly memorable. RIP.

~

Spero McConnell,
Abingdon, Virginia

April 28, 2009

You will be missed so much, just won't be the same not seeing you around. You were such a kind and caring man, always helping out with whatever you could. Don't worry about Linda, we are watching out for her. God Bless.

James and Shannon Williams,
Panama City, Florida

April 28, 2009



Uncle Al, my heart is so broken at the thought of losing you. I loved you so deeply and I will carry your memories with me for the rest of my days. None of us were ready to let you go, but God knows what is best. Heaven's pearly gates are much safer now that you are patrolling. Aunt Linda, your family and friends will help you get through this and we love you dearly. It's all good... Diane

Diane Hoke,
Hardy, Virginia

April 28, 2009

Big Al was a man of true character, who always did the right thing. His extended family of Orlando Police Officers will miss him and his dry humor. My heart goes out to Linda and the family. There are no words that will take away the pain of losing him, but we are all comforted in the memories he left us.

Jack Barrett,
Orlando, Florida

April 28, 2009

David sent us the news...so sorry for your loss and we are thinking of you during this time. God be with you in a supernatural way.

Pam Buchanan

April 28, 2009

Dear Linda, Loving Family & Friends of Al:

I did not know Al personally but I would have been privileged if I had.

I know he will be missed by our online church family.

May you all find comfort and strength in the Lord and may the numerous memories remind you of the special man Al was.

My deepest sympathy, Marion

Marion Schoeller,

Eustis, Florida

April 28, 2009

Until we meet again, "It's all good"

Rev. Gene Hodges,

Panama City, Florida

Messages from Orlando Police Retirees and Friends

From: Mike Ross - Mrglkfl@gmail.com

I am so sorry to here the news-Al was a great friend and good man---Not many could fill his shoes and still have his great sense of humor.

Do you remember the time that I FINALLY got him on a prank? He and the group always were teasing me. I would talk to a young lady-even giving directions and he would walk up and say" Sorry to interrupt but Mike your wife called & your son is sick." I was not married and have never had children, not to forget the complete signed orders with the Chief's stamp that I was to be transferred in five days to Mid Night shift (All faked with help from Karen in the Chief's Office). He and the others loved teasing me since I was the youngest of the group.

My Airport I.D. was due in two months but he decided I was going to get it early. I missed one class due to a very busy day while he was downtown, so he made a" BIG Point" in line up the next time that I was "*Ordered to get it today No Matter what!!*" So I got with the Air OPs guys that teach the class I took. They agreed if Al calls, they are tell him they were sorry that I could not make it that day--and that they hoped I could make it next time.

They all know how Al was about his "Orders" and how he always loved us like a son but was always ready to embarrass and tease me. They could not contain them selves so they paged him with the "sorry I missed the class info." Al got the page with Mike Suferit, who called me when they got in to the office to tell me that, "Please tell me you took that class because "Your Daddy" is typing out your INOI (Internal affairs report for not obeying his direct order)." Mike made me show him my I.D. and after he stopped laughing for several minutes, he followed me to the office. "I got to see this... besides someone needs to be able to call 911 when Al is through with you."

Al called me into the office and I recall most of the squad and others were by the door waiting to hear, "What did little Mike do this time?" In his all "Business Voice" he said "I can not believe you let me down like this, I am so disappointed in you!!" Covering my ID I asked him, "Are you mad about this??" He said, "Yes." "Are you really mad about an I.D. that has two months to expire??" He said I failed him and he needed my I.D. to complete my INOI.

I then handed him my I.D. which was good for two more years and I let out a yell of "Finally after four years of you getting me I finally, "Got you, I got you but Good!!!" He looked at the Id which was good , his INOI, then me-He did this a couple of times. He then gave me the "Look Of Death That only Al Could do(not many have seen this and lived to tell the story -This was the first of two times I saw this).

He did not talk and barely even looked my way for two days, on the third day he called me for coffee. We spoke of how well the joke worked and how my life would be so much better if I did not try that again. Point taken!

I remember you telling me during the two days how Al could not believe how I got and that you were proud of me- but that was a long two days of Al's Quiet time.

Months later when he did the "Your wife skit"-A Flight attendant who was a good friend and who knew about the joke was showing me some pictures of her and her new boyfriend. Here comes Al and the skit was on. She, with great feeling along the grabbing my uniform, said "Last night in bed you said you loved me, you wanted to marry me but you're still married?? I called my Mother to tell her we were getting married-It's all a lie, you lied to me, how could you do this?? The look on Al's face was priceless! We waited a few minutes to give him the "I Got You" and he took it well after the "Look".

That was the last time he pulled that joke. I chose life-no more pranks on him...seeing the "Look"twice was enough for me.

The world has lost a great and "Good" man - But He will never be forgotten during my life time.
Love Ya - Mike Ross

From: Tom Leblanc – tleblanc1@cfl.rr.com

I did not know about Al, I really respected him, he was a great family man, he is in heaven now, helping our Lord Jesus Christ, we will all meet there someday, I pray. Tll later, Tommy leblanc

From: Dan Wilson – dannyjwilson@bellsouth.net

I received a phone call from Al's son-in-law a few minutes ago (4/25/09) letting me know that Al went home to be with the Lord this morning at about eight a.m. Al fought a good fight and kept his faith to the end. He told Linda that he was not afraid to die but just didn't want to leave her. He is no at peace and out of pain.

I will let you know when the funeral arrangements are made.

Please be in prayer for Linda and her two grown children. Dan

From: Larry Lomonaco - TRIDENT6@aol.com

I worked for many years with Al at OPD and I understand how much he is missed..He was a wonderful Christian gentleman, calm, quiet and a great supervisor. Rosary and I send our deepest condolences to you and your family.

Larry and Rosary Lomonaco

Jack Michael - ManateeJack@bellsouth.net

I am saddened from the news of the passing of Lt, Harrelson, Lt Bob (Dragon) Cooke and Al Wahlburg. All three men will be missed by all they have impacted. I had the privilege of working for or with all of them. It is a comforting knowledge that we all can join them in heaven, through our Lord and savior Jesus Christ.

My prayers and condolences go out to all three families.

Jack Michael
Ret. '90'

R. D. King - rd.king@att.net

I appreciated receiving an email from Gary Reynolds today letting me know about Bob Cook and Steve Harrelson. Odd, that it comes on the same day I receive news about Al. I had a special relationship with each of these guys. AL was a squad sergeant and, being the special person he was, wrote a letter to the Chief in appreciation of my efforts. Now, just ask yourself, "How many officers will take the time to pat another officer on the back and say- you did a good job?" Well, my experience was - not very many! Thanks Al- rest in peace my friend. RD

Bill Mustian - jonlaw241@earthlink.net

We not only lost three great men,we lost three good police officers. I had the priviledge of being on Big Al's squad at the airport. About three weeks at work he asked me to make the downtown run & come back as quick as possible. After leaving the station I remembered I left something at home. On the way back I stopped at the house. I went back out I to the car, an old LTD II. It would not start.I then did the dreaded thing & called Al on the radio to tell him my car was 10-7 & needed a wrecker at my house. Back at the OPD office Al in his business voice explained to me why I should always request permission before deviating from the rules. He let me off with a warning this time.I always enjoyed working with Big Al. I remeember his skits & the one ditty he would sing. It was "Washy Washy in my new Blue Cheer; Rinsey, Rinsey in the bucket over here." We all miss you,Big Al.



Al and Linda Wahlberg

