



## Mr. Willie E. Morris

April 5, 1933 - October 7, 2021

Willie E. "Bill" Morris passed away peacefully on the evening of October 7, 2021, at the age of 88 after battling health problems for several years.

Bill, as known by his friends and family, was a survivor and a fighter. He was a world traveler and veteran of foreign wars. Born in Columbus, Georgia to Russell and Mary (Watson) Morris on April 5, 1933, Bill was the beloved "Baby Bother" to his three older sisters and three younger brothers. A graduate of Spencer High School, Bill was a lifelong learner who later earned an associate degree from Illinois Central College.

Bill showed an early knack for business starting his first endeavor before starting high school. His tenacious entrepreneurial spirit continued throughout his 21-year career in the U.S. Air Force and the career that followed as an owner of several businesses.

Bill will be remembered for his love of fishing—lake, deep sea, ice fishing—and growing his own vegetables in huge backyard gardens that he tended year-round. Bill also had a passion for music, teaching himself to play the saxophone, playing in a band, and sharing his love of classic/abstract jazz with his family and friends. Family was very important to Bill, and he maintained a strong connection to his extended family, never missing a reunion.

Bill is preceded in death by his parents, sisters Mozell Jenkins and Mabel Bennefield, and brother James Arthur. He is survived his children Craig Powell, Dana Morris, Brian (Eleni Lapidaki) Morris, Alec (Margot Vance) Morris; grandsons Brad Powell, Christian Powell, Anthony Powell, Daelen Morris, Aaron Morris; siblings Dorothy Smith, Robert (Cora) Morris, Melvin Morris; and many nieces, nephews, cousins and other family members. Bill is also survived by his former wife and mother of his children Cecilia Jordan and his former spouse Lois Gaston.

A Celebration of Life Service will be Saturday, October 16, 2021 at Simons Mortuary from 1:00PM to 2:00PM CST. 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.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, 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 a 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!

# Cemetery Details

## Camp Butler National Cemetery

5063 Camp Butler Road, RR1  
Springfield, IL 62707

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

OCT **16**. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

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

## Burial

OCT **18**. 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM (CT)

Camp Butler National Cemetery  
5063 Camp Butler Road, RR1  
Springfield, IL 62707

# Tribute Wall



“ *Simons Mortuary created a Tribute Video in memory of Mr. Willie E. Morris*



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**Simons Mortuary** - October 15, 2021 at 03:01 PM



“ *Mr. Willie E. Morris*

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January 29, 2023 at 06:10 AM



“ *Mr. Willie E. Morris*

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January 29, 2023 at 03:12 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. Willie E. Morris.*



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October 16, 2021 at 08:50 AM

BC

“ *Brenda Cayson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willie E. Morris*



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**Brenda Cayson** - October 14, 2021 at 06:33 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. Willie E. Morris.*



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October 13, 2021 at 05:07 PM

TL

“ *The CDO Team at Maryland Carey Law purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Mr. Willie E. Morris.*



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**The CDO Team at Maryland Carey Law** - October 13, 2021 at 02:07 PM



“ 17 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



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**Simons Mortuary** - October 13, 2021 at 12:28 PM



“ Love, David and Aleta purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Mr. Willie E. Morris.



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**Love, David and Aleta** - October 13, 2021 at 12:11 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**mrsupersunshine2** - October 12, 2021 at 08:48 PM

MR

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



mrsupersunshine2 - October 12, 2021 at 08:46 PM

MR

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



mrsupersunshine2 - October 12, 2021 at 07:42 PM

BS

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Blanche Scarbrough - October 12, 2021 at 06:37 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Life Tributes*



Simons Mortuary - October 12, 2021 at 06:29 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Life Tributes*



Simons Mortuary - October 12, 2021 at 05:00 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



mrsupersunshine2 - October 12, 2021 at 10:54 AM



“ Mancy Pittman lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willie E. Morris



Mancy Pittman - October 11, 2021 at 11:09 PM

MR

“ 11 files added to the tribute wall



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mrsupersunshine2 - October 11, 2021 at 10:19 PM

MR

“ 7 files added to the tribute wall



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mrsupersunshine2 - October 11, 2021 at 10:11 PM

MR

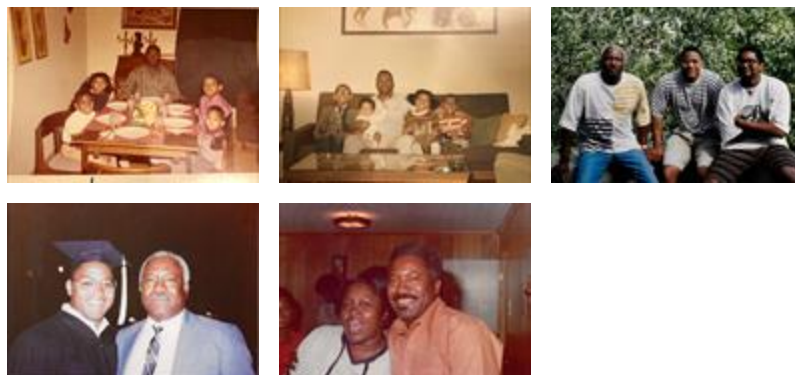
“ 12 files added to the tribute wall



mrsupersunshine2 - October 11, 2021 at 10:00 PM

MR

“ 9 files added to the album Bill Morris Memorial



mrsupersunshine2 - October 11, 2021 at 09:49 PM

DW

“ Prayers for family and friends in Jesus name rip in Jesus name amen

Dorotha Williams - October 09, 2021 at 09:56 PM

BT

“ It is great sadness that I learn of the passing of Willie “Bill” Morris. My Prayers go out to his family and friends, may he “Rest In Peace.” 🙏

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**Beverly Leatherwood Travis** - October 08, 2021 at 11:00 PM