



Keith Alan Willis

February 15, 2009

U.S. Coast Guard Cmdr. Keith Alan Willis, 44, passed away Feb. 13, 2009, in Kittery, Maine. Cmdr. Keith Willis assumed command of USCGC TAHOMA WMEC 908 home-ported in Kittery in May of 2007. Prior to USCGC TAHOMA, he served as the Coast Guard Liaison at Commander, U.S. Second Fleet and the Assistant Coast Guard Liaison at U.S. Fleet Forces Command and Joint Forces Command from August 2004 through August 2006 in Suffolk. Comdr. Willis was a 1989 graduate of the United States Coast Guard Academy with a Bachelor of Science in government. He then furthered his education and earned a master's degree in public administration from Troy State University in 2000 and a master's degree in national security policy from the U.S. Naval War College in 2004. He enlisted in the Coast Guard as a seaman apprentice in 1983. Keith is survived by his wife of 15 years, Carolyn Ann Willis; a daughter, Melissa Willis; a son, Matthew Willis; his parents, Erlene Tandy Willis and Harlon Clyde Willis; a sister, Karen S. Stowe and brother-in-law, Jeff Stowe. He also leaves behind numerous other devoted relatives and friends. Keith was a member of the Churchland Assembly of God where he served as Royal Ranger Commander. He loved to play basketball and his favorite team was the University of North Carolina Tar Heels. He also enjoyed golf and was an amateur painter. A funeral to celebrate Keith's life will be held Monday at 1 p.m. in Churchland Assembly of God by Pastor Larry O'Brien. Burial will follow the service in the Albert G. Horton Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery, Suffolk, with full military honors. The family will receive friends Sunday from 3 to 5

p.m. in Loving Funeral Home, 3225 Academy Ave., Portsmouth. Memorial contributions in Keith's memory may be made to the Willis Children's Scholarship Fund set up by his Coast Guard Academy classmates with checks made payable to Class of 1989 Trust, c/o Mr. Charles Coiro, 3 Rainbow Court, Quaker Hill, CT 06375 or go to www.USCG89.org.

Tribute Wall



“ I was so saddened to hear about Keith's passing! We were good friends throughout our high school years and I have alot a fond memories. It didn't surprise me at all to find out how much he accomplished in his USCG career. Anyone who knew him should feel blessed to have known such a good quality person that he was! I know it has been a few years , but I wish ALL of his family well! God Bless and RIP Keith!##imported-begin##Lance Jennette##imported-end##

January 11, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ To the family and friends of CDR Willis. I am sorry to hear of his passing two years too late.

I am a buddy of Keith's. We graduated from Boost in San Diego, CA together in 1985.... after Boost he headed to the USCG Academy. Going to the academy was his dream.

He was from the outer banks of North Carolina a small town called Frisco if I remember correctly and was third generation in the Coast Guard.

He was a great fellow and a good friend. I was trying to find him on facebook to catch up with him and instead found out about his death.

I wish I could have spent more time with him over the years. He was a quality person.

Love, Bob Barnes Keith called me Bulldog##imported-begin##Bulldog Bob Barnes##imported-end##

May 23, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ I am sorry to hear about Keith's death. He influenced so many people. He was a special person.##imported-begin##Martha Fisher Barnes##imported-end##

March 26, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *To the Willis Family--
We are saddened by the news of your loss. Emma sends a hug to
Melissa and wants her to know that she is thinking of her during this
very sad time. You are all in our hearts.*

*The Barkers, Eliot, Maine##imported-begin##Martha
Barker##imported-end##*

March 10, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *Melissa and Family. My prayers are with you all. Please know that
your family at Portsmouth Catholic School will be here to help
comfort you. Ms. Patty##imported-begin##Patricia A.
Piovane##imported-end##*

March 01, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *The lord must have needed a good Skipper. God bless you all. Rest
in peace my brother
Chuck Goodspeed
Former BM3
USCGC Acacia.##imported-begin##Chuck Goodspeed##imported-
end##*

February 26, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Mrs. Willis & Family-

With the highest regard and gratitude for the Commander's service and yours, our condolences on your loss. Our hearts and prayers are with you.

