



Mr. Stanley Willis

April 12, 1950 - June 10, 2025

Stanley Wayne Willis, 75, of Sumner, Georgia, passed away on June 10, 2025, at Emory Hospital in Atlanta.

Born in Tifton, Georgia, on April 12, 1950, Stanley was the son of Nadine Hobby Willis and Vaughan (OV) Willis. He grew up in Worth County and graduated from Worth County High School in 1968, where he lettered in football, basketball, and baseball—a true three-sport athlete with a lifelong passion for competition and sports.

Stan attended Valdosta State College, earning a Bachelor of Arts in History in 1973. While there, he helped charter the school's initial class of the Kappa Alpha Order, serving as #2, the Pledge Trainer,—a role that reflected his natural leadership and deep commitment to tradition and mentorship.

On September 9, 1973, Stanley married the love of his life, Karen Heisler, calling her “the most beautiful girl he'd ever seen.” Together, they built a vibrant life of family, love, friendship, and lots of laughter.

Stanley began his sales career in 1973 with the National Motor Club, earning numerous regional and national awards—and the nickname “Stan the Man.” In 1975, he joined his father at M&W Pontiac and, once he took over, became the youngest Pontiac dealership owner in the nation. He remained a respected and beloved figure in the car business in Sylvester for over five decades, continuing his career at the same dealership as it changed names throughout the years (Childre Chevrolet, Langdale Chevrolet, and Griffin Chevrolet).

He served on the Worth County Board of Education from 1986 to 1992, including four years as Chairman. He was also an Elder at Trinity Presbyterian Church, a Certified Trainer for Toastmasters International, and a committed member of numerous civic boards and clubs throughout the years.

Stanley had a magnetic personality and a gift for storytelling. He was a legendary joke-teller whose humor lit up every room. His love for sports never waned—he could be found most nights watching a game, always rooting for his favorite teams: the Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets, Florida Gators, and the Atlanta Braves.

Music was another of his great passions, and his taste spanned generations and genres—from Led Zeppelin to Barbra Streisand, AC/DC to George Jones, Guns N' Roses to Frank Sinatra. He especially loved sitting on his back porch listening to the music he loved, with his wife and best friend, Karen.

To his nieces and nephews, he was affectionately known as Magic Man Stan. To his grandchildren, he was Standaddy, a title he wore with pride and joy. His humor, heart, and unforgettable quirks made him a true character—one who made a lasting impression on all who knew him.

Stanley is survived by his beloved wife, Karen Heisler Willis; his children, Casey Willis (Courtney), Courtney Harper (Jason), and Tyler Knox (Andy); and his seven grandchildren: Madeline Tenneson, Sophie Willis, Drew Knox, Willis Knox, Caroline Willis, Lucie Knox, and Ben Willis.

He is also survived by his siblings David Willis (Lynn), Beverly Dunn (Tony), and Keith Willis (Lynn), along with a large extended family and an even larger circle of friends and admirers.

Stanley's life was a celebration—of love, laughter, and legacy. His joy was helping others laugh and have a fun time. As he often concluded his speeches:

“May all your days be circus days.”

There will be a private graveside service on June 15th. The family will receive visitors at a Celebration of Life from 2:00 – 5:00 on June 15th at Southern Woods Plantation in Worth County, GA. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly

requests donations be made to a charity of your choice that focuses on helping underprivileged kids.

Tribute Wall

RG

“ Shotsie Saunders and I were riding by the Chevrolet store about 3 weeks ago and I asked Shotsie how ole Stan is doing, he’s still holding the building up Shotsie said. I have been in the car business since 1980 and have always considered Stan a “Car-guy”

Rex German - June 20, 2025 at 08:15 PM

KW

“ Kristi H Whittington lit a candle in memory of Mr. Stanley Willis



Kristi H Whittington - June 18, 2025 at 09:09 AM

WB

“ Sorry to hear about Stan the Man. He always made me laugh when I got to be around him. Karen, Casey, Courtney and Tyler praying for you all. God Bless.

