



Dr. Willis Paul Callins

May 20, 1945 - March 8, 2021

Dr. Willis Paul Callins peacefully passed away at his home in Stone Mountain, Georgia on Monday, March 8, 2021 at the age of 75, after an extended battle with cancer. He was born May 20, 1945 to Aldrich and Odell Callins in Birmingham, Alabama.

He was educated in Birmingham Public Schools system. He attended Council Elementary School and Western Olin High School. He left the 11th grade to attend Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia. At Morehouse, he majored in Chemistry, and at the end of his first year, he received a Merrill Scholarship to study in France for a year. He returned to Morehouse and graduated in 1967 with a Bachelor Degree in Chemistry. From there he attended the University of California (Berkeley), where he received a Master's Degree in Chemistry and received a Medical degree from the University of California (San Francisco). He did a residency in surgery at the University of Southern California Medical Center at Kaiser Permanente, Sunset Medical Center in Los Angeles. He did his residency in Otolaryngology at Northwestern University, Chicago, Illinois. His certification and licensure to practice included the states of California, Alabama, Georgia and Illinois, covering a time span from 1973-2021. His last employment was with the United States Federal Government.

Dr. Callins was an avid sailor. He enjoyed taking family and friends sailing on his boat, as well as participating in excursions, caravans and other sailing

activities. His love for sailing and helping others led him to establish The Harbor Foundation, which provides science and ecology grants for local high schools. He was an excellent artist and enjoyed painting and participating in art projects, seminars, classes and contests. He was a musician and a world traveler as well.

Dr. Callins married Madeline McKenzie in August, 1977. To that union was born one child, son Paul Harold Callins. He is survived by son Paul (Amanda), three precious grandchildren (Caleb, Ivan and Aurielle), Grayson, Ga.: Two brothers, Aldrich (Lillian), Birmingham, Ala., Joshua Callins, Jemison, Ala.: three sisters, Gemima "Gigi" (Graham) Wiggins, Roswell, Ga., Liliah Callins Tate, Philadelphia, Pa., and Miriam Callins, Birmingham, Ala. and a host of devoted, loving nieces and nephews. His parents predeceased him, as well as three brothers; Dr. Joel Franklin Callins, Jothan McKinley Callins and Dr. Rhueben Ezra Callins. He is also survived by Madeline (Burt) Morrow, Snellville, Ga.; Dr. Benjamin (Mae) Watson, Chicago, Ill., and Dr. Hampton (Linda) Gaskins; Upland, Calif.

Kind, loving thanks to Dr. Meenal Lothe who took him under her wings of care in his last days, Marian Smith (Juliette) caretaker for all of her excellent care, skills and kindness, Jean Callins for the love and care shown in transporting him when needed, meals and frequent check-ins, and the staff from Bridgeway Hospice. Thanks to all others who had any part in caring or helping in any way.

Visitation Services will be held on Friday March 19, 2021 from 5-7pm at Gregory B Levett & Sons Funeral Homes-South Dekalb Chapel 4347 Flat Shoals Parkway Decatur, GA (404) 241-5656.

Due to the circumstances of the pandemic, Graveside Services and burial will be on Sunday, March 21, 2021, at 1pm., Mt. Hope Cemetery in Vance, Ala.

"There will be a zoom service, Saturday March 20th at 1pm. If you would like to attend, please notify us by sending an email to Willispcallins45@gmail.com"

Cemetery Details

Mt. Hope Cemetery

Bama Rock Garden Rd,
Woodstock, AL 35188

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 19. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

South DeKalb Chapel
4347 Flat Shoals Pkwy.
Decatur, GA 30034
(404) 241-5656
info@levettfuneralhome.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. Willis Paul Callins was a remarkable man. He had a love of his son, family, art, music and medicine unparalleled. I will always remember his voice and stories.*



Lake Kelley - August 30, 2021 at 09:57 PM

JR

“ *Family and friends know what a most remarkable human being Willis Callins was. I don't recall ever speaking to Willis after he went to Morehouse. In all that time Willis remained ever present in my mind. The beautiful sound of his horn was always the sound I heard and will always hear when I hear music of the french horn.*

A Schoolmate: Julia Gregory Rogers

Julia Rogers - June 19, 2021 at 12:25 AM

CH

“ As the youngest sister of Dr. Ben Watson, I feel like I have known Willis since his Morehouse days. During school breaks, and phone calls home, Ben often spoke of his relationships with his closest friends, with whom he remain close to this day.

