



DeWalt Willis

June 21, 1945 - August 4, 2021

James Dewalt Willis, affectionately known as “Big Pop” to those he cherished most, passed away August 4, 2021, at the age of 76. Born to the late Carlton and Elzora (Light) Willis, he was a lifetime resident of the Ruth community in Arab. A proud veteran of the United States Marine Corps, Dewalt served valiantly during the Vietnam War. Upon returning to Arab, he continued serving others at the local fire and police departments. Dedicated to the city he loved, Dewalt worked tirelessly to establish the Ruth Volunteer Fire Department. A respected pillar of the community, he received the Citizen of the Year award in 1991. He was a lifelong member of Ruth Baptist Church where he faithfully served as a Deacon. To know Dewalt was to love him. His charismatic and jovial spirit will forever be missed by all who knew and adored him. In addition to his parents, Dewalt was preceded in death by his brother, Gary “Bo” Willis.

Survivors include his beloved wife of 55 years, Anoise (Robinson) Willis; daughter and son-in-law, Stacey and Kelly Parker; sons and daughters-in-law, Rodney and Amy Willis, all of Arab, Scott and Kari Willis of Covington, GA; grandchildren, Blake Willis, Brooke Willis, Kane Parker, Hanna Willis, Aubrey Parker, Macie Parker, Tyler Willis, Madison Willis, Anslee Saunchegraw, Cooper Saunchegraw; sister, Malinda Howard; sisters-in-law, Susan Frame, Sandra (Bailey) Willis; as well as numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Funeral Service to honor the life and legacy of Dewalt was held Saturday, August 7, 2021, 2:00 PM, at Gober Funeral Home, 1331 Guntersville Rd, in Arab. Interment, with military honors, was in Arab Memorial Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, Dewalt preferred donations be made to Child Advocacy Center, 1620 Railroad Ave., Guntersville, AL 35976.

Pallbearers: Kerry Bailey, Mitch Bailey, Chris Black, Shannon Johnson, Jeff Noojin, Chuck Reynolds and John Saylor.

Cemetery Details

Arab Memorial Cemetery

450 South Main Street
Arab, AL 35016

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 7. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Gober Funeral Chapel
1331 Guntersville Road
Arab, AL 35016
(256) 586-8111
goberfuneralhome@otelco.net

Funeral Service

AUG 7. 2:00 PM (CT)

Gober Funeral Chapel
1331 Guntersville Road
Arab, AL 35016
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goberfuneralhome@otelco.net

Tribute Wall



“ *DeWalt Willis*

October 23, 2023 at 12:35 AM



“ *Chastity Saint Dawson lit a candle in memory of DeWalt Willis*



Chastity Saint Dawson - August 10, 2021 at 10:29 AM

CT

“ *Malinda and family. I am so sorry to hear of Dewalt's passing. In December, I lost my brother, Travis, from lung cancer. I had to rely on my faith to pull me through it. I firmly believe God makes no mistakes, even though, sometimes we do not understand. You wonder, have questions, etc., then you realize, when you see your loved ones in Heaven, questions does not seem to matter. You and your family are such an asset to Arab and all are good people. People as Dewalt, with others, are what made Arab what it is today.*

Once again, may I extend my condolences to you and all family members. Dewalt will continue to do good works in Heaven, as he did on earth.

Malinda, don't let anyone tell you time will heal your broken heart, times will only make his death a little more bearable.

My Prayers, thoughts goes out to all. God Bless each and every one.



Carolyn Thrower

carolyn thrower - August 09, 2021 at 08:41 PM



“ *Molly Blackwood lit a candle in memory of DeWalt Willis*



Molly Blackwood - August 09, 2021 at 09:49 AM

GB

“ *Glenda Bagwell lit a candle in memory of DeWalt Willis*



Glenda Bagwell - August 06, 2021 at 12:49 PM

NM

“ *Nalani McNary lit a candle in memory of DeWalt Willis*



Nalani McNary - August 06, 2021 at 10:26 AM

B6

“ *Betty Whisenant Class Of 65 lit a candle in memory of DeWalt Willis*



Betty Whisenant Class of 65 - August 06, 2021 at 08:21 AM