



Mr. Robert Davis Winkler, Sr.

June 5, 1936 - November 12, 2024

Robert Davis Winkler, Sr., 88, of West Union, passed away on Tuesday, November 12, 2024, at his home.

Born in West Union on June 5, 1936, to the late Marshal and Ada Waldt Winkler, as the eldest of 7 children. With his parents' blessing, Robert joined the Army at 18 and traveled the United States and the world. He served in the Korean Conflict, the Berlin Airlift and had two tours in Vietnam. His Army assignments also included stateside stops in Hawaii, Louisiana, Washington, Georgia, Kentucky, South Carolina, and North Carolina. Robert was also was stationed in Nuremberg and Berlin, Germany. Robert was a proud retired veteran of the United States Army.

After serving 22 years in the Army, Robert retired to West Union, South Carolina, where he worked many years for Duke Power where he later retired. Some of his accomplishments with Duke included building the Cherokee Nuclear station in Gaffney and the Bad Creek hydroelectric plant near Salem. Robert met his first wife, Dorothy Locklear at Fort Bragg, North Carolina and together raised 7 children. It was a big family, but with Robert's Army experience, he was able to keep everyone safe and in line. Robert's second wife, Polly Smiley, were together for 30 years until her death in 2009. After Polly's death, Robert returned home to West Union where he restored and lived in his childhood home.

Robert enjoyed gardening, something he learned as a child on his family's farm, and continued it to his last days. Besides out in the field, there was no place Robert would rather be than on a lake in his pontoon boat with a line or two in the water. Robert also enjoyed country, western and bluegrass music. His favorite performer was Rhonda Vincent, the Queen of Bluegrass, and had met her many times including just four days before he departed this life. There's a special place at the Walhalla Performing Arts Center just for Robert's "four-wheeler."

Robert is survived by seven children: Valerie Locklear, Andy Winkler, Jimmy Winkler (Christy), Robert Winkler, Jr (Cindy), Henry Wallace Winkler (Gina), Mark Winkler and Ann Winkler Aubert; 23 grandchildren, 23 great grandchildren; two brothers: William Winkler (Phyllis) and Dennis Winkler (Joanne), sister: Linda Winkler Fuller Freeman; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, Robert was preceded in death by three of his sisters: Patricia Winkler Chastain Pfister, Martha Winkler Cox, and Mary Jane Winkler Hester.

Funeral services will be held at 2:00 PM on Friday, November 15, 2024, at Davenport Funeral Home. A private burial service will be held at Frederick Memorial Gardens in Gaffney.

A visitation will be held at 1:00 PM, prior to the service, at Davenport Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be sent to Disabled American Veterans at help.dav.org.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **15**. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Davenport Funeral Home
311 S Highway 11
West Union, SC 29696
(864) 638-3611
davenportfhome@gmail.com
<https://www.davenportfuneralhome.com>

Funeral Service

NOV **15**. 2:00 PM (ET)

Davenport Funeral Home
311 S Highway 11
West Union, SC 29696
(864) 638-3611
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Tribute Wall

KH

“ I met Mr Robert Winkleramy many years ago working at Kelly's Furniture what a beautiful garden he KEPT UP YEARLY and to the Ladies Stephanie and her partner Jennifer for Keeping it going and caring for Mr Robert Prayers to all



Kristy Burns Henderson - February 09, 2025 at 07:32 AM

EM

“ Eddie Moore lit a candle in memory of Robert Winkler,



Eddie Moore - November 27, 2024 at 11:10 PM

OT

“ OTED Quality Team purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Mr. Robert Davis Winkler, Sr..



OTED Quality Team - November 15, 2024 at 09:02 AM

OT

“ OTED Quality Team planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Robert Davis Winkler, Sr..

OTED Quality Team - November 15, 2024 at 09:02 AM



“ *Enduring Grace was purchased for the family of Mr. Robert Davis Winkler, Sr..*



November 14, 2024 at 02:51 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mr. Robert Davis Winkler, Sr..

November 14, 2024 at 02:51 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Robert Davis Winkler, Sr..*



November 14, 2024 at 12:27 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mr. Robert Davis Winkler, Sr..

