



Mr. Eugene "Gene" Willis, Sr.

December 12, 1954 - September 16, 2022

Mr. Eugene Willis, Sr., 67, of Galesburg, Illinois transitioned from this life at 8:59 pm on Friday, September 16, 2022 at OSF St. Francis Medical Center, Peoria, IL.

Eugene was born in Madison, Arkansas on December 12, 1954 to Octavia Miller and John Willis. He married Janelle Walker on November 26, 2005.

Eugene worked at Farmland Foods, Inc., Monmouth, IL in maintenance retiring after over 20 years of service in 2020. He had a great work ethic and worked all the time. Eugene graduated from Forrest City High School, Forrest City, AR. He loved motorcycles and the blues music. Eugene had a dry sense of humor, but was loved by many. He was always helping others. Eugene was a religious man. He was a member of Second Baptist Church, Galesburg, IL.

Eugene leaves to cherish his most precious memory five sons, Tyrone (Melinda) Nickelberry of North Hollywood, CA, Eugene Willis, Jr., Kendrick Willis and Jeremy Willis all of Forrest City, AR, Wesley Franklin of Indianapolis, IN; two daughters, Latoya Franklin of Indianapolis, IN and Tacarra Franklin of Jacksonville, IL; two brothers, John (Lisa) Willis, Jr. of Galesburg, IL and Albert Willis of San Antonio, TX; two sisters, Aimee Willis of Widener, AR and Octavia Livingston of Toledo, OH; nine grandchildren and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends. He is preceded

in death by his parents, one daughter, Vendetta Franklin, two brothers, Robert Willis and Oliver Ward, three sisters, Olivia Jones, Mamie Greene and Joann Bayes Ward.

The family will have a private service in Peoria, IL and in Forrest City, AR.

Simons Mortuary has been entrusted with arrangements. Online condolences may be sent to [SimonsMortuary.com](https://www.SimonsMortuary.com).

The service will be live streamed on Simons Mortuary's Website or Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Simons-Mortuary-232095303487150> promptly AT THE TIME OF THE SERVICE (Central Time).

Due to Covid-19, social distancing is encouraged to be consistent with recommendations from the National Funeral Directors Association (NFDA), funeral home directors have been instructed and should follow CDC guidelines on gatherings, including those directly related to funerals, visitations, or graveside services.

*In an effort to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, we ask that everyone in attendance: wear a face mask and refrain from hugging, kissing and shaking hands (as hard as it is to see someone you care about and not touch them).

*It is our responsibility as Funeral Directors, to do everything we can to advise families in order to honor our beloved Families and to keep everyone as safe as possible.

Thanks in advance for your cooperation!

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP **22**. 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

Simons Mortuary Chapel
912 W. John H. Gwynn, Jr. Ave.
Peoria, IL 61605
(309) 674-2638
info@simonsmortuary.com
<https://simonsmortuary.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Simons Mortuary created a Tribute Video in memory of Mr. Eugene "Gene" Willis, Sr.*



Simons Mortuary - September 22, 2022 at 01:02 PM

MD

What a friendly and nice person had so many laughs at Allen Chapel all in good fun will miss him for his kind words and encouragement. God Bless your family.

Mary Jo Duckworth - September 28, 2022 at 05:31 PM



“ *Mr. Eugene "Gene" Willis, Sr.*

January 29, 2023 at 06:10 AM



“ *Mr. Eugene "Gene" Willis, Sr.*

January 29, 2023 at 03:12 AM

MD

“ *Mary Jo Duckworth lit a candle in memory of Mr. Eugene "Gene" Willis, Sr.*



Mary Jo Duckworth - September 28, 2022 at 05:22 PM

JT

“ *Condolences and Prayers to the family of Eugene Willis
Rev. Toby Carlos ~Pastor
Bethesda MB Church Family*

Joyce M Taylor - September 28, 2022 at 02:21 PM

ML

“ *gone to early,love you brother Willis.The Leary Family*

michael j leary - September 22, 2022 at 04:25 PM

AI

“ *ANNETTE IRBY lit a candle in memory of Mr. Eugene "Gene" Willis, Sr.*



ANNETTE IRBY - September 22, 2022 at 01:39 PM

AN

“ NEW HOME MISSIONARY BAPTIST
CHURCH

433 East First Street
Galesburg, Illinois 61401
Church Number (309)345-0209



Email: newhomebaptistchurch433@gmail.com

Pastor Kemp Jones, Sr.

September 22, 2022

To the family of Mr. Eugene Willis, Sr., Once again we find ourselves bowed down in humble submission to the divine will of almighty God.

Be assured that the passing of your loved one was his will and that all things done by him are not to be doubted even though we don't understand.

We hope that these few words will comfort you in the tomorrows to come.

There is promise in each sunrise.

There is hope for each new day.

There's a sunbeam for each raindrop,

There is help along the way.

There is faith for all life's problems,

There is strength for the trials you face,

There is mercy and compassion,

Even in life's darkest place.

That makes all life's sorrows dim.

When you place your hand in God's hand,

And walk life's path with him.

We, the Pastor, Officers, and Members know that he will be missed.

Respectfully Submitted

Pastor Kemp Jones

Annette Cato Church Clerk

Annette - September 22, 2022 at 12:13 PM