My husband and I had the pleasure of meeting Dr. Callins and his lovely wife Madeline during a winter vacation on the Gulf. We had a great time with the group and have lots of fond memories. As a Navy Veteran, we admired the work that Dr. Callins was doing to help vets in need.

The Callens family "adopted" my brother and they spent many family gatherings together. The passing of Willis will be long felt by all of us...friend, brother, family, irreplaceable in our hearts.

*With Love & Respect,
Captain Freddie & Sherri Watson Holyfield*

CAPT Freddie & Sherri Watson Holyfield - March 20, 2021 at 12:58 PM

AC

“ Audrey Creary lit a candle in memory of Dr. Willis Paul Callins



Audrey Creary - March 20, 2021 at 12:24 PM

AC

So sorry for your loss.

Audrey Creary - March 20, 2021 at 12:27 PM



“ It's very difficult to count the loss of 2 uncles within the span of 3 months, especially given that the loss of Uncle Rheuben and Uncle Jothan seems like only yesterday. I have so many fond memories, SUCH AS how delighted you were to tell me the story (about each time we spoke) of how, as a youngster, you received a letter from me with NO POSTAGE, NO FULL ADDRESS AND NO RETURN ADDRESS, simply addressed to: DR. WILLIS P. CALLINS, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA and YOU GOT IT! Wow!! Whatever I wanted to share with you must have been some kinda urgent and you loved knowing I wanted to reach you that much. THEN there are the times that you and Aunt Madeline allowed me to stay with you so I could work in your office, during which times you shared history lessons, information about Recorders Courts (Uncle Bill was very enthusiastic about the idea of me becoming a lawyer), food, plants and WHATEVER ELSE was on your mind. ALSO, I am reminded that you gave me an unabridged French dictionary when I was taking French in High School. I used that dictionary to send you numerous communications in French, to which you would respond in French to help me practice. We talked about making a trip to France, but life happened and we never made it. THEN there were your famous telephone conversations...during which you seemed TOTALLY OBLIVIOUS to the fact that those on the other side of the conversation had stopped participating some time ago...and you seemed perfectly satisfied to continue a solo chat, so long as you got an occasional 'um hum', 'ok' or some other type of acknowledgment. I did pretty well at staying alert during our conversations because I wanted to HEAR what you had to say, no matter how long it took or how many times you said it! :) There are too many memories to recount them all. While I am deeply saddened at not having shared with you one last hug and at not having told you, at the end, how much that we love you, I am grateful that God gave you to me, as an uncle, and my spirits are lifted by the knowledge that you are no longer suffering. Avec amour toujours, mon cher Oncle Bill. Rest in peace. Love Lynn & Benjamin

Val Frazier - March 19, 2021 at 08:32 PM

RB

“ Our condolences to the family. We celebrate his life of helping so many people and being a great friend! When we first met it was like we had been friends for years. Jewell and I had a great time with Willis and Paul on the coast. We miss him and will never forget him.
The Beans

Russell Bean - March 19, 2021 at 10:33 AM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Dr. Willis Paul Callins.



March 18, 2021 at 07:18 PM

CD

“ I was so saddened to hear of your loss My heart is with the Callins family and friends in this trying time. Know that you are in my thoughts and prayers. Rest In Peace my friend....we will meet again. Carolyn Davidson

Carolyn Davidson - March 18, 2021 at 02:20 PM

JF

“ We the Pope family send our heartfelt condolences to the Callins family. We ask God to wrap all of you in his faithful love and comfort each of you with the cherished memories you hold dear.



