



Gary "Jeep" Willms

August 5, 1935 - February 20, 2024

Gary "Jeep" Willms passed away February 20, 2024, in Sarasota, Florida. He was born August 5, 1935, in Peoria, IL to Gwen and Irwin Willms.

Subsequent to graduating from Woodruff High School in Peoria he went on to work in sales, both in the newspaper industry and plumbing supplies. Although he grew up in the Midwest, he decided it was time to escape the snow and cold weather and move to a warm and sunny location, settling in Sarasota, Florida. He continued in sales until such time as a friend gave him the opportunity to manage a theatrical auditorium for the Sarasota County School Board, retiring in 2001.

On December 6, 2023 "Jeep" proudly celebrated 52 years of recovery in AA and called the Siesta Key Men's Group his home group.

"Jeep" is survived by his wife Linda, his daughter Crystal (Ivey Thigpen) of Rocky Point, FL., his son Mitchell of Largo, FL, his sister Melody Templeton (Frank Henninger) of Kimberton, PA., and his former wife Janet Lane of Clearwater, FL.

His family wishes to thank the staff at Tidewell Hospice in Lakewood Ranch, FL for their kindness and compassion.

A celebration of his life will be Saturday, March 9th at 1:15pm at the Presbyterian Church of the Covenant, 7950 S. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota 34231.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAR 9. 1:15 PM (ET)

Presbyterian Church of the Covenant
7950 South Tamiami Trail
Sarasota, FL 34231

Tribute Wall

ML

“ Ms. Linda, Shelly and I are so sorry to hear of Jeep's passing. He'll be missed terribly. We all had so much fun together and my late dog Freckles really loved you guys.... Praying this brings back some good memories. Love Michael & Shelly LaBarr



Michael LaBarr - August 25, 2025 at 11:10 AM



“ Heavenly Heights Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gary "Jeep" Willms.



March 08, 2024 at 02:04 PM

FW

“ Frank & Weston Walker planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gary "Jeep" Willms.

Frank & Weston Walker - March 08, 2024 at 02:04 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gary "Jeep" Willms.



March 08, 2024 at 02:01 PM

LA

“ Love, Bob & Mary Avedisian planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gary "Jeep" Willms.

Love, Bob & Mary Avedisian - March 08, 2024 at 02:01 PM

SE

“ *Jeep was a Light for me, as he helped my so much as tread the Path of the Design for Living. He will be with me ALWAYS...*

Stu

Stuart M Erskine - March 05, 2024 at 07:56 AM

SM

“ *Linda & Family,
Jeep touched and helped so many through his humor, dry wit and sharing. What a treasure heaven has just received! May the peace of the Lord, which surpasses all understanding be with you and your loved ones during this difficult time.*

Sean M

Sean Madden - March 04, 2024 at 11:54 AM