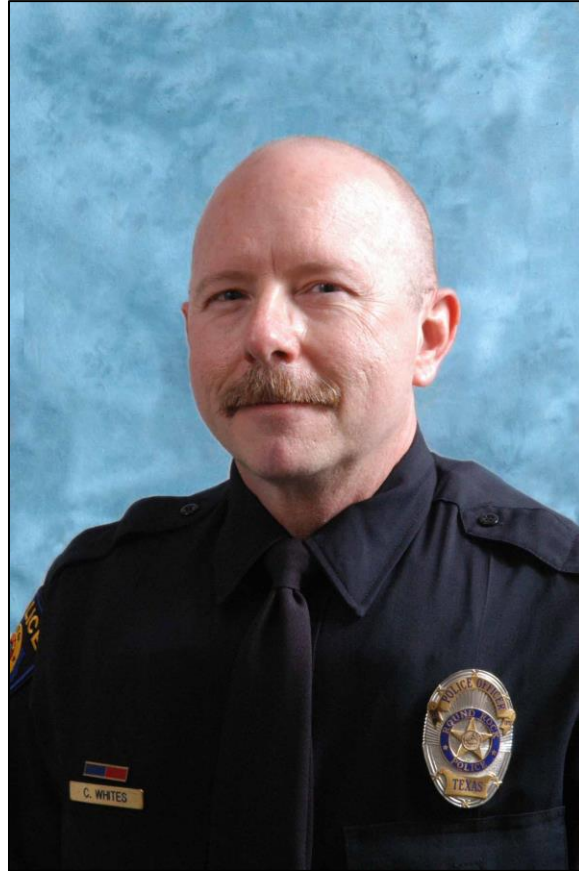


Charles M. Whites, Jr.

22 August 1954– 27 April 2018, 63



Police Officer Charles Whites succumbed to injuries sustained on February 25th, 2018, while directing traffic around the scene of fatal accident on I-35 near Round Rock Avenue.

A vehicle being operated by a drunk driver struck him, causing him to suffer severe injuries. Officer Whites was transported to a local hospital where he remained in grave condition until succumbing to his injuries on April 27th, 2018.

The driver who struck him was initially charged with intoxication assault.

Officer Whites had served with the Round Rock Police Department for 19 years. He is survived by his wife and stepson.

From the [Officer Down Memorial Page](#)

On April 27, 2018, Police Officer Charles M. Whites, Jr., of Round Rock, TX, succumbed to injuries sustained when hit by a vehicle on February 25th while directing traffic. Born on August 22, 1954 in Sherman, TX, with a soul that has the courage to wear the badge, Officer Whites had been saving, serving, and protecting the people as a Law Enforcement Officer for 19 years. Officer Whites served as a patrol officer, field training officer, and a

SWAT negotiator while sworn with the Round Rock Police Department in Texas — a long-time dream fulfilled. Ofc. Whites was most known for his calm demeanor and passion for the job; a veteran lawman who just loved being out on the streets, patrolling his beloved community. He was a well-respected Officer among his peers and the citizens he served. Those who met him felt an instant connection and trust. Charles was a lover of the outdoors: caving, climbing, scuba diving, hiking, wilderness backpacking, and cross-country and down-hill skiing. He was a manager of Wilderness Whitewater Supply until he pursued his passion of policing. He was also a voracious reader and lover of music and poetry — a true renaissance man.

Charles leaves behind his wife Connie, stepson William Mannella, parents Melvin and Marilyn Whites, sister Kathryn Lang, nephew Grant Lang, niece Erica Lang, numerous cousins, and his close-knit Round Rock Police Department family. The support that all of Charles' families have received from the Round Rock community, surrounding communities, and regional first responders has been inspiring. We continue to lean on this strength and support.

Funeral services will be held at Shoreline Church, 15201 Burnet Rd., on May 2, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. with Honor Guard following the service at the church and procession through Round Rock thereafter. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Round Rock Police Foundation in Officer Charles' name. Arrangements entrusted to Beck Funeral Home.

Published in the Austin American–Statesman from April 30 to May 5, 2018

Notes on Charles' caving career

Charles Whites was a caver in the UT Grotto, Austin, from the 1970s through the 1990s. Many of us remember Charles as a nice, young, outdoorsy fellow with long hair. Charles was the managing partner of Wilderness Whitewater Supply at North Lamar and 29th Street. He liked to sell gear for cavers, but he also had a full inventory of kayaks, climbing gear, bicycles, and clothing. He was among the team who rescued Jorg Schwitzgebel, 14, whose legs were pinned by a collapse in Dead Dog Cave #2 on 5 July 1978. The team was honored by Austin Police Chief Frank Dyson. In the December 1986 *Texas Caver* Peter Sprouse had an article, *A Huastecan Vacation*, about his trip to Xilitla, SLP, which included Jim Feely, Tyler Gill, Susie Lasko Raines, Terry Raines, Ken Slack, Terri Treacy Sprouse, Mary Standifer, and Charles Whites. Charles donated a Premier carbide lamp to the 1990 Texas Caver Reunion raffle, among other things. Most cavers did not know he became a highly regarded Round Rock police officer since 1999. There was a very large funeral for Charles and he is mourned by many. Unfortunately, we found no photos of him in caving gear, but he was an avid caver and outdoorsman.

Compiled by William R. Elliott and Tom Byrd, 27 July 2020