



Darrell Wade Wheat

June 6, 1957 - May 17, 2026

Darrell Wade Wheat, age 68, of Karns, went to be with the Lord suddenly on Sunday, May 17, 2026.

Darrell Wheat's life was defined by duty.

For more than four decades, he served his community as a police officer, carrying the burdens and responsibilities that come with protecting others. Before that, he served his country in the United States Air Force, continuing a family tradition rooted in service, discipline, and honor. Those values were not abstract ideas to Darrell. They were principles he lived by every day, quietly and consistently, through work, sacrifice, and devotion to his family.

Darrell believed that a man's responsibilities mattered. He believed in showing up, in doing difficult things without complaint, and in taking care of the people who depended on him. Much of his life was spent working long hours so that his children could have opportunities he himself never asked for. The life he built was not one centered on recognition or praise, but on providing stability, protection, and love for his family. The impact of that example can still be seen today in the paths many of his children chose, with several going on to serve others in security, emergency services, and related professions. Service was not simply something Darrell did. It became part of the legacy he passed on.

Though he carried the rough exterior of a longtime police officer, those closest to him knew there was much more beneath it. He loved science fiction, especially Star Trek, and he could spend hours enjoying Elvis Presley, the music of the 1960s and 1970s, or classic John Wayne films. There was something deeply human in that contrast: a tough man shaped by duty who still carried a genuine love for imagination, storytelling, music, and nostalgia. He also spent part of his childhood in the Philippines, an experience that remained part of the story of his life and identity.

At the center of everything was his family. Darrell was married to his wife for more than forty-five years, building a life together grounded in loyalty, endurance, and commitment. Together they raised a large family that includes children and grandchildren who will carry forward both his memory and the values he spent a lifetime trying to instill. He was preceded in death by his parents, Kermit and Mabel Wheat. Left to forever remember Darrell are his wife of forty-five years, Denise Wheat; their children, Travis Wheat, Samantha Long, Tromila(Afa) Maile, Teona Rutherford, Treston, Raven, Moriah, Destin, Ebony, Jaden, Wheat (Hannah, Jazmine, Brycen); grandchildren, Nathaniel, Sarah Grace, Carter, Ben, Ana Lia, Eliam, Lincoln, Finiasi, Reagan, Ace, Alani; siblings, Steven Wheat (Robin), David Wheat (Judy) , Barbara Wheat and Calvin Wheat (Cindy); and a host of nieces, nephews, and bonus children and grandchildren.

Darrell Wheat was not a man who sought attention. He did not need to. His character spoke for him. He served his country, served his community, and served his family faithfully for decades. The measure of his life is found not only in the years he worked or the titles he held, but in the people he protected, the family he built, and the example he left behind.

He will be deeply missed, deeply honored, and deeply loved.

The family will receive friends on Friday, May 22nd from 5:00-7:00 PM at Faith Promise Church-Pellissippi Campus with the funeral to follow at 7:00 PM with law enforcement honors presented by the Knox County Sheriff's Office Honor Guard.

Family and friends will meet at Fielden Funeral Home in New Market on Wednesday, June 3rd at 11:15 AM for a procession to East Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery for a 12:30 PM inurnment service with full military honors by East Tennessee Veterans Honor Guard. Fielden Funeral Home in New Market is honored to serve the Wheat family.

Cemetery Details

East Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery

2200 E. Governor John Sevier Hwy.
Knoxville, TN 37920

Previous Events

Receiving of Friends

MAY 22. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Faith Promise Church
10740 Faith Promise Ln
Knoxville , TN 37931

Funeral Service

MAY 22. 7:00 PM (ET)

Faith Promise Church
10740 Faith Promise Ln
Knoxville , TN 37931

Inurnment

JUN 3. 12:30 PM (ET)

East Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery
2200 E. Governor John Sevier Hwy.
Knoxville, TN 37920

Tribute Wall



“ *Fielden Funeral Home Inc. created a Tribute Video in memory of Darrell Wade Wheat*



Fielden Funeral Home Inc. - May 21 at 10:30 AM

DC

*Denise,
My thoughts and prayers are with you and your children. I know this is such a loss!!!!*

Debbie Christiansen

Debbie Christiansen - May 24 at 04:20 PM

SH

“ *I worked with Darrell many, many ago at KC SO. He was a man of integrity, respect and compassion. He stood head and shoulders amongst his peers.
Prayers of peace and comfort to his family.*



Sherry Hopkins - May 25 at 02:39 AM

AH

“ *Darrell was a sweet and gentle man with a heart warming smile. So beloved and so deeply missed. Love and prayers, Denise, Travis, Tromila, Tiana, and Treston.*

Angie Hurst - May 22 at 09:16 AM

LF

“ Love, The Crabtree Family purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Darrell Wade Wheat.



Love, The Crabtree Family - May 21 at 05:06 PM

AT

“ Aaron's InfoSec Team purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Darrell Wade Wheat.



Aaron's InfoSec Team - May 21 at 11:02 AM

AT

“ Aaron's InfoSec Team planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Darrell Wade Wheat.

Aaron's InfoSec Team - May 21 at 11:02 AM

MP

“ Prayers for the family during this time of loss! Ebony, I am so sorry for your loss. Michelle P



Michelle Pitsenbarger - May 21 at 06:10 AM

ES

“ East TN Surge purchased the Beautiful Heart Boquet for the family of Darrell Wade Wheat.



East TN Surge - May 20 at 04:51 PM

JR

“ Darrell worked on my shift for a while, he was a great guy, a pleasure to be around. He was a great officer. I had the pleasure of seeing him at lunch a couple of months ago, we had a really nice visit.

Sorry for the loss of Darrell, he will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

May God Bless all of his family and loved ones.

Joe Russell (retired Lt. KCSO)



Joe Russell - May 20 at 04:44 PM

SH

“ Sheila purchased the Small Garden Dish for the family of Darrell Wade Wheat.



Sheila - May 20 at 04:37 PM

CG

“ Charis G. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Darrell Wade Wheat.

Charis G. - May 20 at 08:34 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Darrell Wade Wheat.*



May 20 at 07:09 AM



“ *There are many great memories. Darrel was a supportive, loving husband to Denise and their children. He was a respectful officer, treating people with dignity. He worked, like most officers several extra jobs. He made my daughter feel safe. No one is perfect. He did some funny things in hindsight. However, he loved all of his children and Grandchildren. He took special care of his dragon Slayer. The is a hole in all of our hearts for now, it will take time to heal.*

Tracy Silver - May 20 at 12:36 AM