



MSP, Chief Douglas DeLeaver

December 22, 1946 - October 16, 2024

Douglas “Doug” DeLeaver was born December 22, 1946, on the eastside of Baltimore, Maryland. The fourth of eight children, he was born to the late James and Clara DeLeaver (née Gaskins). Uniquely, Douglas is the only one of his siblings who does not have a middle name. He passed away peacefully at home on October 16, 2024.

Douglas was educated in the Baltimore City Public School System, graduating from Paul Laurence Dunbar High School in 1964. Despite being built for basketball at 6’4”, Douglas lettered in golf, tennis, marching band and participated in two additional marching bands for the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He furthered his education through numerous trainings and certifications related to law enforcement and criminal justice.

In April 1974, Douglas eloped with Margie Washington. They renewed their vows after 20 years of marriage and celebrated 50 years of marriage in 2024. Their union bore their only child, Shareese Nicole. Doug was a proud Girl Dad, always

boasting about Shareese, whom he affectionately called “Buttons” whenever he had the chance.

Proud Poppy to granddaughters, Isabella and Avery, he loved to tell jokes, make special breakfasts, and play a hand slap game with them he named “Woozy Woozy.” Although girls surrounded him, Ellington, his son-in-law, was like a son to him. They enjoyed long conversations about sports and about Doug’s time as a police officer. Doug also loved the fact that Ellington was handy, a quality he did not possess.

Douglas served in the United States Army from 1966-1969. Following his honorable discharge, Douglas began his 22-year career in the Maryland State Police (MSP), where he was a trailblazer for African American troopers. He was the 13th African American to join the Maryland State Police, graduating from the 64th class of the Maryland State Police Academy in June 1970. Throughout his truly diverse law enforcement career, Douglas worked narcotics, contract murders, alcohol speed enforcement, intelligence, hostage negotiations, equal employment, and administration units. He was a hostage negotiator, certified law enforcement assessor, and wrote and gave training courses throughout the nation related to

law enforcement promotional processes. His proudest post was in the Executive Protection Unit, where he served Governors Mandel, Lee, and Hughes from 1977 to 1982. He retired as a 1st Lieutenant in 1992.

Never one to sit idle, Douglas returned to the workforce after retirement, many times in fact. It became a running joke among friends and family about how many different agencies he had served and connections he had made over the years.

Doug was employed with the Maryland Transportation Authority Police from 1998 to 2000 as the director of Strategic Planning and Development. He served as chief of the Maryland Transit Administration Police from 2000 to 2007. He served as superintendent of the Natural Resources Police (NRP), the first African American to lead the agency, and marking his return to NRP, where he previously served as a captain and then major. He also served as the director of government relations for the Maryland Department of Transportation. One of his most memorable accomplishments was his successful completion of the FBI National Academy Session #167, in Quantico, Virginia, in 1991. He earned a brick for completing the Yellow Brick Road, a 6.1 mile long, hilly, wooded running trail built by the United States Marines.

He concluded his career in the private industry, holding positions as the chairman at Brekford and the director of security at Curio Wellness. As president of DeLeaver & Associates, he was a mass transportation consultant with the Office of Homeland Security.

Douglas had many nicknames among his family and friends – Chief, Colonel, 1 Adam-12, Bingo Bear, Big Boy, Dudley/Dougley Do Right, and Frank to name a few. He was affectionately known as “Dude” by Margie and “Doogas” by Shareese.

Doug was a devoted and distinguished public servant, committed to making a lasting impact through his service. He was very active in the law enforcement community including serving as the president of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE), the Maryland chapter of NOBLE, as well as the Maryland Chiefs of Police Association. He had such a passion for NOBLE that he asked Shareese to write a poem, “Blessing of the Badge,” that is read at a yearly ceremony in honor of NOBLE members. In 2008, Doug was recognized in Ebony Magazine’s “Ebony Power 150” as one of the 150 Black leaders who made a difference in the United States.

Doug was a member of many boards and governmental organizations related to minorities, law enforcement, and transportation. Doug previously was the president of the men’s group at his home church in Harford County, John Wesley United Methodist Church.

