



Augustine (Marty) Lamar Willis

MAY 8, 1950 - MAY 28, 2023



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Augustine (Marty) Lamar Willis

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Augustine (Marty) Willis of Buckingham, FL, 73, passed peacefully at Gulf Coast medical center on May 28, 2023, after a brief illness. Marty was preceded in death by his parents Edward and Vivian (Douglas) Willis.

Marty is survived by his Daughter, Stephanie Willis of Louisiana, Son, Michael Willis & Daughter-in-law Suzie Willis of North Carolina, along with his Ex-Wife, Helen Willis. In addition, his Sisters, Betsy (Sissy) Johnson and Connie Flint and Brother Stephen Willis, his Brother-in-law William (Billy) Flint and Sister-in-law Marguerite Willis. His grandchildren, Madyson Gross, Andrew Willis, Hailey Revels, & Katelyn Willis, Nieces & Nephews, Tina Robinson, Wealthyan Johnson, Wesley Flint, Matthew Willis, & Amber Willis.

Marty, a native of Fort Myers was born at Lee Memorial hospital on May 8, 1950. He attended Fort Myers High School to the 11th grade. Marty was working full-time by the age of 14 to help support his family. He spent many years working with his father as a commercial fisherman in the Gulf of Mexico. Eventually, he worked as an air conditioning and refrigeration technician specializing in commercial systems for 30+ years and a pioneer in his field.

Marty's love of his family and nature was handed down to his children. Many family vacations and weekends were spent camping and enjoying the great outdoors. He took up motorcycling later in life, travelling the open roads and was proud to have ridden the Dragon's Tail in North Carolina several times with his friends and family. He loved new experiences and places.

Marty loved his family, and always found good things to say about them. He was a tough man raised in hard times, but knew love and how to love. He was always willing to lend a hand and to support those in need. He valued family, friends, and experiences over material things and passed those values on. He cared for so many and so many cared for him. The list of lives he touched and that touched him is too long to recite. His was a life well lived on his own terms, he would always say, "Thank you, but I'll do it my way."



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A memorial service will be held on June 17 at 11AM, at 6620 Westwood Acres Road, Fort Myers, FL.

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Fort Myers Memorial Gardens Funeral Home, 1589 Colonial Blvd., Fort Myers, FL 33907, 239-936-0555. Online condolences may be offered at: www.fortmyersmemorial.com.



Tribute Wall

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Kaloutie Vevang shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.



We would like to extend our condolences to the Willis family during this difficult time. Marty was a simple man. The Bible says "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Marty found the true joy of giving. For a man who started his life over many times, he was always charitable with giving his time and services to help others. He served as an avid listener to coworkers, friends, and family. During his hospital stay, many family members and nurses often heard him say "I am sorry" when he was not able to do something or to help those around him. I got thinking for a man who did not finish high school, he had a greater "emotional intelligence" and higher level of thinking than anyone I know. You see Marty used what is called an "empty apology," in a positive way. Marty used empty apologies to let himself take a step back, by saying "I am sorry" giving the other person the autonomy to lead the conversation. This is a precious gift in society that only few people in the world attain. I had the opportunity to spend a night with Marty in the hospital for which I was honored and grateful to his family and for the lessons I witnessed. I saw a man who did not have the energy to pick up a cup of water to take a drink, a man who was in pain, and yet took time to say "thank you darling" over and over to everyone he came in contact. He was a grateful man. He talked about spending time with Mike and Suzie in NC. He said they "spoiled me rotten but I loved it" with a smile. He was blessed to have you all. He loved listening to Andrew play the piano and Katy tea times. Suzie, he called his daughter. "I am so proud of Madison going beauty school and working," he said. His face lit up when he talked to Stevie, Connie, and Billy, "they would always take me where I need to go". He would talk about Stephanie and Hailey "I love you, and I am happy for you." He spoke of his family like there is no tomorrow. Personally, I would like to say how grateful I am for Marty being a "Dad figure" to Arnold after his Dad passed many years ago. There are many untold stories of many lives he touched. The legacy left behind by Marty was that of a humble man, doing things the right way, the way it supposed to be done, listening, and communicating, being thankful, grateful, doing things on his terms. His words- I love you all from Marty. He himself did not know the greatness of all the lives he impacted, we can honor him with lessons learned and implement in our daily lives. His love for riding his motorcycle on the open roads, the freedom to enjoy nature and peace. It was so beautiful to see all the photos and cherished moments with his family, and those with his motorcycle with him riding, then standing then waving goodbye was perfect- as he probably would do himself. Let's stand tall, arms raised high and wave as he rides the highway to heaven. Farewell until we meet again. Love and peace to all, children, grandchildren, nephews, nieces, family, friends, and coworkers.

