

**Officer Eugene Yoakum \*WA4OKK\* 1932-1964** - Born 18 Dec 1932 to Robert and Myrtle Yoakum of Speedwell, TN. Eugene served in the USMC from 1950-54 and entered the Alexandria Police Department upon expiration of enlistment.

In his first year our subject was cited for bravery involved in a shoot-out with burglars. In 1960 Eugene joined the K-9 Corps with his German Shepherd partner Mucho. His faithful partner was one of the first of its kind to join the force. With a specially equipped collar, Mucho learned to respond to commands via radio. Yoakum and Mucho received attention for their robbery apprehensions in Alexandria and nearby Fairfax.

I will never forget the December 1964 issue of QST in which Officer's Yoakum and Mucho received a tribute for their final deed on September 27<sup>th</sup> 1964 - Just before 0200 on the given date, officers were called out on a assault call. A 24 year old subject causing a disturbance, had knife and had been drinking, the attending officer requested backup. Officer Yoakum and Mucho arrived along with a third police officer.

Officer Yoakum attempted to talk to the subject who had a knife and suddenly pulled out a gun from behind his back, firing at Yoakum and hitting him in the chest. Yoacum couldn't return fire. The individual fatally wounding Yoakum was shot and killed at the scene. Mucho watched over his fatally injured partner until removed to the Alexandria Hospital. Eugene was pronounced dead at 0220, Mucho was given to his masters family.

WA4OKK Eugene Yoakum age 31 was a ten year veteran of the Alexandria Police Department, survived by his wife Elizabeth Marie Yoakum; daughters Marian and Sharon; a son Tyrone Yoakum. Our subject rests at the National Memorial Park in Falls Church, Virginia. Semper Fi and above all your service is still on our mind and tribute the sacrifice OM.

I have kept the QST article for many years and appreciate the opportunity to place this tribute on [www.w8jyz.com](http://www.w8jyz.com)



WA4OKK, Eugene Yoakum, trained his K-9 corps dog "Mucho" to answer commands by radio, through a small receiver strapped to Mucho's harness, and it is believed that this is the only dog ever trained in such a fashion. Mucho answered several commands over the radio, but he would respond only to Gene's voice. Gene, WA4OKK, was going to show off his dog Mucho at the annual hamfest of the Foundation of Amateur Radio Clubs on Saturday, September 27. But on the morning of the hamfest, tragedy struck; Gene was killed while going to the assistance of a fellow officer.