Doug was truly a people person, and it did not take long for him to consider someone a close friend. He loved running errands and was on a first name basis with the employees at Giant, his favorite grocery store. He had dreams of winning the lottery, inventing a bumper sticker with a catchy phrase, and writing a book about his experiences as an African American police officer.

While Doug wasn't one for many hobbies, in his younger days, he played softball with the MSP softball league and loved to roller skate. He loved to play cards, especially poker and Uno. He was most passionate about cooking and felt most at home in the kitchen. Much to his wife's delight, he did most of the cooking for the family and passed his love of cooking onto his daughter. He also loved to sit in his La-Z-Boy and watch TV with his beloved dog, also named Buttons. It's no surprise that COPS was one of his favorite programs.

Douglas is survived by his wife, Margie, their daughter Shareese, son-in-law, Ellington, granddaughters, Isabella and Avery, siblings Rodney (Mary), Jacquelyn (Curtis), and Michelle (Eric), as well as many brothers and sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews, and loved ones. He is preceded in death by his beloved parents, as well as his brothers James and Jesse and his sisters, Janice and Cynthia.

Previous Events

Public Viewing

OCT **29**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

March Life Tribute Center - Randallstown
5616 Old Court Rd
Windsor Mill, MD 21244
(410) 655-0110

Wake

OCT **30**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

March Life Tribute Center - Randallstown
5616 Old Court Rd
Windsor Mill, MD 21244
(410) 655-0110

Funeral Service

OCT **30**. 11:00 AM (ET)

March Life Tribute Center - Randallstown
5616 Old Court Rd
Windsor Mill, MD 21244
(410) 655-0110

Interment

OCT **30**. 1:00 PM (ET)

King Memorial Park Cemetery- Grand Heritage Chapel & Mausoleum
8710 Dogwood Rd.
Baltimore, MD 21244
(410) 944-8300
info@kingmemorialpark.com
<https://www.KingMemorialPark.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *March Life Tribute Centers - Randallstown created a Webcast in memory of MSP, Chief Douglas DeLeaver*



March Life Tribute Centers - October 26, 2024 at 09:05 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of MSP, Chief Douglas DeLeaver.

October 30, 2024 at 07:49 PM



“ *Bernadette Fowlkes-Bridges lit a candle in memory of MSP, Chief Douglas DeLeaver*



Bernadette Fowlkes-Bridges - October 30, 2024 at 12:05 PM



“ *Mark D. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of MSP, Chief Douglas DeLeaver.*

Mark D. - October 30, 2024 at 10:17 AM



“ *Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of MSP, Chief Douglas DeLeaver.*



October 29, 2024 at 10:24 AM



“ *Vernon & Joann Murray purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of MSP, Chief Douglas DeLeaver.*



Vernon & Joann Murray - October 29, 2024 at 08:53 AM



“ *Jim and Pat Fielder purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of MSP, Chief Douglas DeLeaver.*



Jim and Pat Fielder - October 29, 2024 at 08:44 AM



“ *Jim and Pat Fielder planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of MSP, Chief Douglas DeLeaver.*

Jim and Pat Fielder - October 29, 2024 at 08:44 AM

WD

“ I extend my sincerest condolences to Margie, Sherese, and the entire family. Anyone who knew Doug knew he loved his family above all else. He was super proud of Sherese, and he doted on those granddaughters. Next, he loved to cook and didn't mind sharing his latest recipes and cooking techniques. He also loved a nice cold Nesquick Chocolate Milk waiting when my staff picked him up at the airport when he arrived in Atlanta. Doug and I had a great friendship. We knew each other through NOBLE and worked in the same industry when he was the Chief of the Maryland Transit Police (MTA), and then I was up for transit Chief of MARTA. Doug became a great mentor to me in the transit police chief space, but our friendship continued, so much so that I asked Doug to write *The Forward* for my first book. He was as proud of that book as if he had written it himself; that was the type of friend Doug was, always the biggest cheerleader in the room. He had a heart of gold and a great spirit and was always willing to help anyone in need. Doug will be sorely missed, but I am so grateful that I had an opportunity to call Doug Deleaver my friend. It breaks my heart that I will not be able to be there with you all in person; however, I will be viewing the service and be with you all in spirit. Thank you, family, for sharing Doug with the world. Rest In Power, My Friend. Wanda Dunham (retired Chief).

