



## Mrs. Phyllis Joanne Willis

September 8, 1952 - December 21, 2016

Mrs. Phyllis Joanne Thompson Willis was born on September 8, 1952 in Amonate, Virginia to the late Barbara and Rev. Benton T. Thompson Jr. of Hurricane, West Virginia. Phyllis was the middle of nine children; Larry, Tyrone, Nina, Randolph, Debbie, Carol, Benton III, and Zachary. It was apparent that she had been gifted by God to teach when she first began student teaching at 20 years old at Lincoln Jr. High School in Charleston, West Virginia. She went on to receive a Bachelor's degree from West Virginia State College while pledging Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority and a Master's degree from Howard University. Soon thereafter, Phyllis found her soul mate and partner for life Michael Lee Willis and they were married in Charleston, West Virginia on August 11, 1984. They moved to Atlanta, Georgia and had two wonderful children, Christopher and Phylicia.

Señora Willis, as referred to by many, has taught both English and Spanish, Jr. High School and Sr. High School, in West Virginia and Georgia, to several thousand students. Always patient and generous with her time and talents to parents, students and co-workers alike. Señora Willis taught for the past 25 years at Columbia High School in Decatur, Georgia.

On December 21, 2016, she was called home by the Lord. She is preceded in death by her husband, Michael Lee Willis. The family legacy is being continued by their two children: Christopher and Phylicia. Her remaining

siblings are brothers Tyrone Johnson of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Randolph Thompson of Lawrenceville, Georgia, Rev. Benton T. Thompson III of Ellenwood, Georgia, Zachary Thompson of Hurricane, West Virginia, and step brother James Mann of White Sulfur Springs, West Virginia. She will also be missed by a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, Dream Girls, friends and her extended community of family, along with the AKA sorority, Victory World Church, and Columbia High School.

Funeral service will be held Friday January 6, 2016 12:00 PM at Victory World Church 5905 Brook Hollow Parkway Norcross, GA 30071. Interment to be held at Gwinnett Memorial Park 925 Lawrenceville, GA 30046. Visitation on Thursday January 5, 2016 12:00 PM - 8:00 PM at Gregory B. Levett and Sons Funeral Home - Gwinnett Chapel 914 Scenic Hwy. Lawrenceville, GA 30045. (770) 338-5558.

# Cemetery Details

## Gwinnett Memorial Park

925 US HWY 29 S  
LAWRENCEVILLE, Ga

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 5. 12:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Gwinnett Chapel  
914 Scenic Hwy.  
Lawrenceville, GA 30045  
(770) 338-5558  
[info@levettfuneralhome.com](mailto:info@levettfuneralhome.com)

## Service

JAN 6. 12:00 PM (ET)

Victory World Church  
5905 Brook Hollow Pkwy  
Norcross, GA 30071

# Tribute Wall

JB

“ Grief can be so hard, but our cherished memories help us cope. Hold tight to those memories....Lean on each other for support.... And look to God’s word the Bible, for comfort and strength. James 4:8 encourages; “Draw close to God, and He will draw close to you.”

J Baker - January 17, 2017 at 06:53 AM

GG

“ My sincere condolences to Christopher, Phylcia and the entire Willis family. We had the pleasure of working with "Ms. Phyllis" in the Hopewell Baptist Children's Ministry. She was a dedicated servant for the Lord and will be missed. My thoughts and prayers are with you all and May God comfort you during this difficult time.

Gerald and Donna Green

Gerald & Donna Green - January 11, 2017 at 09:42 AM



EP

“ "In Loving Memory of Phyllis" I will always remember her beautiful smile and working with her in the Hopewell Nursery Ministry. To Christopher, Phylcia and the Family - My Thoughts and Prayers are with You; and God Bless You All during this time.

Elaine Pettway

Elaine Pettway - January 06, 2017 at 09:35 AM



J-

“ *J. Overton -Sligh lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Phyllis Joanne Willis*



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**J. Overton -Sligh** - January 06, 2017 at 08:15 AM

PB

“ *I was so sorry to hear about Phyllis' passing. I knew Phyllis from our WVSC days, we pledged Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority together. She was always so pleasant and kind. My thoughts and prayers are with the family during this difficult time.*



*Pamela Quebedo Bragg*

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**Pamela Quebedo Bragg** - January 05, 2017 at 11:42 AM

JJ

*So sorry to hear of my college friend Phyllis homegoing. Many memories i shared at her family home with her entire family we all going to various church services. But now she is fine at her new home over in glory with Jesus.*

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**Jim johnson** - June 25, 2017 at 11:53 PM

TC

“ *The CHS Birthday Club purchased the Pink Potpourri Bouquet for the family of Mrs. Phyllis Joanne Willis.*



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**The CHS Birthday Club** - January 04, 2017 at 05:52 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mrs. Phyllis Joanne Willis.*



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January 03, 2017 at 08:58 PM



