

Walter Albert Willis

December 30, 1934 - January 19, 2017

Walter A. Willis passed away peacefully at his home in Winter Springs on Thursday, January 19, 2017. He was 82. Born on December 30, 1934 in Cleveland, Ohio, he was raised by his father Frank B. Willis. Walter is survived by his wife Shirley 'Penny' Jones Willis, his daughters Linda Jane Gillotti and Diane Carole Willis, his son James 'Jim' Frank Willis his grandsons Daylin James Pierce, Deven Ray Willis and James Bradley Willis his granddaughter Melissa Grace Willis, his nephew Warren Jones and his brother-in-law Edward Jones.

Walt served in the US Army as a medic in Germany during peacetime after the Korean War. He worked many years as a printing salesman, he was a lay Eucharistic minister in the Episcopal church, heavily involved in the Diocese of Central Florida. He was a softball coach for Conway Girls Softball during the summertime when his daughters were in school. When he retired, he developed a passion for helping others in need especially shut-in and poor senior citizens. He worked closely with Second Harvest Food Bank delivering food via his Food Angels volunteer ministry. He attended St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Lake Mary.

In lieu of flowers, please give donations to Second Harvest Food Bank.

Previous Events

Reception

JAN **25**. 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM (ET)

St. Peter's Episcopal Church
700 Rinehart Rd
Lake Mary, FL 32746

Tribute Wall

LD

“ *Walt Willis was one of the most competent and generous men I've ever had the opportunity to know and receive tutelage from. A true leader, a true mentor. He made me a better person, just knowing him.*

Walt was the kind of man who could accept criticism in those rear instances he has mistaken, more often however, he could suggest a better way to achieve the best possible result.

God bless you sir, and your entire family.

Rest In Peace.

Penny, Linda, Jim and Diane, my deepest sympathies for your loss.

Louis DeSorbo - January 28, 2017 at 07:53 PM

LH

“*Dear Willis family. We have moved away and only just heard of Walt's passing. You have our sympathy and Heaven has a true angel.*

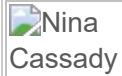
Walt Willis put service to God and others above all. Everyone who knew him was overwhelmed by his kindness and passion (and strength). I loved him.

Walt fed Central Florida's seniors' stomachs with food and their hearts with friendship and conversation to help alleviate some of the loneliness he knew they were feeling. He provided transportation to doctors' appointments and solved other one-off problems in any way he could.

Walt changed so many lives, including mine. I shall always remember Walt in the way he ended every conversation - with a smile and the words "Have a better tomorrow than today. "



Lizz Holmes - January 27, 2017 at 06:12 AM



“ Brian and I did not get the pleasure of meeting Walt, Penny, and family until the end of 2015, when we started visiting to bring Walt and Penny communion from St. Peter's. We knew they were loved by many at St. Peter's and the Diocese of Central Florida, and we quickly found out why. Even though we would visit to minister and listen to Walt, HE ministered to us, even when he did not feel well! He always wanted to know all about our lives and found a common bond with us because he and Penny used to be Lay Eucharistic Visitors. I am studying for the diaconate, and Walt is my role model. He was so devoted to the Lord and His work. Diane and Linda, we are grateful to have had the opportunity to have walked with you and your mom at this most holy time. You and your dad blest us. Shalom.

Nina and Brian Bolton

Nina Cassidy - January 25, 2017 at 07:46 PM



“ Fly high Walt, the world was a better place for having you in it.



Michelle Pierce - January 23, 2017 at 12:21 PM



“ Linda Jane Gillotti was added to the Family Tree.

Linda Gillotti - January 23, 2017 at 07:55 AM



“ Diane Carole Willis was added to the Family Tree.

Linda Gillotti - January 23, 2017 at 07:54 AM

JG

“ James Frank Willis was added to the Family Tree.

Linda Gillotti - January 23, 2017 at 07:54 AM

JG

“ Shirley Jones Willis was added to the Family Tree.

Linda Gillotti - January 23, 2017 at 07:54 AM

JG

“ Madalyn Louise Horsey was added to the Family Tree.

Linda Gillotti - January 23, 2017 at 07:52 AM

JG

“ Frank B. Willis was added to the Family Tree.

Linda Gillotti - January 23, 2017 at 07:52 AM

JG

“ Frank B. Willis was added to the Family Tree.

Linda Gillotti - January 23, 2017 at 07:47 AM

JG

“ 3 files added to the album Family Photos



Linda Gillotti - January 23, 2017 at 07:46 AM


Devona
Smesta

“ *Devona Smesta lit a candle in memory of
Walter Albert Willis*



Devona Smesta - January 23, 2017 at 07:28 AM


Devona
Smesta

Walt you were an amazing man you will be deeply missed

Devona Smesta - January 23, 2017 at 07:33 AM

Jg

“ *I love you, Dad. You were a great father. I am
so blessed that you adopted me and gave me
a chance to be loved and have a full life.
Thank you so much! See you in heaven.*



Linda Gillotti - January 23, 2017 at 07:16 AM

RK

“ *When Karen and I first started attending the 5 pm Saturday service
at St. Peter's 10 or more years ago Walt and Penny were probably
the first people to speak to us. It was because of the welcome they
made us feel it was easy to realize we had found a new Church
home. Penny we hope you know we will do what ever we can to
help you through this difficult time.*

Love,

Robb Fiedler and Karen Keplinger

Robb Fiedler & Karen Keplinger - January 22, 2017 at 08:13 PM