



Joe Ernest Willis Sr.

November 13, 1926 - January 3, 2022

Joe Ernest Willis, Sr., 95, of Simpsonville, passed away on Monday, January 3, 2022, at his home.

Born in Pelzer, SC, he was a son of the late Rev. Joseph Ernest Willis and the late Belle Langford Willis. Joe was a U.S. Army veteran; a graduate of Furman University; he retired from Pleasants Hardware as an Architectural Hardware Consultant and was a member of the First Baptist Church of Simpsonville.

Joe was a man who loved nature, he enjoyed fishing, hunting, gardening and nature photography. He also enjoyed playing his ukulele with the Happy Strummers and has always loved his many dogs throughout the years.

Surviving is his wife of 68 years Bertie Willis; a daughter, Denise Willis Leong; two sons, Joe Ernest "Ernie" Willis Jr. (Mimi) and Henry James Willis; a sister, Margie Clary; seven grandchildren, Joshua Leong, Joseph Leong, Ernest Willis, III, Cody Willis, Chandler Willis, Giesela Patrick and Genevieve Lubecke; nine great grandchildren, Carson Leong, Chase Leong, Natalia Tovar, Nailah Lind, Emma Willis, Celeste Willis, Joe E. Willis, IV, Jocelyn Willis and Weston Lane along with many loving nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents he was predeceased by his brother, Rev. Martin Willis and a sister, Helen Woodberry.

Funeral services will be held at 2 o'clock Saturday afternoon at The Howze Mortuary Chapel with a Private Family Burial at Woodlawn Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 1:30PM until 2PM Saturday at the mortuary prior to the service.

Memorials may be made to the First Baptist Church of Simpsonville.

Online condolences may be expressed to the family at www.thehowzemortuary.com

Cemetery Details

Woodlawn Memorial Park

1 Pine Knoll Dr.
Greenville, SC

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 8. 1:30 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

The Howze Mortuary
6714 State Park Rd./P.O. Box 369
Travelers Rest, SC

Service

JAN 8. 2:00 PM (ET)

The Howze Mortuary Chapel
6714 State Park Rd./P.O. Box 369
Travelers Rest, SC

Tribute Wall

JF

“ *Bertie, Margie and family,
We are so sad for your loss. You are in our thoughts and prayers.
May our Heavenly Father bless, strengthen, and comfort you. So
sad that we have not been able to see extended family members
recently. You have our deepest sympathy!
George and Joyce Spencer Fisher (Hazel Spencer's daughter)
Lyman, SC*

Joyce Spencer Fisher - January 13, 2022 at 09:59 PM

GG

“ *Bertie and Family: My deepest sympathies and sadness to hear of
Joe's passing. He taught me so much in my career and most of all
in life as well.
George Von Glahn
Apex, NC*

George Von Glahn - January 08, 2022 at 06:39 PM

SK

“ *Bertie and Henry,

Kim and are are sorry to hear a about Joe's passing. We are
thinking about you and praying for you. Joe was always kind to me
and I always had the most respect for him. He was a steady, stoic
and loving father and husband. God bless you and keep you.

Scott and Kim Kerr*

Scott Kerr - January 08, 2022 at 12:46 PM

MG

“ Our deepest condolences to the Willis family. We remember Joe fondly and extend our hugs and love to Birdie and the kids. May your memories comfort you always.
Love,. The Goff Family. Janelle, Mike and Jennifer.

Michael goff - January 08, 2022 at 10:06 AM

EW

Bertie, Sympathy to you, family and friends. May our Heavenly Father comfort you all. Blessings, Flora Ernestine Willis

Ernestine Willis - January 09, 2022 at 08:57 PM

SC

“ Joe was a beautiful spirit who brought joy to me as a friend and Happy Strummer colleague. I'll miss him, his inspiring attitude, and his ukulele strumming enthusiasm. Farewell, dear Joe. Blessings to you on your new journey. Sharron Clive

Sharron Clive - January 07, 2022 at 11:29 AM

LM

“ Joe was a long-time, beloved member of the Happy Strummers ukulele group at Senior Action in Greenville. Even when his hearing wasn't so good, he told me he could keep time by feeling the vibration through his feet! He never seemed to miss a beat and was always smiling while he played. We'll miss you, Joe.

Linda McMakin
Ukulele Instructor



Linda McMakin - January 07, 2022 at 07:39 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Joe Ernest Willis Sr..*



January 06, 2022 at 10:22 PM



“ *Chip & Charlene Bricker and Joyce Hipp purchased the Enduring Grace for the family of Joe Ernest Willis Sr..*



Chip & Charlene Bricker and Joyce Hipp - January 06, 2022 at 07:00 PM



“ *Sending our love,prayers and heartfelt condolences to the entire Willis family. We love you all. Chip and Charlene Bricker and of course Munchkin 🙏🙏💕*

Charlene Bricker - January 06, 2022 at 06:49 PM



“ *Phil And Joy R. Parsons lit a candle in memory of Joe Ernest Willis Sr.*



Phil and Joy R. Parsons - January 06, 2022 at 03:10 PM

PP

“ Aunt Bertie and family,
Thinking about you and sending heartfelt condolences. We have such loving memories of Uncle Joe that we carry with each of us. Rejoicing along with you that Uncle Joe is absent from the body but present with the Lord . That brings peace and comfort to our saddened hearts. Matthew 5:4
The Joyce Rivers family

Phil and Joy R. Parsons - January 06, 2022 at 03:09 PM

MS

“ Love and prayers from the Florence Hancock Smith's family (Charles & Mary, Joyce, William, and Jerry's widow Mary).



Mary G Smith - January 06, 2022 at 02:20 PM

DC

“ Uncle Joe, you're going to be missed by many.



Douglas and Carol Ann Curtis - January 06, 2022 at 12:37 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Joe Ernest Willis Sr..



January 06, 2022 at 11:28 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Joe Ernest Willis Sr..*



January 06, 2022 at 11:23 AM



“ *The Curtis's lit a candle in memory of Joe Ernest Willis Sr.*



The Curtis's - January 05, 2022 at 06:35 PM



“ *Our condolences goes out to the family. May God give you peace and comfort going forward. We love you Aunt Bertie, Denise, Ernie, Henry. The Curtis's love you dearly. Uncle Joe was one of a kind and a man of his word, we will miss him.*



The Curtis's - January 05, 2022 at 06:31 PM