



Mr. G, Pait Willis

May 8, 1939 - April 22, 2018

Mr. G. Pait Willis, age 78, passed away at his residence surrounded by his family April 22, 2018.

Services will be held at Ty Ty Baptist Church, Ty Ty, GA on Wednesday, April 25 at 3:00 pm with Reverend Rodney Owens and Reverend Shep Johnson officiating. Burial will be in the Oakridge Cemetery, Tifton Georgia, with Banks Funeral Home of Sylvester, Georgia in charge of the arrangements. The family will receive friends on Tuesday, April 24th from 6:00 - 8:00 pm at Banks Funeral Home in Sylvester.

Pallbearers will be his grandsons, grandsons-in-law and Mr. Frank Edwards. Honorary pallbearers will be the Directors and Executive officers of South Georgia Banking Company and the Deacons of First Baptist Church of TyTy. Mr. Willis was born May 8, 1939 in Colquitt County, Georgia. He was the only child of J. Glenn Willis and Bernice M. Willis. He was married to Rachel Young of Worth County on June 20, 1959.

A lifelong resident of Worth County, Mr. Willis attended Sumner School until his eleventh-grade year when he enrolled at Berry High School in Rome, GA. After high school, he attended Georgia Tech in Atlanta. In 1963, he began his career in banking with a position at the main office of Citizens and Southern Bank (C & S), in Atlanta. There he worked as a teller and later moved to the loan department. He moved back to South Georgia in 1965 where he worked with The Bank of Tifton. His experiences with these organizations were invaluable and led him to a position to make a mark on the banking industry.

In 1969, Mr. Willis was approached by a group of business men from the Omega area to help reorganize the existing bank, The Citizens Service Bank. In 1970, South Georgia Banking Company was formed, beginning business in Omega, Georgia with just three employees. In the last 48 years, under the direction of Mr. Willis, South Georgia Banking Company has grown to include seven additional branches in five counties, employing more than 125 individuals and is a vibrant contributor to all the communities in which they serve. Serving as the CEO and Chairman of the Board of South Georgia Banking Company was one of Mr. Willis' greatest accomplishments.

Throughout his career he has served on committees with the Georgia Bankers Association, chaired the Tifton-Tift County Chamber of Commerce, served on the ABAC Foundation Board, and served as deacon, treasurer, Sunday school teacher and many other leadership roles at First Baptist Church of Ty Ty.

Survivors include his wife, Rachel; children, Glenn Willis and wife Karen of Tifton; Sephus Willis and wife Cathy of Ty Ty; Amy Palmer and husband Rick of Marietta, Georgia; grandchildren, Amanda Lowe and husband Johnny of Tifton; Austin Willis of Norfolk, Virginia; Ben Willis and fiancé, Mary Catherine, of Marietta, Georgia; Jake Willis of Ty Ty; Sarah Willis Wilder and husband Curtis of Milledgeville, Georgia; Rachel Palmer of Athens, Georgia; and William Palmer of Marietta, Georgia; and great-grandchild, John "Jax" Lowe, III of Tifton.

The family would like to thank neighbor, friend and Palliative Care Nurse, Ms. Tammy Sledge; caregiver, Ms. Linda Gray and also the staff of Hospice of Tiftarea who have assisted us for their kindness and support during this time. Memorial contributions may be made in his memory to the Annie Armstrong Mission offering c/o First Baptist Church of Ty Ty or The American Cancer Society: Tift County RFL, 804 Cherry Street, Suite A, Macon, GA 31201.

Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. G, Pait Willis*

January 28, 2023 at 12:53 PM



“ *I spent some time in Georgia as a child with my great aunt, Bernice Willis. Although I live in California, I do remember Pait as a fine, outstanding man and a solid presence in his community. My condolences to his family and friends; God bless you.*

Peggy Genoway - June 23, 2018 at 12:19 PM



“ *Sephus, Our thoughts are prayers are with you and your family, Jason and Ashley Golden Tifton GA*

Jason Golden - May 14, 2018 at 01:54 PM



“ *Praying for peace for the Willis family.*

Janice Crumley - May 14, 2018 at 01:54 PM



“ *Mr. Pait was a wonderful man that touched the lives of all he came into contact with. I for one am a blessed person for being able to know him. His family are in our thoughts and prayers.*

Mike Davis - May 14, 2018 at 01:54 PM

BP

“ Mrs. Willis and family, Pait was one of the first people I met when I moved to Tifton about 32 years ago He was a great man and I consider it an honor to have known and highly respected him all these year, My sympathy goes out to you, Glen, Sephus, and Amy.

Bob Patrick - May 14, 2018 at 01:54 PM

ST

“ Janice and I were saddened to hear about Pait's passing. Our heartfelt prayers are for you all. You have assurance that even though he isn't here, he is in the very presence of his Savior, Christ the Lord.

Scotty Tipper - May 14, 2018 at 01:54 PM

DM

“ Mrs. Rachel, my heart is breaking to hear of the passing of Mr.. Pait. I have always thought so much of you both. I appreciate the kindness that you both showed me during my 22 years at South Georgia Bank and I will always have fond memories of Mr. Willis. May you find peace and comfort in the days and weeks ahead.

Dawn Marchant - May 14, 2018 at 01:54 PM

MT

“ CondolencesOur thoughts and prayers are with you all during this time of loss.

Mitch, Robbin, and Chuck Tyson - May 14, 2018 at 01:54 PM

GW

“ I am sorry to hear of the death of Mr. Willis. I only meet him a couple of times but I saw that he was a fine man. My sympathy to his family.

Greg Walls - May 14, 2018 at 01:54 PM

MD

“ To all Pait's family, I am sorry to learn of Pait's passing. I did not know him very well but I have known him for a long time. May God Bless you all and comfort your hearts.

Martha Dillard Dillard - May 14, 2018 at 01:54 PM

TJ

“ Praying for God's comfort and love for all of the family during this trying time. Love, Tommy and Dorothy Jones

Tommy & Dorothy Jones - May 14, 2018 at 01:54 PM