Jack Willis Jr.

June 10, 1947 - June 30, 2021

Jack Willis, Jr. age 74 of Thorndale, passed away Wednesday, June 30, 2021 at St. David's Hospital in Round Rock. Visitation will be Monday, July 5, 2021 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home in Rockdale. Services are scheduled for 2:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 6, 2021 at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Thorndale with Pastor Scott Schaller officiating. Burial will follow in the St. Paul Lutheran Cemetery in Thorndale.

Jack was born June 10, 1947 in Athens, Tennessee to Flora Lou (Bohannon) and Jack Matlock Willis, Sr. Growing up, Jack was in Boy Scouts where he advanced to an Eagle Scout and was a member of the Order of the Arrow. He graduated from the University of Texas and received his Master's Degree from Southwest Texas State University. On March 7, 1981, he and Sharon Richter were married at Christ Lutheran Church in Austin. He taught and coached at Crockett High School in Austin, retiring after 20 years. They moved from Oak Hill to Thorndale in 1998, and he went back to work coaching football, basketball and track at Thorndale High School and then basketball with St. Paul Lutheran School in Thorndale. He was a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Thorndale, served on St. Paul School Board for many years, a past City Council and Mayor Pro-tem and an associate member of Thorndale Volunteer Fire Department. He enjoyed hiking, biking, snow skiing, camping at Rockport, fishing, taking care of his vehicles and loved keeping them clean and detailed. Also, his love for dancing, especially polka and photography and

the many pictures he had. One of his best memories was coaching the St. Paul Championship Boys Basketball Team. He is preceded in death by his parents.

Surviving is his wife of 40 years, Sharon Willis of Thorndale; Daughter, Emily Niemtschk and husband Brook of Thorndale; brothers, Larry Willis and wife Barbara of Waco, Michael Willis and wife Teresa of San Antonio, Paul Willis and wife Pam of Leander; sister, Sandi Day of Hutto; two grandchildren, Emma and Lyle Creek Niemtschk along with numerous nieces and nephews.

The 2014 St. Paul Boy's State Basketball Champion Team will serve as his pallbearers.

Memorials may be made to St. Paul Lutheran Church Build the Vision Fund, P.O. Box 369, Thorndale, Texas 76577 or Thorndale Athletics Booster Club, P.O. Box 53, Thorndale, Texas 76577.

Cemetery Details

St. Paul Lutheran Cemetery - Thorndale

101 N. 3rd Street
Thorndale, TX 76577

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL **5**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home - Rockdale
1041 West Highway 79
Rockdale, TX 76567
(512) 446-5454
phillips_luckey@yahoo.com
https://www.phillipsandluckey.com/

Church Service

JUL **6**. 2:00 PM (CT)

St. Paul Lutheran Church - Thorndale
101 N. 3rd Street
Thorndale, TX 76577

Tribute Wall

JW

Doug & I will always remember & cherish the times we had with Jack & Sharon. It is still so unbelievable that he is gone. From the dances & weddings at the Firehall, the trips to Rockport, Fredericksburg and the simple visits at the curb on our streets, we have so many wonderful memories. We shared the common interests in the mountains, photography & especially, Rockport. It will never be the same without Jack being there. I pray he is with his precious Minnie Willis & our Scout to hold them both. Prayers go out to Sharon, Emily & all of his family & friends. Until we meet again, Jack!

Jana Waiser - July 11, 2021 at 12:09 AM

GM

My Deepest Condolences to the Willis Family and Coaches Of Crockett High during my tenure 1995-1998. What an amazing, uplifting Spirit, Coach was. That Coaching staff with him and Guttman were a special bunch that truly wanted student athletes to succeed and give their very best on and off the field. He was definitely from another cloth, and his smile and attention to detail will always be something I will remember best about him. God Comfort You Willis Family and know that you are in our Prayers and Thoughts during this enormous loss.

Gilbert Marrero - July 06, 2021 at 02:36 PM

SD

1 file added to the tribute wall

Sandi Day - July 05, 2021 at 08:54 PM

MW

I attended Jack's retirement party , in turn he attended mine , April 2018, sister Sandi attended as well!

Mike Willis - July 05, 2021 at 04:53 PM

40 files added to the album LifeTributes

Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home - July 05, 2021 at 01:14 PM

BC

I'm not sure if you remember me Sharon, but this is Brenda Smith Chambers and I worked at TREC from 1980-1991. I'm so sorry for you and your families loss Sharon! I think I had only met your husband once but I remember when you met him and you were so head over hills in love with him. It's never easy to say goodbye to a love one especially your husband, but you have the special memories of 40 year's of marriage with him to give you comfort and joy. Take care and God Bless you. Brenda

Brenda Chambers - July 04, 2021 at 12:56 PM

LL

Coach Willis was a great man, coach, and mentor to so many. He always had a smile on his face walking the halls of Crockett High School. He truly cared about all the students. May he rest in eternal peace and may his family feel the warmth and prayers from all of us who had the pleasure of knowing this great man.

Lee Ann LaBorde - July 04, 2021 at 10:41 AM

SS

Coach Willis was an incredible man, lived his life with integrity. I was so fortunate to have him as a coach at both Bedichek Jr. High and Crockett High School. He was always supportive, encouraging, and positive. He walked his talk and for a young man, this was a superb role model. Thank you for pouring in to me Coach. I pray peace and comfort over your family as they mourn your life well lived.

Sky Streety - July 03, 2021 at 09:33 AM

LR

I went to Crockett and was not a student that enjoyed any kind of gym class, but you had to have the P. E. credits, so there I was. Unfortunately, I was out sick the day we chose which "activity" we were going to participate in for a few weeks (I'm guessing, I don't really remember how long). When I came back to school, Coach Willis had to tell me that the only activity still available for me was WRESTLING! What?!! Needless to say, I complained and he told me "If you will just show up every day, dress out, and sit there against the wall, I will pass you." So, that's what I did. I always appreciated that he let me off the hook and didn't make me do Wrestling with a bunch of boys. He was a super cool Coach and I am very saddened to hear of his passing. I send my condolences to his family and all those that loved him.

Laurie Roehrig - July 03, 2021 at 08:13 AM

MF

I will not forget Coach Willis. He was a kind, patient, and well respected educator. I sure enjoyed his tennis class at Crockett High School. It was obvious he cared for his students.
My condolences to his family. 💕🙏🏼

Mia Fahrenthold - July 02, 2021 at 08:42 PM

OB

Nothing but respect for Coach Willis. He coached various teams that I was on at both Bedicheck and at Crockett. He helped mold hundreds of young adults by example. He was always a calming positive presence. A great smile and words of guidance and encouragement. Thank you Coach. RIP

Oscar Buitron - July 02, 2021 at 02:38 PM

CC

Coach Jack Willis and I go way back in the days at Crockett High School. We taught P.E. and coached the freshman football team together for many years. He was a true educator who cared about students and had a heart of gold for faculty and staff. He was so talented in many ways. He was always the go to man on fixing things and solving problems in P.E. and athletics. He is a true friend that I will forever keep in my spirit. Sending love, hugs and prayers to the family. Thanks, Coach Karl E. Cooks (ATX) "Always Victorious"

Coach Karl E. Cooks - July 02, 2021 at 10:38 AM

I had Coach Willis at Crockett!!! I took a basketball gym class. He made sure that a small group of us had a goal to shoot around as we weren't truly bball gamers. He was a gem! Continued healing for his family and friends.

Laura Driscoll - July 02, 2021 at 09:20 AM