Will Basko - June 17, 2025 at 09:27 PM

RJ

“ So sorry to hear of Stanley’s passing. My prayers go out to the family



Ralph Willis, Jr - June 17, 2025 at 05:14 PM

DM

“ *Deanna Merritt lit a candle in memory of Mr. Stanley Willis*



Deanna Merritt - June 15, 2025 at 07:00 PM

DM

“ *Darin Miller lit a candle in memory of Mr. Stanley Willis*



Darin Miller - June 15, 2025 at 12:11 PM

EM

“ *Ed Marcrum lit a candle in memory of Mr. Stanley Willis*



Ed Marcrum - June 15, 2025 at 09:51 AM

JC

“ *Prayers for comfort and peace for your family. Cherish your memories.*



Jeanie Carter - June 15, 2025 at 09:49 AM

MM

“ Milt Miller lit a candle in memory of Mr. Stanley Willis



Milt Miller - June 15, 2025 at 09:46 AM

CR

“ Cindy Jones Roshto lit a candle in memory of Mr. Stanley Willis



Cindy Jones Roshto - June 15, 2025 at 06:56 AM

JC

“ Janice Carter lit a candle in memory of Mr. Stanley Willis



Janice Carter - June 14, 2025 at 07:12 PM

PN

“ Pat Narred lit a candle in memory of Mr. Stanley Willis



Pat narred - June 14, 2025 at 04:47 PM

TS

“ Tony Senkbeil lit a candle in memory of Mr. Stanley Willis



Tony Senkbeil - June 14, 2025 at 02:41 PM

RY

“ Mr. Willis sold my mom her first car which happened to be his car. He then sold me my first car. He was awesome. Condolences to the family. He was a good man. Renée & Peggie Young

Renee Young - June 14, 2025 at 12:15 AM

LP

“ Stanley sold us a Phonex after taking over at MW and a truck at Taylor Children in 2021.



Lamar & Betty Potts - June 13, 2025 at 12:37 PM

MK

“ Martha Katz lit a candle in memory of Mr. Stanley Willis



Martha Katz - June 13, 2025 at 01:04 AM

BL

“ Karen, Frances and I are praying for you and your family at this difficult time. What a fun guy he was at VSC! He made all of us around him laugh and smile, and he was always clever and quick with a quip. It doesn't surprise me that he was “Standaddy” - what a fun granddad name! We KA Brothers will miss him. However, we only had a few VSC years with him, while you have a lifetime of memories to treasure forever. May God bless you and your family at this time!
Frances and Britt Lovett

Britt Lovett - June 12, 2025 at 08:26 PM

VP

“ Vicki Powell lit a candle in memory of Mr. Stanley Willis



Vicki Powell - June 12, 2025 at 08:08 PM

LC

“ Larry Crowe lit a candle in memory of Mr. Stanley Willis



Larry Crowe - June 12, 2025 at 07:58 PM

TK

“ My condolences to the family.

Traci Jolly Kennedy - June 12, 2025 at 07:54 PM

SP

“ Sanford Perryman lit a candle in memory of Mr. Stanley Willis



Sanford Perryman - June 12, 2025 at 04:59 PM

AB

“ So many years since high school when I last saw Stanley. He was such a joy to be around and was a friend to all. Our thoughts and prayers are with Karen and the family.

AI & Andrea Bozeman - June 12, 2025 at 04:32 PM

JO

“ JR OSBORNE lit a candle in memory of Mr. Stanley Willis



JR OSBORNE - June 12, 2025 at 03:33 PM

TT

“ We were so privileged to be friends with Stanley and Karen because of the marriage of our children. He was always a joy to be around and kept everyone laughing. He will be missed by the grandchildren so much as he loved to joke around with them . May God continue to comfort Karen and the family.



Tony & Linda Tarrer - June 12, 2025 at 01:38 PM

LW

“ *Our condolences to the family.
Bobby and Karen Watson*



Linda B. Watson - June 12, 2025 at 01:22 PM

JW

“ *Prayers for Karen and all the family. So sorry
for your of Stanley, he will be missed.*



Jean & Donald Wingate - June 12, 2025 at 01:22 PM

PT

“ *Patty Tomlinson lit a candle in memory of Mr.
Stanley Willis*



patty tomlinson - June 12, 2025 at 12:22 PM

TS

“ *Tony Strenth lit a candle in memory of Mr.
Stanley Willis*



Tony Strenth - June 12, 2025 at 12:10 PM

RR

“ Stanley and I were fraternity brothers at Valdosta State. He was one of my favorites. Heck, he was one of everybody's favorites. Great smile, great attitude, and a really fun friend. Also was a really good quarterback on our flag football team. All of the KA's at VSU will miss Stanley very much.

