



James Welton Willis

March 11, 1949 - November 18, 2023

LIFE REFLECTIONS

James Welton Willis of Conley, GA, departed this life on November 18, 2023, surrounded by his loving family by his side. James affectionately known as "Jay" by his family and friends, was born March 11, 1949, to the late Robert Lee and Dorsey Ree Willis of Cuthbert, Georgia.

At an early age Jay joined and was baptized into the Godly family of Virgil Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, under the leadership of the late Reverend E.D. Hill. He attended the Randolph County School system where he graduated in 1968. Jay was always hard working, and it was in High School he received his first job where he worked at Butler's Food Store and purchased his very first vehicle.

This was the beginning of his fascination with cars and trucks. After graduating from High School, he moved to Boston, Massachusetts, for a short period of time until he eventually settled in Hartford, Connecticut. He held several jobs but eventually was employed at Pratt & Whitney, where his career as a Machinist spanned over 16 years.

It was in Hartford, Connecticut, where he met and married the love of his life, Ms. Barbara Gay. They were blessed with three children, George, Marcy, and Quanica (Nikki). In the 1990's, the family relocated to Atlanta, Georgia, where he worked as a truck driver until his health started to decline.

Jay was infamously known for being comical, naturally telling jokes that could lighten up anyone's mood. He was a skilled handy man and loved a challenge

of fixing things but always got the job done. Jay also loved landscaping and took pride in his work, but more than anything, he loved spending quality time with his family and friends.

Jay was preceded by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lee and Dorsey Ree Willis. As well as his two sister -in-laws, Mrs. Raymell Willis and Mrs. Johnnie Maude Willis.

Jay leaves to cherish his memories, his loving wife of 46 years, Barbara Ann Willis, his three children, George Dukes of Las Vegas, NV; Marcy Moore (Joe) and Quanica (Nikki)Willis, of Atlanta, GA. His grandchildren, Eboni Dixon and Kayla Dixon, Kevin Blount, Deannilyn, Tre'von and Quinten Dukes, Darius and Kendyl Moore, and Adaila Crane. His fifteen great grandchildren. His five siblings, Bennie Willis, Bloomfield, CT; Robert Willis Jr. Cuthbert, GA; Sylvester Willis, Jonesboro, GA; Tommy Willis, Hyde Park, MA; Sandra Willis, Cuthbert, GA; and Aunt Mrs. Annie Ree Starling, Cuthbert, GA. He is also survived by his mother-in-law, Mrs. Mittie Gay, Tuscaloosa, AL. His many nieces and nephews that he was not only an uncle to, but a father figure to as well and a host of other relatives and friends.

Cemetery Details

Hillandale Memorial Gardens

6201 Hillandale Dr.
Lithonia, Ga 30058

Previous Events

Internment

DEC 2 (ET)

Hillandale Memorial Gardens
6201 Hillandale Dr
Lithonia, GA 30058-4759
(770) 981-1144

Tribute Wall

NW

“Daddy today is your 75th birthday. It's been almost 4 months since you have been gone. It doesn't get any easier because I feel like someone ripped my heart out. I still speak about you in present tense because it's just too hard to believe that you're not here. Thank you for always loving me and being there for me. I miss you so much. Love your baby girl.

Nikki Willis - March 11, 2024 at 03:31 PM

TA

“Jay, Jay Bird. You will be missed. But never forgotten. I will never forget my first furniture set was from you and Barb. You always gave me advice on my car trouble issues. You helped me transport Cujo to Nikki. The first person to see at the flea market. I can't say I'll go back to the flea market at this time. And the jokes 🤔. Thank you for it all. Memories you gave. I'll cherish forever. It's not goodbye. It's see ya later alligator. Love ya cuz. ~always Tamia

Tamia - December 03, 2023 at 10:38 AM



“Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of James Welton Willis.



December 02, 2023 at 11:38 AM

YF

“ Young Trucking, JD Young family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Welton Willis.

Young Trucking, JD Young family - December 02, 2023 at 11:38 AM

SF

“ Shelly F. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Welton Willis.

Shelly F. - December 02, 2023 at 04:12 AM

TC

“ Hey old man you will truly be missed by me.... Thank you for embracing me from day one as your daughter-In-Law thank you for always being you and smiling and laughing until the end. I love you old man. I'll keep an eye on Barbara and Your girls for you and this crazy son of yours. I love you fly high no more pain. Love always (Tish-Baby) as you would call me.

Tish Croslin - December 01, 2023 at 06:58 PM

MA

“ Sending my Heartfelt Sympathy and Condolences to Barbara, Nikki and Marcy. "Do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9 Minister Patrick Ansah, Jr.