John Pope & Family - March 18, 2021 at 11:37 AM

BH

“ BH
Brenda Phillips Hong
a day ago
Forever Friends! Rest in Peace, Willis ~ and in the Everlasting Arms of our Savior. You made an indelible mark in my memory bank. YOU are the smartest and kindest person I've ever met. Until we meet again.
Brenda J. Phillips Hong

Brenda J. Phillip's Hong - March 18, 2021 at 11:37 AM

BM

“ *My condolences to the family and to my family friend Paul. My thoughts are with you man.*



Brandon Mincey - March 18, 2021 at 08:39 AM

DF

“ *Praying for our Family* 🙏🙏🙏🙏❤️

Doris A. Jelks & Family - March 17, 2021 at 08:21 PM

TJ

“ *Condolences to the Callins' family.*

Thomas J.Pope, Jr. Major, United States Air Force, Ret.

Thomas J Pope Jr. - March 17, 2021 at 03:11 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Dr. Willis Paul Callins.*



March 17, 2021 at 10:56 AM



“ *Madeline and Bert Morrow purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Dr. Willis Paul Callins.*



Madeline and Bert Morrow - March 17, 2021 at 10:26 AM



“ *Jan Cecelia Kennedy, MD purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Dr. Willis Paul Callins.*



Jan Cecelia Kennedy, MD - March 17, 2021 at 09:43 AM

CW

“ Our heartfelt sympathy to the family of Willis Paul Callins, my Morehouse classmate and friend. As freshmen we spent hours debating anything and all things. After college we went our separate ways. Whenever we got a chance to meet it was always filled with discussions and laughter. After a long hiatus we encountered each other three years ago at Sprouts. Of course we talked the paint off of the walls. Later you invited my wife and I to your hideaway and we reveled in each others company. We followed up with discussions about creating an idyllic abode. I was so looking forward to meeting you later on the water and continuing our discussion about creating an idyllic abode when I learned of your passing.

You matter and are missed!

Charles A. West, Ph.D.

Charles A West - March 17, 2021 at 05:51 AM

JB

“ Joe Black sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Willis Paul Callins



Joe Black - March 16, 2021 at 08:08 PM

CG

“ Carrie Gee sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Willis Paul Callins



Carrie Gee - March 16, 2021 at 08:06 PM

MH

“ I will never forget you. I missed a year of mental jockeying with you when I decided not to come with you to Morehouse College after our junior year of high school. After college, when my phone lite up and I saw that it was you calling .I knew that I was going to be involved in at least one or two hours of philosophical discussions on a myriad number of topics. I now wish that we had had more of those discussions. I always felt smarter when we finally hung up the phones. Thanks for sharing you with me. Rest in peace Willis. I don't know when but we will have more discussions. Mark

Mark W Hill - March 16, 2021 at 08:00 PM

AB

I will never forget you. I remember the time that you visited me when I lived in Cali. It was the time when you were studying at USC. Those were great times. Also our last visit was during the reunion in Atlanta. We all had fun sitting around talking, not knowing that would be last time spent with you. We all took pictures. Those pictures will be a keepsake to remember you. A job well done Willis.

Arlene Payne Bowie

Arlene Bowie - March 16, 2021 at 08:47 PM

BH

Forever Friends! Rest in Peace, Willis ~ and in the Everlasting Arms of our Savior. You made an indelible mark in my memory bank. YOU are the smartest and kindest person I've ever met. Until we meet again. 🙏



Brenda J. Phillips Hong

Brenda Phillips Hong - March 17, 2021 at 10:46 AM

JC

Words cannot be found to express the sadness I feel because Willis was like my true brother. I will definitely miss the lengthy conversations we had about many topics. I always knew that I would get an encouraging word whenever needed, as well as advice. May you rest in peace, and you will be missed.

*Love,
Jean Callins*

Jean Callins - March 18, 2021 at 05:49 PM

CG

“ To my family by another mother 🤔 and father 🤔. My heart is very heavy 💔 now. I understand God is in control of all of this. Willis is missed 😞 already. Rest now my brother 🙏. You are now with mama, daddy, Jothan, Ruben, and Joel. It's reunion time 🍷
Carrie Odom Gee



Carrie Gee - March 16, 2021 at 07:29 PM

CG

Western Olin now P.D.Jackson Olin high school 🏫 alumni.