Randy Royall - June 12, 2025 at 09:46 AM

SR

Stanley was my pledge trainer in 1973 and all of us loved him! There were 5 or 6 best friends from Jacksonville he trained and we have been sharing memories of those days long ago! Prayers for comfort and a peace that passes all understanding to Stanley's family

Scott Riley - June 12, 2025 at 05:50 PM

RL

“ I'm so sorry to hear about Stanley's passing. You all are in our thoughts and prayers.



Rita L. Leggett - June 12, 2025 at 09:45 AM

CB

“ Chris Burrell lit a candle in memory of Mr. Stanley Willis



Chris Burrell - June 12, 2025 at 09:34 AM

DJ

“ *Debra Chambless Jones lit a candle in memory of Mr. Stanley Willis*



Debra Chambless Jones - June 12, 2025 at 09:33 AM



“ *Carolyn Montgomery lit a candle in memory of Mr. Stanley Willis*



Carolyn Montgomery - June 12, 2025 at 07:47 AM

TD

“ *Prayers for Stanley's family*



Tom & Shelia Douglas - June 12, 2025 at 06:37 AM

DT

“ *I am so heartbroken to hear of Stanley's passing. I remember so vividly when he was a young man and how much he looked like my dad. It was so special for me. I'm sorry I live in Texas and am so far away. I'm holding you all close to my heart and praying for you.*
Debbie Hobby Turner (1st cousin)

Debbie Hobby Turner - June 12, 2025 at 05:04 AM

LM

“ So sorry to hear this. Praying for the family.
Mr. Stanley was such a nice man.



Lynn Meeks Manley - June 11, 2025 at 10:49 PM

KB

“ I will miss Stanley. He was definitely one of a kind. There wasn't
another one like him. Prayers to you and your family Miss Karen.

Kelli Beck - June 11, 2025 at 08:49 PM

DR

“ David And Dianne Register lit a candle in
memory of Mr. Stanley Willis



David and Dianne Register - June 11, 2025 at 06:41 PM

JJ

“ I'm so sorry to hear about the passing of Stanley. My thoughts and
prayers are with the family.
Joan Lawhorn Johnson

Joan Lawhorn Johnson - June 11, 2025 at 06:19 PM

DD

“ Sorry for the passing of Stanley.

Dianne Douthit - June 11, 2025 at 05:03 PM

TA

“ Terry Norris Avera lit a candle in memory of Mr. Stanley Willis



Terry Norris Avera - June 11, 2025 at 05:01 PM



“ Diane McLeod lit a candle in memory of Mr. Stanley Willis



Diane McLeod - June 11, 2025 at 04:37 PM

EC

“ Karen, Courtney and all family, so sorry to hear about Stanley. My prayers are with you all. God bless you!



Evelyn Fletcher Castleberry - June 11, 2025 at 04:26 PM

LB

“ Larry & Judy Brooks lit a candle in memory of Mr. Stanley Willis



Larry & Judy Brooks - June 11, 2025 at 04:24 PM

GC

“ George and I are so sorry to hear of the passing of Stanley. Everyone at the Chevrolet dealership will surely miss him because he has been a fixture at that building for a very long time. He sold us many cars or trucks in the past years. God bless the family and friends. He will be missed.

George and Kay Coker - June 11, 2025 at 02:52 PM

CB

“ Carla Baker lit a candle in memory of Mr. Stanley Willis



carla baker - June 11, 2025 at 02:39 PM

ML

“ Michelle V Lawson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Stanley Willis



Michelle V Lawson - June 11, 2025 at 02:18 PM

DB

“ Debbie Ray Banks lit a candle in memory of Mr. Stanley Willis



Debbie Ray Banks - June 11, 2025 at 02:05 PM

SD

“ Condolences to the family and there will never be another “Stand the man with a plan “ R.I.P.