Wanda Dunham - October 28, 2024 at 12:43 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of MSP, Chief Douglas DeLeaver.



October 28, 2024 at 11:52 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of MSP, Chief Douglas DeLeaver.*



October 28, 2024 at 08:42 AM



“ *Wm. & Janet Downing purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of MSP, Chief Douglas DeLeaver.*



Wm. & Janet Downing - October 28, 2024 at 07:10 AM



“ *Wm. & Janet Downing planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Douglas DeLeaver.*

Wm. & Janet Downing - October 28, 2024 at 07:10 AM



“ *Enlow family purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of MSP, Chief Douglas DeLeaver.*



Enlow family - October 27, 2024 at 11:01 PM

EF

“ *Enlow family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Douglas DeLeaver.*

Enlow family - October 27, 2024 at 11:01 PM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of MSP, Chief Douglas DeLeaver.*



October 27, 2024 at 03:23 PM

RS

“ *I am saddened to learn of Doug's passing. Throughout many years on and off the job, I could always count on Doug for a kind word and smile. Doug was always upbeat. I could count on Doug to give me a pat on the back or a slap on the head, which ever he thought I deserved at the time. I truly enjoyed Doug's friendship. For many years we league bowled together and enjoyed many laughs in the process. My sincere sympathy to his family and to all of his friends.*

*Raymond J. Clasing, Sr.
Forest Hill, Maryland*

Raymond J. Clasing, Sr. - October 26, 2024 at 08:30 PM

ES

“ I met Doug when he was a corporal with MSP. He sat on my oral interview board. His continued words of encouragement and support during the 6 months of "H__ L" we all had to endure while attending the MSP Academy, helped me make it through. Thank you Doug. Rest in peace.

Eric May, Sr.

Eric May, Sr. - October 26, 2024 at 06:18 PM

WP

“ Walter P. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Douglas DeLeaver.

Walter P. - October 26, 2024 at 05:29 PM

NA

“ Doug and I were in the Maryland State Police together. I was the 10th African American to join in 1969, and Doug was the 13th. We became friends, and I introduced him to my wife. During the visit, he saw a picture of my wife's sister and asked who she was. I said, "That's my sister Margie. " Well, he was instantly attracted to her and wanted an introduction. We introduced him to Margie and fast forward, he became my brother-in-law for the next 50 years. On another note, the family at one time had three Maryland State Troopers, myself, Doug, and my late brother-in-law, Wayne Scriber.

Nathaniel Alston - October 26, 2024 at 11:08 AM

MD

I met Doug after I graduated from the State Police Academy. While working radar one evening. Doug and the late Milt Lilly drove through my radar zone at a high rate of speed to get my attention. From that time on we became good friends. Six years later Doug talked me into transferring into the Executive Protection Detail. If Doug was your friend, you knew you had a great friend. He will be missed by me and my family. My He Rest In Peace

Marvin Dorsey - October 26, 2024 at 07:12 PM

MM

“ Mason McGlasson purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of MSP, Chief Douglas DeLeaver.



Mason McGlasson - October 26, 2024 at 10:03 AM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of MSP, Chief Douglas DeLeaver.



October 25, 2024 at 02:00 PM

HN

“ Doug, such an amazing person in so many ways.... and the biggest heart! I will truly miss his authenticity and kindness!!! Your friend, Hajir

Hajir Nuriddin - October 25, 2024 at 11:03 AM



“ I worked with Chief DeLeaver years ago. He was such a nice man. He is such a great loss to all those who knew him. RIP Chief DeLeaver.

Lisa Turnbaugh

Lisa Turnbaugh - October 25, 2024 at 10:58 AM

YH

“ Your friend, Cynthia Herriott purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of MSP, Chief Douglas DeLeaver.



Your friend, Cynthia Herriott - October 25, 2024 at 10:35 AM

MP

“ Mary Pape planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Douglas DeLeaver.