Min. Patrick Ansah - December 01, 2023 at 12:45 PM

DJ

“ Sending my heartfelt condolences to you all ❤️ Jay may not be in the physical but the spiritual is forever present, I know! Jay was very humorous and had a way of making people crackup for real 😄 He will truly be missed by all who knew and loved him. 🙏❤️🕊️ Take your rest Jay ❤️

Love Always, Daphne Jackson (aka) Nita

Daphne Jackson - December 01, 2023 at 10:29 AM

JD

“ Joanne B. Dailey lit a candle in memory of James Welton Willis



Joanne B. Dailey - November 30, 2023 at 10:11 PM

JD

My sincere condolences to the family of Mr. James W. Willis. Sandra sorry for your loss prayers of comfort are headed your way. Joanne

Joanne B. Dailey - November 30, 2023 at 10:11 PM

CD

“ Jay though you are not physically with us anymore you have left us with wonderful memories that will be with us FOREVER. 🙏 RIP. ❤️ Barbara, Marcie, Nicky ❤️

Charlie Davis - November 30, 2023 at 10:00 PM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of James Welton Willis.*



November 30, 2023 at 04:49 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of James Welton Willis.*



November 29, 2023 at 04:49 PM



“ *Black Voters Matter planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Welton Willis.*

Black Voters Matter - November 29, 2023 at 04:49 PM



“ *May God give you comfort and strength at this difficult time 🙏🙏🙏*

lorine lewis - November 28, 2023 at 06:08 PM



“ *The Blade family, Henry, Sheila, Quincy, Tiffany, and Jordan send our heartfelt condolences to you Barbara, Marcie, Nikki and family on the loss of Jay. 🙏🙏*

Henry H. Blade - November 28, 2023 at 12:35 PM

SW

“ Brother I miss you so much, I didn't know it would be this hard. You were my brother that I spent most of my childhood with. The memories will never fade. But the best memories was the week before you left we verbally told each other that we loved one another. I am so glad that we got a chance to express our feelings. My heart is broken but I know God is Just and He is to wise to make a mistake, so rest on my brother in God's care, until we meet again



Sandra Willis - November 27, 2023 at 08:08 PM

DB

“ George, my heart goes out to you for the loss of your father. May the special memories you made together help you through this difficult time.

Aunt Dot
Hartford, CT



Dorothy Biggs - November 26, 2023 at 09:02 PM

DB

“ Barbara, Nikki & Marcy, I am thinking of you and praying that God will give you peace and comfort as you remember your husband Jay and your daughters' father. I love you 🙏❤️



Dorothy Biggs - November 26, 2023 at 05:22 PM

IK

“ My Heart felt condolences to Barbara, Nicki, Marcie, Ben and all the Willis Family God got your back he will strength you in time like this trust him.

Irene Menefee (Pat) - November 26, 2023 at 05:14 PM

EM

“ Words can't express the sadness I'm feeling in the transition, of my friend Jay . I pray that God give his Wife Barbara and his girl's strength and comfort in the loss of "Jay" 🙏🙏🙏🙏💜🙏🙏



Elois Mathis - November 25, 2023 at 11:12 AM

EM

“ Elois Mathis lit a candle in memory of James Welton Willis



Elois Mathis - November 25, 2023 at 10:55 AM

KP

“ Me(Kim) and my kids(Yanna, Jeremiah, and Jarius) send our deepest condolences to the Willis Family. We love our Jimmy! My kids are grown and still call him by the nickname they came up with. I pray for yall strength! Stay strong!

Kimberly Perry - November 23, 2023 at 03:22 PM

BM

“ Sending my deepest heartfelt condolences the family

Brenda Mays - November 23, 2023 at 06:07 AM

RC

“ Sending our Heartfelt Sympathy and Condolences to you all. May God comfort your Hearts during this difficult time.
Rev.Thomas (Tony) & Patricia Anderson your cousins from Chicago. Love ❤️🙏🙏

Rev. Thomas & Patricia Anderson cousin - November 22, 2023 at 04:29 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James Welton Willis.



November 22, 2023 at 08:33 AM

YD

“ Your Niece Dee-dee planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Welton Willis.

Your Niece Dee-dee - November 21, 2023 at 09:57 AM

DE

“ I am so truly sorry for our loss of uncle James, no amount of words can ever give you comfort. But let me tell you from my experience, time makes the pain less. It will never go away but it will truly hurt less. Stay strong, stay together and remember we are here.
I love you all,
Dee-Dee



Dee-Dee - November 21, 2023 at 09:52 AM

RW

Barbara, Nicki, and Marcy. I'm truly sorry for your loss. I can't say when your going to feel better. But in time I hope all your pain will pass. I'm going to keep you all in my prayers...Renee

Renee Williams - November 21, 2023 at 11:06 AM

AN

*“ Life seems incredibly cruel and arbitrary right now; I know you cannot find meaning in what has happened. Uncle Jay will be missed tremendously, cherish all of your memories. I love you and will be thinking of you and praying for you'll. If I can do anything more, please let me know how I can help.
Anitra*

Anitra - November 21, 2023 at 09:15 AM

BH

Barbara, please know how very sad I am to hear of James passing. I pray for God to grant you, Marcy and Nicki peace and his comfort during this time. Much love, Betsy Harville 🙏❤️

Betsy Harvilke - November 21, 2023 at 09:47 PM

LS

To The Family, may God give you strength beyond your understanding, love ❤️ Minnie and Larry Solid

Larry Solid - November 23, 2023 at 11:57 AM

AB

Our condolences to you and the family. Praying for your peace and comfort during this difficult time.

Cousin Gary & Annette Brooks, CT

Annette Brooks - November 26, 2023 at 06:24 PM

DJ

“ *My deepest condolences to the family.*

Derrell Johnson - November 20, 2023 at 01:10 PM