Sallie M Davis - June 11, 2025 at 01:40 PM

SJ

“ Sandra Jones lit a candle in memory of Mr. Stanley Willis



Sandra Jones - June 11, 2025 at 01:39 PM

JC

“ Joe Carter lit a candle in memory of Mr. Stanley Willis



Joe Carter - June 11, 2025 at 01:31 PM

DP

“ Diana McLemore Pratt lit a candle in memory of Mr. Stanley Willis



Diana McLemore Pratt - June 11, 2025 at 01:19 PM

NY

“ Much love, hugs and prayers to you Ms. Karen, children and grandchildren!! Mr. Stanley had the best personality! Keeping you all close in thoughts and Prayers!



Nicole Jones Young - June 11, 2025 at 01:16 PM

MG

“ Mark And Sandi Giddens lit a candle in memory of Mr. Stanley Willis



Mark and Sandi Giddens - June 11, 2025 at 01:15 PM

CR

“ So very sorry to hear this! Sending love and prayers to all family members 🙏🙏🙏



Cindy Jones Roshto - June 11, 2025 at 12:59 PM

LH

“ So sorry to hear about Stanley's passing. Prayers for you all 🙏

Lisa Hardin - June 11, 2025 at 12:06 PM

TO

“ Tammy Sue Odom lit a candle in memory of Mr. Stanley Willis



Tammy Sue Odom - June 11, 2025 at 11:39 AM

CJ

“ Praying for you all! ❤️🙏❤️



Carmen Jones - June 11, 2025 at 11:39 AM

JB

“ Janet And Randy Bacon lit a candle in memory of Mr. Stanley Willis



Janet and Randy Bacon - June 11, 2025 at 11:30 AM

RD

“ Randy & Nancy Dawson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Stanley Willis



Randy & Nancy Dawson - June 11, 2025 at 11:17 AM

RJ

“ *Ruby Jones lit a candle in memory of Mr. Stanley Willis*



Ruby Jones - June 11, 2025 at 11:07 AM

MS

“ *Martha Cross Saunders lit a candle in memory of Mr. Stanley Willis*



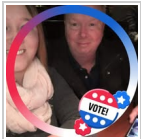
Martha Cross Saunders - June 11, 2025 at 10:41 AM

DM

“ *Prayers of comfort for family and friends.*



Deborah Smith Mainor - June 11, 2025 at 10:36 AM



“ *TeriTommy Coker lit a candle in memory of Mr. Stanley Willis*



TeriTommy Coker - June 11, 2025 at 10:36 AM

BP

“ *Bonnie Potts lit a candle in memory of Mr. Stanley Willis*



Bonnie Potts - June 11, 2025 at 10:30 AM

CT

“ *Culmer Tanner lit a candle in memory of Mr. Stanley Willis*



Culmer Tanner - June 11, 2025 at 10:20 AM

CB

“ *Charles & Gale Booth lit a candle in memory of Mr. Stanley Willis*



Charles & Gale Booth - June 11, 2025 at 10:04 AM

MW

“ *Michelle Willis lit a candle in memory of Mr. Stanley Willis*



Michelle Willis - June 11, 2025 at 09:36 AM

JS

“ *Judy & Mack Sutton lit a candle in memory of Mr. Stanley Willis*



Judy & Mack Sutton - June 11, 2025 at 09:20 AM

TD

“ *I visited Stanley about 6 months after he enrolled for college at AJC in Albany. You put a on a few pounds! He said I eat hamburgers every day.*

Tal DeWitt - June 11, 2025 at 08:52 AM

JC

“ *June Coker lit a candle in memory of Mr. Stanley Willis*



June Coker - June 11, 2025 at 08:22 AM

SH

“ *Sue Hendrix lit a candle in memory of Mr. Stanley Willis*



Sue Hendrix - June 11, 2025 at 08:21 AM

PD

“ Philip Duke lit a candle in memory of Mr. Stanley Willis



Philip Duke - June 11, 2025 at 07:30 AM

GS

“ Gerry & John Sutton lit a candle in memory of Mr. Stanley Willis



Gerry & John Sutton - June 11, 2025 at 07:26 AM

EC

“ We were so sad to hear this news yesterday. Playing bridge with Stanley was unlike playing with any one else. He bid without looking at his cards and play well enough to win anyway. We had so much fun. Praying for all of you. Elizabeth and Charlie

Elizabeth and Charlie Cowles - June 11, 2025 at 07:20 AM

KT

“ I am so sorry for your loss! You all will be in my thoughts and prayers. May God give you comfort and peace.



