



JEFFREY DALE "J.D." LAWSON

October 30, 1970 - February 17, 2025

Jeffrey Dale "JD" Lawson, 54, of War, WV, was called home on February 17, 2025, while doing what he loved, responding to someone in need. Jeffrey was born on October 30, 1970 in Welch, WV. Jeffrey was the son of the late Harvey and Marie Lawson.

Jeffrey, known to his West Virginia family as "Jeff" and to his Maryland family as "J.D" lived his life serving others.

Jeffrey joined the War Volunteer Fire Department in June 1985, where he worked his way through the ranks currently serving as the Deputy Fire Chief. In March 1989, Jeffrey decided to serve his community as a police officer with the City of War, WV. Jeffrey transferred to the Bluefield Police Department in July of 1990 where he served until August 1997.

Jeffrey made his way to Maryland in 1997 joining the Berlin Police Department in Berlin, MD. During his time with Berlin, "JD" as he was known by his colleagues, served in many capacities. One of "JD's" proudest accomplishments was serving as the Department's SWAT Commander. JD was a wealth of knowledge especially when it came to Firearms. JD also served as the department's Firearms Instructor. JD retired from the Berlin Police Department on September 30, 2023. At the time of his retirement, JD was serving as the Department's Patrol Commander, holding the rank of Lieutenant.

JD's service to others in Maryland also included the Ocean City Fire Department, where he served as Captain. JD joined the OCFD in October

1997, and was a life member at the time of his passing.

JD also had a love for operating heavy equipment. JD had been operating heavy equipment since the age of 8 years old. After retirement from the Belin Police Dept. JD returned home to War, WV, with his loving wife, Bernadette and stepdaughter, Haleigh. JD returned to his love of operating heavy equipment with Delrick.

JD is survived by his loving wife, Bernadette, step-children, Haleigh Given and Randy Given. JD is also survived by a biological daughter, Haleigh Schreckengost. JD was preceded in death by his parents and grandparents. JD loved his animals, especially Cecil his beloved cat.

Jeffrey's legacy will live on through the many lives that he touched. Jeffrey was a mentor to many generations of firefighters and police officers as he provided countless hours of instruction.

Those that knew JD, knew him as a friend, brother, mentor and a dedicated firefighter and police officer who embodied the true spirit of being of service to others. JD's influence will be felt for years to come.

A Fireman's Funeral with full honors will be held Saturday, March 1, 2025 at 11:00 AM from the Southside K-8 School in War, WV with the Pastor Robert Weed, officiating. Burial will follow in the Grandview Memory Gardens Cemetery in Bluefield, Virginia.

Friends may call at the school Saturday, March 1, 2025 from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM. In lieu of flower memorial contributions may be made to the War Volunteer Fire Department, 7 River Road, War, WV 24892

The Douglas Mortuary in Welch is serving the family. Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.douglasmortuary.com

Cemetery Details

Grandview Memory Gardens

38659 Governor GC Peery Hwy
Bluefield, VA 24605

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 1. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Southside K-8 School
Main Street
War, WV 24892

Funeral Service

MAR 1. 11:00 AM (ET)

Southside K-8 School
Main Street
War, WV 24892

Tribute Wall

HC

“ We will always remember what you did for our family here in Berlin MD. Your buddy will miss you this family will miss you. JD we will always remember the very first call that you came to for Kendre and then from there you and Kendre drew a bond . Your legacy will live on with us . To your family our condolences and prayers will always be with you. My God give you strength. Sincerely and with love the Collick family.

Heather Collick - March 02, 2025 at 02:49 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of JEFFREY DALE "J.D." LAWSON.

February 28, 2025 at 12:14 PM



“ Healing Tears - Blue and White was purchased for the family of JEFFREY DALE "J.D." LAWSON.



February 28, 2025 at 12:14 PM

DB

“ Dixie Bruce lit a candle in memory of JEFFREY DALE "J.D." LAWSON



Dixie Bruce - February 28, 2025 at 12:45 AM

DB

My prayers to all his Family and Friends 🙏

Dixie Bruce - February 28, 2025 at 12:49 AM

TR

“ *The Future Mrs & Mr Given Ada and Randy purchased the Healing Tears - All Pink for the family of JEFFREY DALE "J.D." LAWSON.*



The Future Mrs & Mr Given Ada and Randy - February 25, 2025 at 07:57 PM

TR

“ *The Future Mrs & Mr Given Ada and Randy planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of JEFFREY DALE "J.D." LAWSON.*

The Future Mrs & Mr Given Ada and Randy - February 25, 2025 at 07:57 PM

SD

“ *Shiloh & Doreen planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of JEFFREY DALE "J.D." LAWSON.*

Shiloh & Doreen - February 23, 2025 at 06:17 PM

SD

“ *Shiloh & Doreen purchased the Red, White & Blue Sympathy Floor Basket for the family of JEFFREY DALE "J.D." LAWSON.*



Shiloh & Doreen - February 23, 2025 at 06:17 PM

LW

“ Oh, Jeff our hearts are broken. Why do good people who do good for others get taken too soon? You did good. You gave to others, strangers even selflessly.
Rest in peace. We miss you.
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.



Lisa Wilson - February 22, 2025 at 07:55 AM

PN

🇺🇸 Jeff meant so much to me on the only day that I had met him December 10th 2024.
A day I'll never forget . His Caring ways to put Peace in My Heart after my horse passed away. Professional while driving heavy equipment, and done with gentle kindness ❤️
My heart goes out to his wife and children in the whole family for he's a Big Force of life to be Missed by EVERYONE & ALL ❤️
While this Amazing Man whose accomplished so much in life is Gone....our Lord /Heaven is Embracing and Celebrating a True Angel
🙏 Rest In Peace 🕊️

Patty Neff - February 24, 2025 at 09:53 AM

MM

I'm not sure what to say here. I never expected to be writing on a wall of remembrance for a good friend. I was shocked when I heard and not a day goes by that you don't cross my mind. I saw signs telling me to make contact, but you know me. I get busy and figured I have time. Now, I'm here writing on your remembrance wall. Now, you are guardian to all you cared for and loved. You may have gone 10-42 down here, but you are now 10-41 10-8 in the heavens. Always on patrol. I will miss you my friend. Please say hi to Glenn for me

Meredith Moore - February 25, 2025 at 08:01 PM

EM

“ So sorry for your loss. May god be with the family. JD was a very nice man. JD was there for my family, especially my grandson. JD is so special to my family. RIP JD and prayers for the family.

Evelyn McCray - February 21, 2025 at 02:16 PM

JJ

“ So sorry for your loss Jd was great and caring man Rest In Peace JD

Judith A Jarmon - February 21, 2025 at 11:02 AM