November 14, 2024 at 12:27 PM

SR

“ Stephanie Rogers sent a virtual gift in memory of Robert Winkler,



Stephanie Rogers - November 14, 2024 at 11:49 AM

KH

Oh Stephanie my heart breaks for you 💔 I know how close you were to Robert you and Jennifer spent countless hours tending to Mr. Robert! I was fortunate to have met him many years ago when I worked at Kelley's Furniture!!!! He was a hoot and boy did he have one heck of a garden EVERY YEAR and thanks 🙏 to you Ladies for carrying that on for Mr. Winkler thanks for all you did the work the heart you had for this tremendous man!!! And thank you as well Jennifer prayers to you beautiful ladies 💔🙏💔🏠🙏 He sure did love you Ladies and all the hard work and dedication 💪 you ladies did for him! Prayers for Yaw and the rest of Mr Robert Winklers Family 💔🙏

Kristy Burns Henderson - February 09, 2025 at 07:29 AM

SR

“ Stephanie Rogers sent a virtual gift in memory of Robert Winkler,



Stephanie Rogers - November 14, 2024 at 11:48 AM

T5

“ *Teamsters Local Union 509 purchased the Rainbow Of Remembrance Spray for the family of Mr. Robert Davis Winkler, Sr..*



Teamsters Local Union 509 - November 14, 2024 at 11:41 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mr. Robert Davis Winkler, Sr..

November 14, 2024 at 11:34 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. Robert Davis Winkler, Sr..*



November 14, 2024 at 11:34 AM

MP

“ *Michael Powell lit a candle in memory of Robert Winkler,*



Michael Powell - November 14, 2024 at 10:21 AM

SB

“ *Scott Blackwell lit a candle in memory of Robert Winkler,*



Scott Blackwell - November 14, 2024 at 08:09 AM

SR

“ *Stephanie Rogers lit a candle in memory of Robert Winkler,*



Stephanie Rogers - November 14, 2024 at 12:19 AM



“ *Jamey White lit a candle in memory of Robert Winkler,*



Jamey White - November 13, 2024 at 09:19 PM

LW

“ *Linda Winkler-Fuller-Freeman lit a candle in memory of Robert Winkler,*



Linda Winkler-Fuller-Freeman - November 13, 2024 at 08:40 PM

LW

I will miss my brother as well as my sisters.

Linda Winkler-Fuller-Freeman - November 17, 2024 at 08:57 PM

DD

“ *Daniel and Melissa Duncan sent a virtual gift in memory of Robert Winkler,*



Daniel and Melissa Duncan - November 13, 2024 at 05:18 PM

WS

“ *Wayne and Peggy Sibbett lit a candle in memory of Robert Winkler,*



Wayne and Peggy Sibbett - November 13, 2024 at 04:59 PM

PG

“ *Phil Garrett lit a candle in memory of Robert Winkler,*



Phil Garrett - November 13, 2024 at 02:52 PM

SR

“ Stephanie Rogers lit a candle in memory of Robert Winkler,



Stephanie Rogers - November 13, 2024 at 11:57 AM

SR

“ He was like a grandpa to me. being with him or on the phone with him everyday for 11 years i feel lost. we have so many memories. i love you Robert and will miss you terribly. my heart is broken.

Stephanie Rogers - November 13, 2024 at 11:56 AM

JH

“ Thank you for your service. God bless the family



Judy Higgins - November 13, 2024 at 11:09 AM

JT

“ Julie Thompson sent a virtual gift in memory of Robert Winkler,



Julie Thompson - November 13, 2024 at 08:19 AM

JL

“ So sorry for your loss. Love you, Mark! Prayers for the family at this difficult time.



Joyce Sharpe Lusk - November 13, 2024 at 05:22 AM

DJ

“ Dennis and Joanne purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Mr. Robert Davis Winkler, Sr..



Dennis and Joanne - November 12, 2024 at 09:49 PM

FC

“ Frieda Cobb sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Robert Davis Winkler, Sr.



Frieda Cobb - November 12, 2024 at 09:02 PM

AA

“ Thinking of your family during this time.



Alton Kathy Alexander - November 12, 2024 at 08:48 PM

IR

“ *Dink&Iris Duncan Lit a candle for Mr. Robert David Winkler Sr.*



irisduncan - November 12, 2024 at 07:53 PM

PA

“ *Thanks, Mr. Winkler for your service, Sir.*

Philip Addis - November 12, 2024 at 07:47 PM

BJ

“ *Becky Johnson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Robert Davis Winkler, Sr.*



Becky Johnson - November 12, 2024 at 07:14 PM

DQ

“ *Prayers for the family and friends* 🙏🙏



Durell and Carol Quarles - November 12, 2024 at 04:46 PM

GC

“ Prayers and love to the family and friends 🙏
❤️



Gene Carpenter - November 12, 2024 at 04:29 PM

BN

“ Billy and Ralphie Nix lit a candle in memory of
Robert Winkler,



Billy and Ralphie Nix - November 12, 2024 at 04:23 PM