



MSgt. William R. "Bill" Willis Sr.

March 12, 1927 - March 4, 2018

UTICA - MSgt. William R. "Bill" Willis, Sr., age 90, passed away on Sunday, March 4, 2018 at the Heritage Healthcare Center with the love of his family in his heart.

Born in Beaufort, North Carolina on March 12, 1927. William was the son of the late Bernie F. and Bessie (Salter) Willis. A proud veteran of the United States Air Force, Bill honorably served his country during World War II and continued his military career for over 22 years. On January 23, 1954 he married the former Betty Jane Jackson with whom he shared a loving, loyal union that spanned 28 years prior to her passing on March 30, 1982.

Bill worked for many years as a print machine operator for BOCES in Utica, the position from which he retired. Bill was a caring, loving, and generous man. He was a family man on so many levels. He adored his wife, and upon her passing, he made his home with his son and daughter-in-law, and grandchildren. He was embraced by their family and he kept a watchful eye on their well-being. Some of his memories were of earlier years when he would shrimp with his dad. Bill was proud of his time in the military service and was honored to be an American. He will be remembered wearing his military cap inscribed with "US Air Force/ Retired" and people would outwardly thank him for serving his country.

William held close to his heart the memory of his son, William R. "Bill" Willis, Jr. who passed away on January 14, 2012. He is survived by his daughter-in-law, Olivia M. "Livy" Willis; his grandchildren, Melissa A. and Daniel J. Corbett,

and William R. Willis, III; and his great-grandchildren, Megan Corbett, and Danny Corbett. He also leaves several nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, and sister-in-law, Angela Jackson. He was predeceased by several siblings; and his brother-in-law, Dominick Richard Jackson.

The family extends their appreciation to the staff of the Heritage Healthcare Center for the compassionate care rendered to Bill during his stay. The personnel of Hospice and Palliative Care, Inc. were very kind in their concern for Bill; they are an outstanding organization to journey with a family during their tender moments, especially acknowledging Crystal.

Visitation will be held Sunday from 2:00-4:00 at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. William's funeral service and Celebration of Life will commence on Sunday afternoon at 4:00 at the funeral home immediately upon conclusion of visitation with Rev. Abe Esper officiating the ceremony, with military honors conferred. Interment will take place in St. Agnes Cemetery at the convenience of the family.

Cemetery Details

St. Agnes Cemetery

601 Arthur Street
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 732-8588

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 11. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Eannace Funeral Home, Inc.
932 South Street
corner of Hammond Ave.
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 724-6714
eannacefh@roadrunner.com

Celebration of Life

MAR 11. 4:00 PM (ET)

Eannace Funeral Home, Inc.
932 South Street
corner of Hammond Ave.
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 724-6714
eannacefh@roadrunner.com

Tribute Wall

DK

“ DEAR LIVY & FAMILY,
We are so sorry for the loss of Bill. We fondly remember him from the old days on Richardson Avenue. He lived a long life with much integrity. Our prayers are with him.
Our deepest sympathy and prayers are with Livy, Melissa, Dan and your family.
God Bless !!! Dan and Cindy

Deacon Dan Klockowski - March 08, 2018 at 05:06 PM

HW

i WORKED WITH BILL AT SUNY-- as printers- at the old mill buildings. He was a wonderful co-worker and friend. always had a joke or smile for me everyday we worked together. I was just wondering how he was and today i see he passed. Goodbye Bill and see you in Heaven...Grace Welch

hunter-grace welch - March 09, 2018 at 10:14 AM