



## Jesse Thomas "Tommy" Willis III

February 27, 1954 - December 28, 2017

Saluda, SC

Jesse Thomas Willis, III, 63, of 231 S. Jennings St, Saluda, husband of Leticia Clavijo Romero Willis, died peacefully at home Thursday, December 28, 2017. Born on February 27, 1954, in Carroll County, GA, he was the son of the late Jesse Thomas Willis, Jr., and Mazelle Wessinger Keisler. He was a graduate of Saluda High School and attended Newberry College. He recently retired from BiLo.

Tommy was a Saluda Tiger at heart. A member of the Saluda High School Class of 1973, he served as President and was a proud Tiger athlete. He was a member of the Saluda Players and an ardent dedicated supporter of the Saluda Theatre and the Historical Society. He loved Saluda and her people. Tommy loved the Lord and his family, enjoyed playing golf and fishing, and was known for his grilling prowess and as a regular at the Huddle House. Tommy's trademark was his easy-living nature—that always made him at least a little bit late for just about everything. He had a big heart and was always willing to help anybody—whether he knew them well or not.

Surviving are his wife of the home; a daughter, Jessica Willis, of Florence; a son, Jarred (Crystal) Willis of Saluda; stepsons Aldhair Martinez, Martin Martinez, and Cristian Martinez, all of Saluda; and a brother and favorite golf partner, Johnny (Babs) Willis of Saluda.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Donny Willis.

Tommy was in the midst of working on a matching grant to renovate the Saluda Theatre. Memorials may be made to the Saluda County Historical Society Theatre Fund, PO Box 22, Saluda, SC, 29138, to further the cause about which he was so passionate.

A funeral Service will be held Sunday, December 31, at 3:00 at Good Hope Baptist Church, 1738 Greenwood Hwy, Saluda. Interment will follow in the church cemetery. The

family will receive friends at 2:00 prior to the service.

# Cemetery Details

## Mayson Memorial Cemetery

1738 Greenwood Highway  
Saluda, SC

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 31. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Good Hope Baptist Church  
1738 Greenwood Hwy.  
Saluda, SC 29138

## Memorial Service

DEC 31. 3:00 PM (ET)

Good Hope Baptist Church  
1738 Greenwood Hwy.  
Saluda, SC 29138

# Tribute Wall

RM

“ *Richard And Judy Miller lit a candle in memory of Jesse Thomas "Tommy" Willis III*



Richard and Judy Miller - December 31, 2017 at 10:54 AM

NW

“ *I'm so sorry for your loss and for Saluda's loss of a great citizen. I knew Tommy in high school and always thought he was a wise old man from age 13. He was very smart and talented in many of the ways that are so important, and he was kind and friendly to everyone. He spent a lot of time at our home and did many a good deed for us, such as teaching us about Eggs Goldenrod and fried green tomatoes (before that book was ever written). I don't understand so many things, such as why he is gone so soon, but I'm hoping and praying that he is with God, his parents, Donny, and so many other loved ones, now.*

Nancy Ann Coleman Wooten - December 31, 2017 at 10:05 AM

PP

“ *Phyllis Mitchell Plyler lit a candle in memory of Jesse Thomas "Tommy" Willis III*



Phyllis Mitchell Plyler - December 31, 2017 at 07:49 AM

MM

“ *Mo & Letha Jo Mullinax purchased the Peace, Prayers & Blessings - Blue and White for the family of Jesse Thomas "Tommy" Willis III.*



Mo & Letha Jo Mullinax - December 30, 2017 at 11:44 AM

PB

“ PAM BOSKET Barnes lit a candle in memory of Jesse Thomas "Tommy" Willis III



PAM BOSKET Barnes - December 29, 2017 at 10:12 PM

KL

“ I got to know Tommy in August 1978 when I went to work at the old Piggly Wiggly on Jefferson Street. He was a pleasure to work with and a joy to be around. Everytime I saw him, he always had a smile on his face no matter what may have been going on with him. I know that he is really going to be missed.

Keith Lester - December 29, 2017 at 09:40 PM

MA

“ From political events to various Veterans observances, Tommy could always be counted on help provide a classy venue for Saluda citizens. He will leave large shoes to fill. Go in peace, our friend, for you have earned your eternal rest.

Marvin - December 29, 2017 at 06:07 PM

BB

“ Betty Butler lit a candle in memory of Jesse Thomas "Tommy" Willis III



Betty Butler - December 29, 2017 at 04:56 PM



“ Crystal Edwards lit a candle in memory of Jesse Thomas "Tommy" Willis III



Crystal Edwards - December 29, 2017 at 04:06 PM



What a loss for saluda but a gain for the angels.

Billie Starling - December 30, 2017 at 01:50 PM

JE

“ *Your Family are in Our Thoughts and Prayers.A good friend who will be missed.*

*Your FRIENDS at The Hardware Store..*

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**Jerry** - December 29, 2017 at 01:00 PM

SB

“ *Sandra Boozer lit a candle in memory of Jesse Thomas  
"Tommy" Willis III*



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**Sandra Boozer** - December 29, 2017 at 11:05 AM