We trust the Commander will keep watch.##imported-begin##USCG AUX Flotilla 081-02-03##imported-end##

February 24, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ To the Family Of Keith Willis.

Please know that Keith was loved by all the people he touched. He was the brightest person I ever knew. He always knew what he wanted. He never knew a stranger. We will pray for you daily as you hold tightly to your memories.

In Him,

Johnny & Jettie Miller##imported-begin##Johnny & Jettie Miller##imported-end##

February 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Keith you were a good man. I'll see you on the other side.

RIP##imported-begin##Obie L. Hill, USCG Ret##imported-end##

February 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *To the Willis Family:
Although my time with CDR Willis onboard the Harriet Lane was brief and short, I remember his quiet demeanor, his willingness to listen, ask questions, and understand from those who he was responsible for. I'm terribly sorry for your loss. He was a great shipmate on the Harriet Lane, and a wonderful and respected leader and mentor.##imported-begin##Steven Carriere##imported-end##*

February 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *Dear Carolyn and Family,
With deepest sympathy for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.##imported-begin##RADM & MRS BRIAN SALERNO##imported-end##*

February 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *Our son, ET-2 Brendan Crowley, served aboard USCGC Tahoma with Cdr. Willis as his CO. CDR. Willis encouraged Bren to apply for the USCG Academy and gave him a wonderful recommendation. Brendan is finishing his first year as a Cadet at the Academy and was very upset when they announced CDR. Willis's passing over PA system while he was in class. Godspeed Commander, and Thank-You.##imported-begin##John and Carolyn Crowley##imported-end##*

February 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Carolyn,

Our family has you and the children in our thoughts and prayers.

Love, Mary Carole and Dave Gallano

Keith, Shereen, Evan and Alex Bugada##imported-begin##Mary Gallano##imported-end##

February 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Carolyn we have never met but I knew Keith through our years at the Academy. It has been many years since I've heard from him but I see nothing had changed. Always a positive person his smile was contagious and his company always welcomed. He will always be in our memory, never out of our hearts and the love he gave to all will never be lost. I'm praying the Grace of God will carry you and the family through this difficult time.##imported-begin##Kenneth Nieves##imported-end##

February 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear CAROLYN and Family,
The number of fellow Coastguardsmen who have shared how deeply Keith impacted their lives professionally and spiritually is a tribute to the husband and father that he was to you. He was a true servant-leader filled with the compassion of Jesus Christ his Lord. May all the sweet memories of your 15 years of married life together bring many moments of joy and happiness over the years ahead, until that day you are reunited around the Throne of the Lamb of God Almighty.
IN JESUS' Love,
Vic Primeaux, CDR,USCG ret###imported-begin##Victor & Cindy Primeaux###imported-end##

February 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Erlene, I was shocked to hear about the death of a young Coast Guard commander from Frisco. I was even more shocked to learn that Keith was your son. I can only imagine the heartache you are suffering. My thoughts and prayers are with you.##imported-begin##Beth Beck Williams##imported-end##

February 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ I knew Keith from my active duty days in the Coast Guard while stationed at MLCLANT. Keith was assigned to LANTAREA and was part of our team's senior officer between 1998 and 1999 for the yearly Caribbean Tradewinds Exercises that provided maritime logistics and operational support under U.S. SOUTHCOM. I remember him as a good leader and a good friend for any situation that required his attention and support. I am comforted to know that he was also a Christian. I'll miss you brother but GOD needs you on his team now.##imported-begin##John L. McEwen, CWO4F&S, USCG, Retired##imported-end##

February 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ My love and heart felt prayers goes to you and the family.Sending a big hug your way.The Esland Family xoxoxo##imported-begin##somali molly##imported-end##

February 21, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Tammy and Erlene we are very sorry for passing of your son Keith. He was a son that you could be proud of. He had achieved a lot in his life. He grew up with our children and he'll be missed by many.##imported-begin##Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Printz##imported-end##

February 21, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ ##imported-begin##Dan Printz##imported-end##

February 21, 2009 at 12:00 AM