Mary Pape - October 25, 2024 at 09:02 AM

MB

“ Prayers of comfort & peace to you, Cousins.
With Love, Monica & Tony Beyer

Monica Beyer - October 24, 2024 at 08:46 PM

JT

“ *My Condolences to Margie and Family.*



JoyceAnn Thomas-Farmer - October 23, 2024 at 10:05 PM

JC

“ *Jeff, Denise and Sarah Cooke purchased the Encanted Cottage for the family of MSP, Chief Douglas DeLeaver.*



Jeff, Denise and Sarah Cooke - October 22, 2024 at 04:47 PM

JC

“ *Jeff, Denise and Sarah Cooke planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Douglas DeLeaver.*

Jeff, Denise and Sarah Cooke - October 22, 2024 at 04:47 PM



“ *Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of MSP, Chief Douglas DeLeaver.*



October 22, 2024 at 11:09 AM

BF

“ Bro. Dexter Jennings & Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of MSP, Chief Douglas DeLeaver.



Bro. Dexter Jennings & Family - October 21, 2024 at 05:28 PM

DC

“ Doug was such a nice man, a great, warm smile that he shared with everyone. He made you feel like an important person whenever he interacted with you. He will be missed. Our condolences to the family and his friends and colleagues. Darrell Carrington

Darrell Carrington - October 21, 2024 at 04:30 PM

TD

“ When I think of Doug, I remember his big smile and big personality. I remember when he first came to DNR Tawes building. He was lived and respected and will truly be missed. Big, tight hugs to his wife and family as they go through this Extremely difficult time. God bless you make your happy memories with him help to comfort you.

Toni Danza - October 21, 2024 at 12:37 PM

TD

Sorry. Loved not lived

Toni Danza - October 21, 2024 at 12:39 PM

IL

“ Best memories are his constant professionalism, warmth and smile that will forever be remembered love Ivan Lanier

Ivan Lanier - October 20, 2024 at 05:05 PM

SL

“ My condolences to the family of this great man. Doug was an outstanding mentor to me and because of him my career advanced to limits I didn't think possible.

Stanley Lampkin - October 20, 2024 at 03:34 PM

WL

“ I met Doug when he was working for the State Police. I cannot say enough good things about him. He was and is an exceptional individual and will be greatly missed. May God be with you Doug.

William L. Lamphere - October 19, 2024 at 07:22 PM



“ I first met Doug in 2012 and had the pleasure of seeing him a few more times afterward. With each encounter, I came to appreciate what an exceptional person he was. Doug had hoped to visit me in Montreal, but sadly, time never allowed it. My deepest sympathies go out to his family, whom he spoke of with such pride. Doug, you will be dearly missed. Rest in peace

Mike Di Corpo - October 19, 2024 at 02:34 PM

MV

“ Doug was on my interview board, then at the Academy when I went through, 1987. Always had an encouraging and positive demeanor and a ready smile, thanks for all you did for us Doug.

Mike Vanek - October 19, 2024 at 01:14 PM

MS

“ Doug and I were childhood friends, that shared some fond memories growing up in East Baltimore, he will truly be missed 💔💔

Marlene Slade - October 19, 2024 at 12:09 PM

JC

“ I first met Doug when his vehicle became disabled (10-46) on Rt 295 while I was on patrol as the road Corporal out of Bak P. While awaiting tow service he began asking me about the job since he recently just got out of the Army. I gave him what the job requirements were, and what to expect going through the training. He thanked me for the information, and indicated he may look into maybe applying. Several years later while teaching Officer Survival at in service training at Pikesville he approached me during a brake asking me If I remembered him? I of course said no, and he then proceeded to tell me of our encounter and told me I was the reason that led him to apply to become a Trooper. I'm humbled to have been a small part of his law enforcement career and my condolences to his family. John K Cassady

John K Cassady - October 19, 2024 at 12:08 PM

MF

My condolences to Marjorie and the family. I remember going on NBPA conferences and Doug was just so much fun at the conferences. A man with great integrity and h will be missed by so many.

*Marti Franklin-Motton
(Ret.) BCoPD*

Marti Franklin-Motton - October 19, 2024 at 08:18 PM

NF

Well John, I guess I have you to also thank for my blessed career. We all need to remember that every interaction we have with each other, no matter how insignificant it may appear, has the potential to impact so many, positively and negatively. So, when we interact, we should leave folks with positive memories. Your brief encounter with Doug on 295 resulted in tremendous good for so many.

