



James L. Willa

March 14, 1930 - January 27, 2023

Willa, James Lee, passed away, Friday, January 27, 2023.

Beloved husband of the late Betty Eileen Rufus Willa; dearest father of James Stanley Willa (Karen), Karen Ruth Hurd (Steven), Sharon Elizabeth Long (the late David), and Christina Dawn Durkin (Bill). James (Jim) leaves behind 8 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren. He is survived by his brother Brigadier General Thomas Calton Pool (Helen). Jim was preceded in death by his son Scott David Willa and first wife Betty Lois Duncan.

Jim was born in Houston, Texas on March 14, 1930 to Leon Stanley Willa and Vera Claire Moore. After graduating from Jefferson Davis High School, he obtained a Bachelors of Arts and a Bachelors of Science degree in Chemical Engineering from Rice University. He eventually moved from Houston to St. Louis, Missouri where he resided for over 50 years. In the last year after being widowed from his beloved second wife, Betty Eileen Rufus, he moved to Wisconsin to be with his daughter Karen Ruth Hurd.

Jim was internationally known as the leading expert in cooling towers. He devoted his entire life to the cooling tower business and only retired from it in his eighties. His brilliancy in the cooling tower industry will never be forgotten.

Services: Visitation at the SCHRADER Funeral Home and Crematory, 14960

Manchester Road at Holloway, Ballwin, Saturday, February 11, 9:30 a.m. until time of service at 11:30 a.m. Interment at Bellerive Gardens, Creve Coeur. Friends may sign the family's on-line guestbook at Schrader.com.

Schrader Funeral is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting, please join here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88935755615>

Cemetery Details

Bellerive Gardens Cemetery

740 North Mason Road
St. Louis, MO 63141
(314) 434-3933
info@bellerivegardens.com
<https://bellerivegardens.com>

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 11. 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

Schrader Funeral Home
14960 Manchester Road
Ballwin, MO 63011

Service

FEB 11. 11:30 AM (CT)

Schrader Funeral Home
14960 Manchester Road
Ballwin, MO 63011

Tribute Wall

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“Daddy, the week between Christmas and New Years that I got to spend with you with us organizing your DVDs was the best week ever. We had a good time and were able to spend a lot of quality time together. I wouldn't give that week up for anything. I will cherish it forever. I'll see you again in heaven and until then you live every day in my heart. I miss you so very much. I love you, Daddy. Thank you for all you've done for me and the support and endless love you bestowed on me.

Sharon Long - February 09, 2023 at 10:03 AM