

# Police Officer Matthew Smeller (1968-2016)

Matt was born December 18, 1968, in Barberton, Ohio to Paul and Ellen Smeller. After graduating from Wadsworth (OH) High School in 1987, Matt enrolled at Kent State University in their nationally acclaimed aeronautics/flight technology program.



While attending Kent, Matt worked four years for the campus security service, which enabled him to graduate debt free with a bachelor of science degree in 1991.

After college and graduating from the Ohio State Police Academy, in November 1991, Matt joined the Wyoming Police Department. He resigned March 1999 after 12 total years of law enforcement service.

Matt had served as a certified flight instructor while in college. During 1999 Officer Smeller accepted a position as a freight pilot flying for Airnet Systems of Columbus. He moved to Comair, based in Cincinnati, 18 months later, eventually attaining the rank of captain of a crew based at JFK International Airport in New York City. He transferred to the Dallas area and then was hired by Southwest Airlines during 2011.

An avid world traveler, Matt visited all six of the inhabited continents. He was also a certified scuba diver, a fourth-degree black belt in Tae Kwan Do, and an accomplished photographer.

Officer Smeller was diagnosed during 2015 with West Nile Virus. He passed away unexpectedly on September 24, 2016 in Arlington, Texas at the age of 47.

Officer Smeller is survived by his parents; siblings, Paul (Peggy) Smeller, Carl (Michelle) Smeller, and Christina Joy; nephew Tristan Smeller; and fiancée, Natasha Heidlage.

Cremation has taken place, and a celebration of Matt's life is being planned for early November at the Japanese Gardens in Fort Worth.

In lieu of flowers, condolences may be made via Matt's Facebook page, or care of Greenwood Arlington Chapel, via [greenwoodfuneralhomes.com](http://greenwoodfuneralhomes.com)