



## Gloria "Willie" Willene Edwards

May 11, 1935 - August 14, 2023

Gloria Willene "Willie" Edwards departed this world and joined the love of her life, husband William Billy Guy Edwards in heaven on August 14, 2023.

Willie was born in Pike County to Lewis and Marjorie (Clinging) Winner. She was the third of three daughters. Her mother and father and two sisters, Virginia Catlett Smith (Louisiana) and Darlene Epperson (Louisiana), preceded her in death.

Willie was a life-long resident of Pike County. She graduated from Louisiana High School in 1952, and sold tickets at the former Champ Clark Theatre in downtown Louisiana. She worked there with her fiance, Billy Guy, who ran the movie projector. They were married June 7, 1959, at the Grassy Creek Baptist Church in Louisiana. From their marriage was born the light of their lives, daughter Tari Marlew Edwards Rule (Neil of Louisiana). Willie spent many hours involved in raising her daughter, Tari, and then helped with her three granddaughters, who lovingly called her MiMi. Granddaughters Ashley Lawson (Louisiana), Anita Michelle Lawson (Logan Leverenz of Bowling Green), and Allison Lawson Branham (RJ of Louisiana) and her great-grandchildren: DeAndrea Griffith, Chase Thurman, Roman and Linkin Griffith, and Chevy Burse loved her very much. Family was so important to Willie and she spent many hours loving her daughter, granddaughters and great-grandkids.

In addition to building her family life, Willie worked at Valley Steel, Inc. for several years. She then went to work for Sonoco Products and was employed

as the Office Manager for over 30 years, before retiring in 1996.

Willie's faith was strong and she dedicated many hours to her church and her love of gospel music. She was a member of the Grassy Creek and Salt River Churches for most of her life. Together, with her best friends Norma Jean House, Junior Kent, and Bill White, formed the Gospel Road Quartet. They performed at many local events and churches, singing numerous songs that Willie wrote. She had a love of writing and wrote many gospel songs and poems. She was an amazingly gifted musician, who did not read music, but could play multiple instruments (the accordion, guitar, harmonica, organ, and piano) by ear. She spent many hours playing, and you could feel her passion for music in every note she played.

Willie will be missed by her family and friends. Memorial services will be held Saturday, August 26, 2023, at Grassy Creek Baptist Church with a visitation from 10:00 am until time of service at 11:00 am. Burial will be across the road from the church, at the Fairview Cemetery. A funeral dinner will be served immediately after at the Grassy Creek Baptist Church. Flowers or donations in memory of Willene can be sent in care of the Grassy Creek Baptist Church.

# Cemetery Details

## Fairview Cemetery

Hwy YY at Hwy 79  
Louisiana, MO

# Previous Events

## Memorial Visitation

AUG **26**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Grassy Creek Baptist Church  
16935 Hwy YY  
Louisiana, MO 63353

## Memorial Service

AUG **26**. 11:00 AM (CT)

Grassy Creek Baptist Church  
16935 Hwy YY  
Louisiana, MO 63353

# Tribute Wall

RH

“ So sorry for your loss! She and her parents lived across 4th street from me when I was young. I thought so much of them. I remember when her and Billy Guy dating. So happy to see each other. I know now it was young love. She also tried to teach me to play the accordian and the piano. She was a very special person who will be missed

Rosemary Hagemeier - September 04, 2023 at 12:23 PM

JE

“ Tari and family.. So sorry for your loss.. You are in our prayers and may God give you strength and peace . Mark & Jeannette

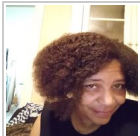


jeannette - August 23, 2023 at 09:05 AM

PP

“ Tari and family, We are keeping you in our thoughts and prayers. Tom and Paulette Powelson Family

Paulette B. Powelson - August 22, 2023 at 11:03 AM



“ Nicole Dyke lit a candle in memory of Gloria "Willie" Willene Edwards



Nicole Dyke - August 20, 2023 at 06:05 AM

RB

“ *Rita Bland lit a candle in memory of Gloria  
"Willie" Willene Edwards*



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**Rita Bland** - August 19, 2023 at 08:39 AM

GT

“ *I knew both willie and Billy Guy, both were great people. I worked  
with him at plastics and knew her family. May she fly high with the  
angels. My prayers and thoughts are with you all. God Bless.*

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**Golda Turner** - August 19, 2023 at 07:49 AM

GT

“ *Golda Turner lit a candle in memory of Gloria  
"Willie" Willene Edwards*



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**Golda Turner** - August 19, 2023 at 07:43 AM

MB

“ *Tari, she was a beautiful lady. She will be truly  
missed. So sorry for your loss. Hugs and  
prayers.*



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**Melinda Brooks** - August 19, 2023 at 07:30 AM

DB

“ *Denise Brown lit a candle in memory of Gloria "Willie" Willene Edwards*



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**Denise Brown** - August 18, 2023 at 08:05 PM

CB

“ *Candy Burnett lit a candle in memory of Gloria "Willie" Willene Edwards*



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**Candy Burnett** - August 18, 2023 at 06:25 PM

SL

“ *Tari, I am so sorry for your loss. I know how much you loved your mama! Keeping you and yours in my thoughts and prayers. Susan Werbach Lowry*

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**Susan Werbach Lowry** - August 18, 2023 at 03:02 PM

CT

“ *Tari, We are so sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers and with you and your family.*

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**Chuck & Debbie Tophinke** - August 18, 2023 at 02:52 PM

CO

“ *Willie was a great lady. I loved her very much she was like a second mom. She was a strong, loving, and caring person. I’m going to miss her. Love you forever* ❤️❤️❤️❤️



**Cindy Poyser Osborne** - August 18, 2023 at 12:46 PM

SM

*Sorry for your loss very nice lady*

**Sammy meyers** - August 18, 2023 at 01:14 PM