Kim Culpepper Tison - June 11, 2025 at 07:19 AM

DK

“ Davis and I are so sorry to hear that Stanley has passed away ! Our thoughts and prayers to all of you in the days ahead ! He will surely be missed by many 🙏

Donna and Davis King - June 11, 2025 at 07:14 AM

SB

“ Susan And Harold Brantley lit a candle in memory of Mr. Stanley Willis



Susan and Harold Brantley - June 11, 2025 at 06:57 AM

JY

“ Judy Hall Young lit a candle in memory of Mr. Stanley Willis



Judy Hall Young - June 11, 2025 at 06:53 AM

LP

“ Lamar & Betty Potts sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Stanley Willis



Lamar & Betty Potts - June 11, 2025 at 01:02 AM

SW

“ *Sandra Watson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Stanley Willis*



Sandra Watson - June 10, 2025 at 10:40 PM

EB

“ *Elaine Bozeman lit a candle in memory of Mr. Stanley Willis*



Elaine Bozeman - June 10, 2025 at 09:53 PM

MM

“ *We were so sorry to hear about Stanley. Thoughts and prayers are with his family.*



Martha A McMickin - June 10, 2025 at 09:27 PM

MJ

“ *Dennis and I are very sorry to hear about Stanley. Our prayers are with you in the days ahead.*



Margie and Dennis James - June 10, 2025 at 09:20 PM

BV

“ *When I was told this today I got chills..will always miss you my friend! Rip Stan!*



BRIAN VAUGHN - June 10, 2025 at 08:42 PM

NE

“ *Neila Ellis lit a candle in memory of Mr. Stanley Willis*



neila ellis - June 10, 2025 at 08:08 PM

MH

“ *Mack And Mary Houston lit a candle in memory of Mr. Stanley Willis*



Mack and Mary Houston - June 10, 2025 at 07:02 PM

SB

“ *so sorry to hear about Stanley's passing. The family will be in mine and Lisa's thoughts and prayers.*
Stacey Bell

Stacey L Bell - June 10, 2025 at 06:43 PM

KF

“ *KelleyandBobby Fowler lit a candle in memory of Mr. Stanley Willis*



KelleyandBobby Fowler - June 10, 2025 at 06:41 PM

JK

“ *So very sorry to hear of Stanley's passing. Prayers and love to all of you!*

Jan and Alan Kimbro - June 10, 2025 at 06:25 PM

HD

“ *Helen Donnan lit a candle in memory of Mr. Stanley Willis*



Helen Donnan - June 10, 2025 at 06:02 PM

MS

“ *Oh my sorry to see this about Stanley ,To all the family and to all his customers prayer's in this time. He will be missed by alot of people.Rest now cuz.*

Mike willis sr. - June 10, 2025 at 04:45 PM

JO

“ *JR OSBORNE lit a candle in memory of Mr. Stanley Willis*



JR OSBORNE - June 10, 2025 at 04:43 PM

SS

“ *I am heartbroken to hear about Stanley.*

Stanley-know as “Stan-the Man” to all of us ‘youth’ at Trinity Presbyterian....our BELOVED Sunday School teacher. I have such fond memories of those days.

To know Stanley was to love him.

I also remember when I used to babysit Casey, Courtney and Tyler- Stanley would always get me McDonalds on the way!

He was a great man and will be missed!

Sending love and prayer to you all.

Sharon (Giddens) Singletary - June 10, 2025 at 04:41 PM

BG

“ *Karen, Casey, Courtney, Tyler, Beverly, Keith, and families, We are so very sorry to hear about Stanley. Please know you are in our thoughts and prayers.*

Tommy and Bobbie J. Gay

Bobbie Gay - June 10, 2025 at 03:53 PM

CJ

“ *Carole Jones lit a candle in memory of Mr. Stanley Willis*



Carole Jones - June 10, 2025 at 03:49 PM