



Edward Lee Willis

September 17, 1940 - November 13, 2021

Edward Lee Willis JR, 81, of Murphysboro, Illinois, passed away on Saturday, November 13, 2021, at Memorial Hospital in Carbondale, Illinois. His death was not Covid Related.

Edward was born on September 17, 1940, in Kearny, New Jersey to Edward Willis SR and Sylvia (Waterfill) He Married Marilyn (Kunce) Willis on June 17, 1965, in Murphysboro. They shared 56 years together.

Ed graduated MTHS voted best dancer in his class. After graduating from S.I.U., he began his teaching career with five years in the Job Corps. He then taught 8th grade English in Murphysboro for 25 years and over 5,000 students. He loved them all, each remembering "Dobie Gillis" on Fridays and demonstration speeches including "gift wrapping". Following his retirement, he taught as a substitute teacher, all grades throughout Jackson County for ten years. Ed was well known for his tie collection and never wore the same tie in a school year.

Ed enjoyed many hobbies. He loved to read, hunt, fish, and nature overall. He was an award-winning photographer and a member of the Stage Company. He also loved all his English Setters.

Survivors include his wife, Marilyn, one sister Nora Weatherly and husband

Bill Weatherly and one brother Rob Willis. Other Survivors include two nephews, Chris Weatherly of Austin, Texas and Woodson Fuller of Rockton, Illinois. Connie Fielding and Sarah Fielding both of Granite City, Illinois.

Ed was preceded in death by his father Edward Willis Sr., his mother Sylvia Willis, one sister Barbara Ubel, Brother-in-law Jim Ubel, and one sister-in-law Andy Willis, father-in-law Ed Kunce, mother-in-law Ruby Kunce, and dear family friend Danny Seibold of Omaha, Nebraska.

According to his wishes, his body will be cremated and there will be no services at this time.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to Free Again Wildlife Rehabilitation at 4031 Big Muddy Road in Carterville, IL, The Nature Conservancy, or The Sally Logan Library.

For more information, please visit www.pettettfuneralhome.com.

Tribute Wall



“ *Edward Lee Willis*

October 23, 2023 at 06:26 AM



“ *So sorry to hear of Ed's passing. I always considered him a brilliant light in the darkness around us. Had lots of fun growing up in the same neighborhood.*

Don Gladden - December 03, 2021 at 01:23 PM



“ *We were so sorry to hear of Ed'S passing. He was truly a special person and will always be remembered as a great friend and teacher. Our condolences to Marilyn and Family. With Sympathy, Dave and Mary Jane Snyder*

Mary Jane Snyder - December 01, 2021 at 07:33 PM



“ *First and foremost I want to send my condolences to Mr. Willis' family he was a great teacher and my favorite substitute above all others. I remember being in 4th grade and we had him as a sub, he told us a story about going to the zoo with his aunt, and asking her how the giraffes necks got so long, and she told him because they eat Wheaties everyday and she told him if he kept eating Wheaties everyday for breakfast his neck would grow long like the giraffes. I hope he shares that story with all the angels in heaven. It always made our class laugh when he would tell it to us. With love and respect to his family in this hard time. From Lisa and Gail Derouin*

Lisa Derouin - November 24, 2021 at 03:48 PM

TT

“ *Mr Willis was a unique teacher always funny for a teacher..it was never a dull moment when you entered his class room..Mr.willis r.i.p.sir you'll be missed from alot of people whom you taught through out your teaching career in the murphysboro school district. Fly high above us all.watch over us you angel..season greetings to you up in heaven.*

Timmy tolbert - November 24, 2021 at 07:58 AM

RS

“ *Mr. Willis was a favorite teacher to so many red devils!*

Red Sue - November 23, 2021 at 08:49 PM

MH

“ *Always such a wonderful person. My husband Larry and I met in his class in jr. high.*

Marianne Hindman - November 23, 2021 at 08:41 PM

FM

“ *Always calm and wearing a smile! Top of the line in education!*

Fleda McCoy - November 23, 2021 at 07:02 PM

JW

“ *One of my very favorite teachers ever. Just loved his methods and demeanor. My sincere condolences to the family.*

jane Williams - November 23, 2021 at 05:48 PM

DS

“ *Condolences to all the families*

Don Shadron - November 18, 2021 at 12:19 PM