



Mary Nell Willis

December 28, 1932 - September 18, 2014

Mrs. Mary Nell Willis, “Big Mama”, passed away Thursday, September 18, 2014 at Covenant Medical Center – Cooper at the age of 81 years. She was born December 28, 1932 in Columbia County, AR, the daughter of Jake and Mary (Alexander) Harris. She was married to Junior Willis, sharing 56 years together before he preceded her in death.

Mrs. Willis attended Truevine Baptist Church faithfully for many years before she became ill. She served on the Nursing Guild and the Usher Board. She was employed by the Saginaw County Child Receiving Home for 20 years.

Mary loved her family. She was very outspoken and didn’t have a problem letting people know when they were wrong. She was also very funny and would keep everyone laughing with her sense of humor. She had a very generous heart and would offer anything she had to others. Mary leaves to cherish her memory, three children, Mary Ann Napier, Gregory (Whittney) Willis and Gloria Jean Willis, all of Saginaw, MI; eight grandchildren, Shauntia (Levi) Harrison III of Defiance, OH, Sharronda Willis, LaTonya Willis, Tasha (Quincy) Thomas of Saginaw, MI, Gregory Willis, Jr., James (MacKangela) Willis of Fort Wayne, IN, Eric (Janaya) Napier and Derrick (Renee) Napier of Saginaw, MI; 15 great-grandchildren and six great-great-grandchildren; two brothers, Richard Harris of Kansas City, MO and Martell (Dorothy) Harris of Saginaw, MI; sister, Ollie Rhinehart of Elyria, OH; two sisters-in-law, Alee

Willis of Oakland, CA and Connie Harris of Kansas City, MO; one brother-in-law, Mozell Willis of McNeil, AR; and many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends, including one of her closest friends of many years, Fannie Nelson of Saginaw, MI.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Junior Willis; her parents, Jake and Mary Harris; five brothers, Napoleon Ferguson, Nathaniel Harris, James Harris, Curtis Harris and Ervin Harris; two sisters, Gracie Willis and Carolyn Harris; mother and father-in-law, Effie and Eliza Willis.

Funeral service will take place at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 27, 2014 at Messiah Missionary Baptist Church, 2615 Williamson Road. Rev. Otis Washington, Host Pastor. Pastor James E. Hodge will officiate with interment in Forest Lawn Cemetery. Friends may call the Evans & Browne's Funeral Home, 441 N. Jefferson Ave., on Friday from 2:00 until 8:00 p.m. The family will be present to greet friends from 2:00 until 4:00 p.m.

Cemetery Details

Forest Lawn Cemetery

3210 S. Washington Avenue
Saginaw, MI

Previous Events

Family Hour

SEP **26**. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Evans & Browne's Funeral Home
441 N. Jefferson Avenue
Saginaw, MI 48607
(989) 754-0481
evansbrownes@gmail.com
<https://www.evansbrownesfuneralhome.com>

Visitation

SEP **26**. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Evans & Browne's Funeral Home
441 N. Jefferson Avenue
Saginaw, MI 48607
(989) 754-0481
evansbrownes@gmail.com
<https://www.evansbrownesfuneralhome.com>

Funeral Service

SEP **27**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Messiah Missionary Baptist Church
2615 Williamson Road
Saginaw, MI 48601

Tribute Wall

GF

“ *Gina Ford-Copeland lit a candle in memory of Mary Nell Willis*



Gina Ford-Copeland - October 01, 2014 at 11:21 AM

GF

“ *Gina Ford-Copeland*

Gina Ford-Copeland - October 01, 2014 at 11:19 AM

TP

“ *my condolences to the family, my prayers are with you miss jean during this time of grief*

tracy parham-baldwin - September 30, 2014 at 07:52 AM

LJ

“ *Lela And Wilson Jones lit a candle in memory of Mary Nell Willis*



Lela and Wilson Jones - September 28, 2014 at 02:43 PM

JW

“ *Janice West lit a candle in memory of Mary Nell Willis*



janice west - September 26, 2014 at 08:31 AM

JW

To the Willis family you have our deepest sympathy for the loss of your mother. BJ and Jeroma

janice west - September 26, 2014 at 08:33 AM

DW

“ *Deborah Williams lit a candle in memory of Mary Nell Willis*



Deborah Williams - September 26, 2014 at 05:01 AM

DK

“ *May the Lord Bless and be with you throughout these trying times!*



Deacon Larry Kemp - September 25, 2014 at 09:59 PM



“ Patricia Hill lit a candle in memory of Mary Nell Willis



Patricia Hill - September 25, 2014 at 06:01 PM



“ Ms. Brenda Bryant-Reynolds & Family sent a virtual gift in memory of Mary Nell Willis



Ms. Brenda Bryant-Reynolds & Family - September 25, 2014 at 08:57 AM



“ Joyce Blackmon O'Daniels lit a candle in memory of Mary Nell Willis



Joyce Blackmon O'Daniels - September 24, 2014 at 08:45 PM



Greg and the entire Willis family, I want you all to know that my prayers are with you during this horrific time in your life. Remember, you are not the only one that's been in this position and God bought us through. I can't say it wasn't hard but if you believe in him he will see you through also. We have an awesome God, one that sit high and look low and he will be there with you all every step of the way. Praying for the entire Willis Family. From: The Blackmon Family