“ *Sending love and peace to you both, Chris and Phylcia. Always Fam, Cousin Sherrie*

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**sherrie** - January 03, 2017 at 06:43 PM



“ *I was very saddened to hear of Phyllis's passing. My heartfelt thoughts and prayers are with the family during this difficult time.*

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**Francis "Jinx" Monroe** - January 03, 2017 at 05:04 PM



“ *My heartfelt condolences to Christopher, Phylcia and your entire family. Your mother was a kind and gentle person. I enjoyed working with her in the Hopewell Nursery Ministry. She truly will be missed. Please know that..."earth has no sorrow that heaven cannot heal". 2 Corin. 1.*



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**Dana Allen** - January 03, 2017 at 11:08 AM

RB

“ My sincere condolences to Christopher, Phylcia and the entire Willis/Thompson family. We will all miss "Ms. Phyllis" as she is affectionately known from our days working in the Nursery Ministry and Children's Church.

Her smile, wisdom and one line opening or closing statements will always be cherished.

“And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.”

John 14:3



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**Rachel Buckner** - December 29, 2016 at 08:40 PM

MC

“ Marcia Coston-Scott lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Phyllis Joanne Willis



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**Marcia Coston-Scott** - December 28, 2016 at 05:43 PM

JC

“ We shared some wonderful "sisterhood" memories for over 22 years. We called ourselves, "The Birthday Club" celebrating each other's birthday initially but later just celebrating the bond of friendships. There was always much laughter as we traveled to local plays, movies, dinners, the beach and the mountains. We will miss our sister but the memories are what we hold on to, knowing we will meet again. "We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord." 2 Corinthians 5:8



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**Jean Cyprien** - December 27, 2016 at 10:13 PM

DT

“ Phyllis was an inspirational mentor and friend during my ten years at Columbia H. S. My love and prayers are with her family and loved ones.

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**Deborah Tucker** - December 27, 2016 at 10:05 PM

AT

“ Senora Willis was one of my favorite teachers & favorite Spanish teachers at Columbia High School; I really enjoyed taking her class in the 10th grade. She was truly a great teacher; she will be greatly missed. May she R.I.P.

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**Ari Thompson** - December 27, 2016 at 09:02 PM

AM

“ I have so many wonderful memories of Senora Willis. She was my Spanish teacher during my 9th and 11th grade years at Columbia High School. It saddens me to hear the news of her transition. She was a wonderful woman that had high hopes and excellence for all who she encountered in school, after school and she demanded respect without raising her voice or anything. I use to detail her vehicle while in college and even substituted for her Spanish class a few times during my tenure as a substitute teacher for DeKalb County School District.

To the family, I give my condolences and love and offer you encouragement during this hour...Be strong, cry if you must for we are all human and it is okay. Don't allow people to tell you to get over it for we all grieve differently and express ourselves in our unique way which God has created us. Be prayerful and keep pressing forward and soar for God sees all, knows all and cares for you. God Bless You!!!

Sincerely,  
Andre' D. Milhouse  
Columbia High School Alumni  
Class of 2003, May 24, 2003

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**Andre Denard Milhouse** - December 27, 2016 at 02:58 PM

V.

“ Dear Family and Friends,  
I offer you my sincere condolences on the death of your dear loved one. I pray that Jehovah God (Ps 83:18) grant you peace and comfort during this time of sorrow.-Matthew 5:4

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**V.Taylor** - December 27, 2016 at 11:42 AM

PW

“ I would like to offer my condolences to the family of Mrs. Willis and may God be a refuge and strength in your time of sorrow.(Psalms 46:1)

P. Watts - December 27, 2016 at 07:26 AM

BP

“ I extend condolences to the family and friends of Mrs. Willis. Jesus encourages us..."Do not let your hearts be troubled. Exercise faith in God, exercise faith also in me." ~John 14:1. God empowered Jesus to resurrect dead ones when he was on the earth, giving us evidence of what he will do in the future. He assures us..."I am the resurrection and the life. The one who exercises faith in me, even though he dies, will come to life." ~John 11:25.



B. Parks - December 27, 2016 at 07:06 AM

TB

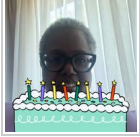
RIP....My condolences to Family,

terry berkley - January 03, 2017 at 08:28 PM

RS

“ My condolences in the death of your beloved family member. When death claims our loved ones, it causes sadness and grief. Our loving God Jehovah understands the deep emotional pain death causes us, so he provides comfort through his word the Bible. Psalm 34:18 says: Jehovah is close to the brokenhearted; He saves those who are crushed in spirit. Also Hosea 13:14 says: From the power of the grave I (God) will redeem them; From death I will recover them. May these promises from God provide you comfort during this time of sorrow.

R. Sweatman - December 27, 2016 at 06:28 AM



“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



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**Gloria Williams** - December 26, 2016 at 05:07 PM