



Darlene Williams

February 6, 1948 - March 19, 2026

IN MEMORY OF:

Darlene Williams

Serving Location:

CRAIN PLEASANT GROVE-MURDALE FUNERAL HOME

31 Memorial Drive, Murphysboro, Illinois

Darlene Williams, 78, of Grand Tower, passed away on Thursday, March 19, 2026 at Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis, Missouri. Darlene's husband took her by the hand to the Riverboat in the sky.

She was born on February 6, 1948 to Millard and Leneta (Cooper) Reed in East St. Louis, Illinois. On October 19, 1970, she married John Edward Williams and spent over 52 years together until his passing in 2023. John Williams, Sr. was a Riverboat Captain for several years after joining the army.

Darlene worked on a riverboat as a cook for over 10 years and then became a homemaker for her family.

Survivors include her children, John, Jr. (Alissa) Williams, Melinda (Wayne)

Bridges, Samantha Johnson (Bill Harris), Joyce Rushing (Russell Clover), Charles Williams, Kayle (Rusty) Huffman, Elizabeth (Orville) Hobbs, and DJ Rushing; 18 grandchildren; 30 great-grandchildren; siblings, Ron Reed, Danny Reed, Mike Reed, Donna Norton, and Brenda Gale; along with nieces, nephews, and other relatives.

Along with her parents and husband, she is preceded in death by her brothers, Bruce Reed and Terry Reed.

A Graveside Service will be held on Wednesday, April 1, 2026 at 11:00 AM with Rev. Kenny Verble officiating at Walker Hill Cemetery in Grand Tower, Illinois. A Graveside Visitation will be held from 10:00 AM until 11:00 AM.

The cremation of Darlene Williams will be personally handled by the staff of Crain Funeral Home.

Crain Pleasant Grove-Murdale Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Walker Hill Cemetery

Grand Tower, IL

Previous Events

Graveside Visitation

APR 1. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (cst)

Walker Hill Cemetery
Grand Tower, IL

Graveside Service

APR 1. 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM (cst)

Walker Hill Cemetery
Grand Tower, IL

Tribute Wall



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Darlene Williams.*



March 31 at 07:02 PM



“ *I'm sure her and Becca are dancing to some Patsy Cline and playing bingo together while papa cheers them on with a grunt and a grin. TIL I see you guys again, I love you!*

Margo Parks - March 27 at 12:17 AM



“ *Deborah Nicholson lit a candle in memory of Darlene Williams*



Deborah Nicholson - March 25 at 11:52 PM



“ *She was a very sweet lady. We rode on the river boat several times.*

Deborah Nicholson - March 25 at 11:50 PM

RR

“ Regina Reed sent a virtual gift in memory of Darlene Williams



Regina Reed - March 25 at 10:52 AM

RR

“ Regina Reed lit a candle in memory of Darlene Williams



Regina Reed - March 25 at 10:46 AM

MR

“ martha reed lit a candle in memory of Darlene Williams



martha reed - March 25 at 10:03 AM

LC

“ I have many great memories with Sam. She was a great person and would give you the world if she had it to give. My condolences to her children, sisters, brothers, grandchildren and great grandchildren. She will be greatly missed by many. Love you Darlene. Love your most favorite X. ❤️



Linda Camden - March 24 at 07:19 PM