Joyce Blackmon O'Daniels - September 24, 2014 at 08:50 PM

AA

“ ACASHIA ANDERSON/FAMILY lit a candle in memory of Mary Nell Willis



ACASHIA ANDERSON/FAMILY - September 24, 2014 at 05:40 PM

TF

“ My mom and I met mrs Willis a few months ago... She was one of the funniest person you ever wanted 2 meet... She kept me and my mom laughing.... We loved mrs Willis... We pray Gods strength for the family.... The turner & choyce family...

turner & choyce family - September 24, 2014 at 03:20 PM

GO

“ To the family of Mary N. Willis, You are in my prayers and thoughts at this difficult time. God bless your family. Gail Herring Oliver

Gail Herring Oliver - September 24, 2014 at 12:28 PM

AH

“ Alice Hunt lit a candle in memory of Mary Nell Willis



Alice Hunt - September 24, 2014 at 10:20 AM

AF

“ To Greg & Jean & Maryann & Family & Friends I Am Sorry For The Loss Of Your Mother I Give My Condolence & Prayer To You All

Alice Hunt & Mason Family - September 24, 2014 at 10:19 AM

JC

“ Jeanette Champion lit a candle in memory of Mary Nell Willis



Jeanette Champion - September 24, 2014 at 09:43 AM

LY

“ *"Death leaves a heartache that no one can heal, love leaves memories no one can steal." It is good to know that death is not the end. The Creator has promised that our precious loved ones sleeping in death have the hope to live again, in paradise. Psalm 37:29 tells us: "The righteous themselves will possess the earth, and they will reside forever upon it." So we look forward to seeing Mary again in paradise. In the meantime we will draw close to our Creator and his son Jesus Christ in prayer, and the Bible promises that "he himself will sustain you." - Psalm 55:22; John 17:3*

*Sincerely,
La Chelle Yates
filletmignon31@yahoo.com*

La Chelle Yates - September 23, 2014 at 10:15 PM

LB

“ Lawrence Brooks lit a candle in memory of Mary Nell Willis



Lawrence Brooks - September 23, 2014 at 09:55 PM

PR

“ Sending my deepest condolences to the Willis family.



Pudding Reese - September 23, 2014 at 09:34 PM

DA

“ Dona Austin-Bigby lit a candle in memory of Mary Nell Willis



Dona Austin-Bigby - September 23, 2014 at 05:40 PM

OS

“ Deepest condolences and sympathy to Mary Ann, Gregory & Jean on the Homegoing of your mom, Ms. Mary Willis. We the family of The Late Ms. Rosa Lee Jones who was one of your mom's best friend celebrate her life with u & let you know we love you and offer ours prayers to u on your loss. She is reunited with Mr. Babe in heaven and mamma too. God chose another flower for his eternal garden. We cherish the memories Ms. Mary and you The Willis family that we have made over the years. You are in my thoughts and prayers in your time of bereavement. " To be absent in the body is to be present with the Lord". God bless you all . Mr. Orlando Jones Sr.

Orlando Jones Sr - September 23, 2014 at 04:20 PM

HF

“ Our sincere condolence is extended to the Willis / Napier family in the loss of your dear Mother and Grandmother. It is our prayer that God will give you strength to endure this time of sorrow. May her love and fond memories live in your hearts forever.

Hankins Family - September 23, 2014 at 08:35 AM

HF

“ Hankins Family sent a virtual gift in memory of Mary Nell Willis



Hankins Family - September 23, 2014 at 08:04 AM

LC

“ Lavern Chandler lit a candle in memory of Mary Nell Willis



Lavern Chandler - September 22, 2014 at 09:35 PM

DS

“ Dorothy Sidney lit a candle in memory of Mary Nell Willis



Dorothy Sidney - September 22, 2014 at 07:25 PM

NA

“ Sending my condolences to the Willis family,
you're in my prayers.



Neelyian Ambrose - September 22, 2014 at 04:09 PM

MJ

“ Melvin Jones lit a candle in memory of Mary
Nell Willis



Melvin Jones - September 22, 2014 at 03:19 PM

TT

“ Tangela Turner lit a candle in memory of Mary
Nell Willis



Tangela Turner - September 22, 2014 at 04:54 AM

HJ

“ Houston And Elaine Jackson, Jr. lit a candle
in memory of Mary Nell Willis



Houston and Elaine Jackson, Jr. - September 21, 2014 at 07:44 PM

SC

“ *Sandra Chapman lit a candle in memory of Mary Nell Willis*



Sandra Chapman - September 21, 2014 at 01:38 PM

VR

“ *Veronica Nikki Roby lit a candle in memory of Mary Nell Willis*



Veronica Nikki Roby - September 21, 2014 at 12:36 AM

VB

“ *Velissa Batts lit a candle in memory of Mary Nell Willis*



Velissa Batts - September 20, 2014 at 08:50 PM

VB

“ *Velissa & Melissa Batts lit a candle in memory of Mary Nell Willis*



Velissa & Melissa Batts - September 20, 2014 at 08:49 PM

DW

“ *Deborah Williams lit a candle in memory of Mary Nell Willis*



Deborah Williams - September 19, 2014 at 08:25 PM

A1

“ *AHHS C/o 1987 lit a candle in memory of Mary Nell Willis*



AHHS c/o 1987 - September 19, 2014 at 02:49 PM

MB

“ *Melvin & Debora Byrd lit a candle in memory of Mary Nell Willis*



Melvin & Debora Byrd - September 19, 2014 at 12:51 PM

BB

“ *Beverly Buchanan lit a candle in memory of Mary Nell Willis*



Beverly Buchanan - September 19, 2014 at 09:01 AM