



Michael Winters

May 31, 1950 - May 6, 2026

Michael "Mike" Winters, 75, of Clintwood, passed away peacefully on May 6, 2026.

Born on May 31, 1950, in Elk Park, Mike was the son of the late Dayton Winters and Imogene Winters. Raised in the beautiful mountains of Avery County, he carried with him throughout his life the values of compassion, integrity, and service to others.

Mike dedicated his professional career to helping those in need as a social worker in Carter County, serving the Elizabethton community. He was known for his caring heart, patient spirit, and unwavering commitment to improving the lives of the families and individuals he served.

A lifelong cat enthusiast, Mike was widely respected in the pedigreed cat community. During the 1980s and 1990s, he served as a judge with The International Cat Association, traveling to cat shows and sharing his extensive knowledge and love of the feline world. He formed lasting friendships with exhibitors and fellow judges and was admired for his fairness, professionalism, and genuine passion for the sport.

Mike will be remembered as a kind and gentle man who devoted his life to caring for others—both people and animals. He had a quiet strength, a generous heart, and a warm sense of humor that endeared him to family, friends, colleagues, and everyone fortunate enough to know him.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Dayton Winters and Imogene Winters.

Mike leaves behind many cherished relatives, dear friends, former coworkers, and members of the cat fancy community, all of whom will remember him with love and gratitude. His legacy of compassion, service, and kindness will continue to inspire those whose lives he touched.

Services for Michael will be announced at a later date.