June 21 at 6:14 PM



Tribute Wall

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SW

Suzie Willis lit a candle in honor of Augustine (Marty).

A truly amazing Dad, wonderful grandpa, and an awesome father-in-law. Our hearts are sad without you, words do not express the emptiness we feel each day. You have made so many beautiful memories for us, and with us, we cherish each moment we were blessed to spend with you. It's hard to move on without you, yet it's easy to live in the days past. So much we have left unsaid but so much more was spoken, messaged, text, video calls. Our hearts ache deeply, but your love, kindness, comforts us. May you sing joyfully with angels on high. We love you Dad, Grandpa, you'll always be in our hearts. Love and peace Mike, Andrew Katelyn, Suzie.



June 12 at 4:22 PM

MW

Michael Willis June 21 at 5:41 PM

Beautiful words for a beautiful soul. Dad loved all of us so deeply, his absence is so painful. I cannot thank you enough for all the love and support you showed him. You treated him as a father, and I know he felt the same about you. You honored him as much as anyone could. The love and support you have given our family during this time of grief is so comforting and will help us to heal. And we will continue to have overflowing cups of coffee and banana bread to remember our time with Dad/Grandpa. Thank you.

ML

Margi Willis, Sister-In-Law posted:

My heart felt condolences to the entire Willis family and all the connected families. I pray that we can all find comfort in our memories of Marty. I will miss him dearly and will always remember him fondly for always being there for us when we needed him. Rest in peace dear Marty, we love you.

June 8 at 4:21 PM

MW

Michael Willis June 21 at 5:29 PM

Thank you, Aunt Margi. I pray we find comfort as well. There sure a lot of memories to go around and yes, we miss him dearly. Thank you for all the love and support you have given us and our family. We love you.



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Steve Willis posted:

So sorry for Marty's passing. It's hard to put into words, we have been brothers for almost 69 years and best friends, I will miss you everyday. Love you Big Brother.

June 7 at 5:45 PM



Michael Willis June 21 at 5:24 PM

He loved you Uncle Steve. Don't think I can remember many conversations that your name did not come up. I always thought you two were what brothers were supposed to be. You brought out the best in each other. I know he loved you and Connie and Sissy with all his heart. I cannot thank you and your family enough for all the support you have given us, even in your grief. Thank you. We love you.



Terrie Fox lit a candle in honor of Augustine (Marty).

I still can't believe Marty is not here, however I know he is not in pain and with his family up there. Marty did so much for people and my family. He will always be that special friend that will always be remembered. So many times he helped me and my family with our AC. Marty will be missed for sure!



June 7 at 2:41 PM



Michael Willis June 21 at 5:20 PM

Thank you. He always made time to help. He never made a show of it either. A lesson I will not forget. Thank you.



Ronald E Barefoot posted:

So sorry to here of Marty's passing. I have great memories working with Marty in the air condition for several year. Always smiling and cutting up. Lost track of him for many years after leaving Florida and moving back to NC. Sure will be missed.

June 5 at 12:43 PM



Michael Willis June 21 at 5:18 PM

Thank you. I have heard a story or two.



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Melinda Smith Smart lit a candle in honor of Augustine (Marty).

Marty was one of Dads Best Friends from their young days . I remember being little and he would come to visit my parents and always bring me a gift ❤️ RIP. You touched so many lives with kindness and Love Melinda Smith Smart (Mike) Ernest and Sharon Smiths Daughter



June 5 at 1:23 AM



Michael Willis June 21 at 5:17 PM

Thank you for the kind words. Dad talked about your Dad and Mom all the time. He had plans to visit when he came up this summer. Your family was in his heart. Thank you.



Anonymous sent a Fairest of All to the Willis family.



June 4 at 5:45 AM



Carol Flint posted:

Oh my ... Where to start. We were raised as brothers and sisters more than we were cousins. We had so many goodtimes and all about family. I know he is having a family reunion up there and he has so much catching up to do, I know he's still busy and getting into mischief with my brother Jr.. They were the gruesome twosome. Always up to something. We will miss him and always love him. It would be selfish of me to want him back, knowing what he has up there. I love ya Mart and will get to see you one day and then we can catch up on things. I know your gone in flesh but, you are here in spirit. Love and keep having a great time up there.

June 4 at 5:19 AM



Michael Willis June 21 at 5:12 PM

Thank you so much. I know he felt the same about you. He told us as much. Thank you for all the love and support during this difficult time. We love you.



Media

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Kaloutie Vevang shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

June 21 at 6:14 PM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Augustine (Marty) by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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