Carrie Gee - March 16, 2021 at 07:48 PM

MT

*From Paris,France
Françoise and myself, Seab Turner send our heartfelt condolences to your family, Dear Willis.....I just received this sad news minutes ago from Hugh Dallas, my habitual American contact. I will always remember your example as a person....I admired you....your musician side still aids me as a musician today. Of course, my admiration go out to the Callins Family long dated from Western-Olin.....from a far,
Seab Turner*

Mr. Seab TURNER - March 18, 2021 at 10:04 AM

TF

“ To The Family, We send our sincerest condolences. It is our prayer, May Almighty God, the source of all mercy and giver of comfort; deal mercifully with your heart's that mourn, carrying all burdens of your sorrow, giving consolation of his unfailing love; through his Son, Jesus Christ, Our Lord.



"We all die. The goal isn't to live forever, the goal is to create something that will." This is the lasting memory that describes him best to me, someone who meant so much, touching hearts all along the way. May each of you be blessed with much strength and peace in the day's ahead.

With our Love & God's Blessings Always. The TMBrown Family

TMB Family - March 16, 2021 at 07:19 PM

DF

“ Dr. Troy L Story and family. purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Dr. Willis Paul Callins.



Dr. Troy L Story and family. - March 16, 2021 at 05:41 PM



“ Thoughts & Prayers was purchased for the family of Dr. Willis Paul Callins.



March 16, 2021 at 04:44 PM

LC

“ My deepest sympathy to your family at the loss of a wonderful person. I have known Willis since at least 1982, and whenever I would see him in the halls of the hospital, initially when I was in private practice, I knew he had a lot to say, and some 1 hour later, I would marvel at his fund of knowledge and telling me about his experiences. I remember Willis would ask if I wanted to go sailing, on the Gulf mind you, as he knew my home was Gulfport, MS, and sometimes I was down here, when he came down here at the VAH, Biloxi. I would always say we would have to plan on doing that, knowing that I am not a fan of sailing, as I enjoy looking at the water from shore. I will miss him and enjoyed working with him for many years . I thank your family for sharing Willis with us.

Lina Caldwell MD

Lina Caldwell - March 16, 2021 at 04:34 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Dr. Willis Paul Callins.



March 16, 2021 at 04:10 PM

JC

“ *Uncle Willis!! This seems very unreal. . Who will have the most interesting topics to talk about now at family functions? Lol...My earliest memories are of riding in your blue van and trips to Pine Harbor...Witty and cool, you always gave an encouraging word....always well dressed and you somehow AMAZINGLY always finished your large plate of food lol...Rest up wise guy...you will be missed :(*

Jodel Callins - March 15, 2021 at 08:07 PM

TS

“ I was surprised and unhappy when Paul Callins informed me of the passing of a cherished friend.. Although I first met Dr. Callins during my senior year (1962) at Morehouse College, our friendship really began in 1965 when we were both graduate students in chemistry at The University of California, Berkeley and during Willis's tenure at the University of California Medical School in San Francisco. Our paths took us in different directions, our friendship never wavered, and flowered again when we both moved to Atlanta. I will miss his friendship and his energetic and joyful embrace of life!

TROY LEE Story - March 15, 2021 at 05:58 PM

AC

“ My sweet second father Willis ! I will never forget all of our talks and there fun memories you created for us a family .We are truly blessed to have known such a genuine kind soul ! You were a true gentleman , one of one . Your grandkids will miss you and will cherish the every lesson you taught them .We will forever keep your memory alive . Love you so very much . May you now rest up my friend .No more pain .-Amanda

amanda callins - March 15, 2021 at 05:20 PM

PA

“ Dad, I love you and I miss you. You are the most selfless person that I have known.

Paul - March 15, 2021 at 05:07 PM