Neill Franklin - October 21, 2024 at 04:30 PM

DL

“ *Dave and Rose Letourneau. purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of MSP, Chief Douglas DeLeaver.*



Dave and Rose Letourneau. - October 19, 2024 at 12:03 PM

CH

“ *I feel blessed to have known him. He appointed me to my first leadership role at NOBLE National. He set a great example in how he cared about people.*

Cynthia Herriott - October 19, 2024 at 12:03 PM

FS

“ *So blessed to have worked with Doug at The Maryland State Police and The Maryland Transportation Authority Police...Thoughts and prayers to all family and friends...*

Frances Sudano - October 19, 2024 at 10:22 AM

 Wayne Jirsa

“ *He named me stick when I met him at Valley Barrack after leaving the academy. I believe he made me the man I am. I loved this man. He would have me babysitting Charice when he had to leave for work early. If Doug liked you , you were part of his wonderful family. God I miss those days. Surely he is with God.*

Wayne Jirsa - October 19, 2024 at 10:21 AM

WV

“ There is one less great man in this world with the passing of Doug. Doug met me at the Waldorf Barrack where he took me under his large wing. He was my mentor roommate and friend. I will truly miss Doug I love you man

William Vogt - October 19, 2024 at 09:13 AM

CT

“ My condolences to Doug's family. I had the pleasure to meet and get to know Doug during my career with the Maryland State Police. He was always friendly with a smile on his face as he greeted you as a friend. Doug will be missed as we lose another of Maryland's Finest!! Rest well my friend 🙏🙏

Charlie Towns - October 19, 2024 at 09:04 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of MSP, Chief Douglas DeLeaver.



October 19, 2024 at 08:27 AM

NF

“ I guess I’ll begin around 50 years ago when I first met Doug. I was 14 or so when he came to the house to celebrate David’s, my brother, appointment into the State Police. As you know, Doug claims he was 6’5” when he was most likely 6’4”, but to me he was 8 feet tall, especially back then. At that time, I had no idea that I would become a state trooper, not even a clue. Unlike many, I did not grow up wanting to become a police officer of any kind. But somewhere over the following two years, unknowing to him, my brother David’s influence grew on me and I signed up. David had the most influence over my career and life, and then there’s Doug, and the rest is history.

From day one in the academy, Doug would pop in and out from time to time. I was fortunate enough to be in his presence from time to time, absorbing his wisdom, or at least pretending to. His advice kept my mind safe from 1/Sgt. Pat Butcher... that’s a whole nother story. 🙄 But soon after graduating from the academy and a very short stint at College Park, I went into Special Services (narcotics), and there Doug was again, watching over me.

As the promotions came, Doug introduced me to assessment centers and we traveled the country together assessing the promotional potential of troopers and police officers throughout many states. The benefits obtained from this exercise are unmeasurable. As with many others, from assignments, to promotions, to the saving of my butt, Doug was there. Even after the State Police, from starting a business together to saving me from an “out of control” police commissioner, Doug was there.

I have so much more to say about this larger than life man, but for brevity’s sake I’ll close here. I say all of this because if not for Doug, I would not have the enormous career that I have had. Which means that I would not be where I am positioned today, which includes the wonderful wife and son that I have.

Doug has touched many lives during his time here... he has gone above and beyond in doing God’s work. Well done my Brother!

Time to rest! 🙏🙏

Neill Franklin - October 18, 2024 at 09:20 PM

BD

Well said Neil, a wonderful post for a great Trooper.

Bryan Davy - October 19, 2024 at 06:51 PM

NF

I'm really going to miss him Bryan.

Neill Franklin - October 21, 2024 at 04:17 PM

M(

“ We the March Family and Staff wish to extend our deepest and heartfelt sympathy in the passing of your loved one. Our prayers go out to you and your family in your time of loss. We know and understand that you have received many expressions of love and we will continue to lift you up in prayer. May the memories you cherish of brighter and happier days help to ease your sorrow and comfort you always.

March Life Tribute Center (Randallstown) - October 18, 2024 at 10:53 AM