



Mrs. Carolyn Willis

October 23, 1946 - August 11, 2014

Carolyn Willis, 67, was born in Dallas October 23, 1946 to Dena and Ed Way. She transferred her membership to the church universal on August 11, 2014 in Houston, after a long illness. She is survived by her husband, Rev. Bill Willis and their son Dr. Josh Willis and wife Dr. Dixie Aragaki; by her sister Connie Humphries and husband Bob Humphries; by Bill's sister and brother-in-law Lyn and Art Gentry, and their children – nephew Michael Gentry and wife Ramee, niece Rev. Lara McGregor and husband Kirk, and niece Dr. Amy Gentry and husband Curtis Luciana; and by countless friends. She is preceded in death by her father and mother, brother Elliot, and step-father Ray Coleman.

Carolyn grew up in Dallas, was a popular leader and honor student, graduating from Adamson HS. After a year at NTSU, she transferred to Stephen F. Austin, where she was a teaching assistant and lab instructor, and graduated with a degree in chemistry and biology. She and Bill were married in 1968 and moved to Austin where she began a long teaching career as a science teacher at Elgin HS. She was honored there as District Teacher of the Year. The couple moved to Dallas, where son Josh was born in 1974. She was a super Mom, instilling in Joshua a love of science and the determination and imagination required of a PhD and research scientist.

Carolyn accomplished many things in her life. A life-long Presbyterian, she loved the Lord, and was an active leader, teacher, choir member, guitar player and song writer, Elder, youth director, pastor's wife, and in the last decade of

her life a full-time volunteer Director of Christian Education. She wrote curriculum and taught computer software, was treasurer of a major non-profit organization, was Chief Financial Officer of a manufacturing company, and ran that company during a protracted absence of the owner. She organized a ministry to Southeast-Asian refugees, which grew into a volunteer social services agency for which she secured a one-year federal grant and then made it last for 3 years.

But above all, her life's accomplishments centered around her personality and character. To know her was to love her, and to be loved by her. She was full of joy and a huge zest for living. She had great compassion and patience and imagination. She loved generously and deeply – family, students, friends, church members, down-and-outers, and most especially children. From toddlers to teenagers, she loved and respected and understood them all. They returned that great love and followed her like a Pied Piper.

She was a wonderful wife and mother, and she will be greatly missed. The blessings and influence of knowing her will live long in the hearts of many, and the blessings and influence of her life will be long remembered.

Cemetery Details

Memorial Oaks Cemetery

13001 Katy Freeway
Houston, TX 77079

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 16. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

Dettling Funeral Home
14094 Memorial Drive
Houston, TX 77079
(281) 497-2121
david@dettlingfuneral.com

Service

AUG 16. 10:00 AM (CT)

Dettling Funeral Home
14094 Memorial Drive
Houston, TX 77079
(281) 497-2121
david@dettlingfuneral.com

Graveside Service

AUG **16** (CT)

Memorial Oaks Cemetery
13001 Katy Freeway
Houston, TX 77079

Tribute Wall



“ *Mrs. Carolyn Willis*

October 08, 2023 at 10:52 AM



“ *Mrs. Carolyn Willis*

October 06, 2023 at 01:12 AM



“ *Mrs. Carolyn Willis*

October 05, 2023 at 09:45 AM



“ *Mrs. Carolyn Willis*

October 05, 2023 at 01:54 AM



“ *Carolyn was a friend from elementary thru HS. She often sat in front of me in elementary at Jefferson Davis. We lived in different HS districts. I went to Kimball and she went to Adamson. Our families attended the Wynnewood Presbyterian church and I remember many evenings playing softball with the youth group or sitting in young adult activities with Carolyn and sometimes Marty. I hold some dear memories of Carolyn and extend my sympathies to her family and current friend community. Diana Phillips Hartman, Corvallis, Oregon*

Diana Hartman - August 15, 2014 at 03:50 PM

MH

“ 7 files added to the album *New Album Name*



Marty Hendrix - August 15, 2014 at 02:31 PM

MH

“ *Marty Hendrix purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Mrs. Carolyn Willis.*



Marty Hendrix - August 15, 2014 at 02:23 PM

DN

“Carolyn was love: *"Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."* 1 Cor. 13:4-7

She was incredible. I was so blessed to see her in action with the kids at Alabama Presbyterian. She was delightful. She was precious. She was so mighty in her faith in God. She loved God and Bill and Josh ferosciously! She was so proud of them both

Some special people come into a life and stay for a while but live in the heart forever. Carolyn will be missed deeply but I thank God that I was blessed to have known her.

*Delma L. Nichols
Choudrant, LA*

Delma L Nichols - August 15, 2014 at 09:57 AM

SC

“Shirley Patterson Cordell lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Carolyn Willis



shirley patterson cordell - August 15, 2014 at 09:31 AM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Mrs. Carolyn Willis.*



August 15, 2014 at 08:15 AM



“ *I have so many fond memories of our high school days together. We were in Leopardettes together and she was one of my bridesmaids. It is sad that we allow ourselves to drift apart after being such good friends. I was hoping to re-connect next year at our 50th reunion, but I guess now I will have to wait and re-connect in heaven. Even though we haven't stayed in touch, I have thought of her often and know that she is out of pain and in peace. God bless you, Billy, and all your family. Betty Thomas*

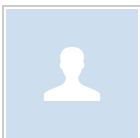
Betty Thomas - August 14, 2014 at 02:32 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mrs. Carolyn Willis.*



August 14, 2014 at 02:19 PM



“ *Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Mrs. Carolyn Willis.*



August 14, 2014 at 12:21 PM