



Ella Mae Willis

September 4, 1915 - December 2, 2018

Ella Mae Young Willis, age 103, of Morrilton, Arkansas died peacefully Sunday, December 2, 2018. She was born on September 4, 1915, in Clarksville, Arkansas to Carter Young and Ella Wee Moyer Young. Being an exceptional student, she graduated at the age of 15 from Clarksville High School, valedictorian of her senior class, and graduated from the College of the Ozarks, (University of the Ozarks), with honors at age 19 majoring in foreign languages. She was the oldest living graduate of the University of the Ozarks.

She met her future husband, J.C. Willis, while in high school and married in 1935. From Clarksville, they moved to Vicksburg, Mississippi, then back to Russellville around 1940. They made their home there until 1953 when they moved to Morrilton where J.C. Willis and two partners had opened KVOM AM radio station on Christmas Day 1952. She was both housewife and former co-owner of KVOM AM FM. She enjoyed ballet, ballroom dancing, reading, painting, and traveling all over the world. J.C. and Ella Mae did not miss an in-state Razorback football game for nearly 30 years and also visited each Southwest Conference stadium at least once and never missed a bowl game the Razorbacks were in during those years.

After her husband died in 1984, she made close friends with many Morrilton ladies, having lunch and dinner together most days. Later they became known as the Weirdos, (widows). She was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Morrilton and a past member of the Pathfinders Club, Friends of the

Library and Audra Basham Circle. Even though her activities were curtailed the last few years, she was able to make her weekly beauty shop appointment as late as a week and a half ago.

Ella Mae was preceded in death by her husband of 49 years, J.C. Willis, her parents and her only nephew, James (Jim) Willis Weatherston.

She is survived by her three children, Joan Filomeno (Dom), Valery Jackson (Charles), and Stan Willis (Sheila) all of Morrilton, eight grandchildren, Jodi Skelton, Leslie Heltzen, Jay Jackson, Jeff Jackson, Kris Poole, John Filomeno, Jennifer Berkemeyer, Scott Willis; thirteen great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren.

The family would like to thank the ladies who cared for Ella Mae for seven years 24 hours a day; Lorean Jackson, Nicole Williams, Helen Toney, Mary Smith, Dolly Powell, and the two she outlived, Claudia Everette and Hannah Wallace. They became part of our family and enjoyed many parties, family get togethers, and drives in the car.

Funeral service will be 1:00 p.m. Wednesday, December 5, 2018 at First United Methodist Church in Morrilton. Memorials may be made to the First United Methodist Church at 201 S. Chestnut in Morrilton or to Conway County Library at 101 W. Church Street in Morrilton. Private burial will be at Elmwood Cemetery by Harris Funeral Home of Morrilton.

Cemetery Details

Elmwood Cemetery

1830 Highway 113
Morrilton, AR 72110

Previous Events

Funeral Service

DEC 5. 1:00 PM (CT)

First United Methodist Church
201 S. Chestnut St.
Morrilton, AR 72110

Tribute Wall



“ *Ella Mae Willis*

January 30, 2023 at 02:08 AM



“ *Very sorry about your Mom Stan, mothers are the glue that holds us together. May she rest in peace.*

Jeff Stobaugh - December 12, 2018 at 07:55 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Ella Mae Willis.*



December 04, 2018 at 05:18 PM



“ *I can only imagine the memories Ella Mae left to the Willis children and grandchildren. Memories that will be cherished all their life. As a kid growing up in Morrilton, I knew just about everyone. I knew Mr. and Mrs. Willis and they were always so very kind to me. I knew Stan more than I did the girls and they were equally as nice as their parents. Morrilton was blessed to have great citizens like the Willis family. Memories, yes I have some too of them. Thank you and God Bless!*

Robert "Bob" RAINBOLT - December 04, 2018 at 05:16 PM

JH

“ *Ella Mae and I became friends after meeting on a Get Up and Go Gang trip in either 1995 or 1996. She became one of my dearest friends. We shared many fun times and trips together. She was the Matriarch of the Willis family and loved her family so very much. And, she extended her love to many friends. When it came to her hair, her dress and her shoes, she looked as if she had just stepped out of a band box. Her picture says it all. My life was enriched knowing her.*

Johna Howell

Johna Howell - December 04, 2018 at 05:05 PM

GG

“ *Gayle Garrett lit a candle in memory of Ella Mae Willis*



Gayle Garrett - December 04, 2018 at 05:02 PM

GG

She was a very special lady whom I will always and forever love. May she RIP.

Gayle Garrett - December 04, 2018 at 06:04 PM

GG

“ *WE LOVED HER FOR 35 WONDERFUL YEARS. I HAD THE HONOR OF WORKING FOR HER FOR 35 YRS. I WILL MISS HER DEEPLY FOR SHE WAS A VERY DEAR FRIEND AND ALWAYS TREATED ME WITH UTMOST RESPECT. SHE WILL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN.*

LINA MAE GARRETT AND FAMILY

Gayle Garrett - December 04, 2018 at 05:01 PM

JS

“ Stan, to you and your sisters, our deepest sympathy in the loss of your mother. No matter their age or health; you're never ready to lose them. She will live on the your heart and those of all who were blessed by her company and friendship. Peace be with you and your family at this difficult time.

Johnny Story - December 04, 2018 at 02:13 PM

BZ

So sorry to hear of your Mother's death, it's so hard to let them go, but she sure lived a great life. May God bless your family. Becky & Fred Zimmerman.

Becky Zimmerman - December 05, 2018 at 09:31 PM

LK

“ So sorry for your loss of a wonderful & caring person. May she be at peace in heaven.

Linda Kirtley - December 04, 2018 at 12:01 PM

EF

“ I am sorry to hear about this. Mrs. Willis was a wonderful person.

Eddie Fugatt - December 04, 2018 at 10:37 AM

ET

“ So sorry for your loss. I didn't know her personally but had seen her in and around town. She was a lady in every sense of the word. I know she will be greatly missed. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

Elaine Tilley

Elaine Tilley - December 04, 2018 at 08:49 AM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Ella Mae Willis.*



December 03, 2018 at 05:54 PM