



Larry R. Willis

June 15, 1949 - October 9, 2025

Larry R. Willis, 76, of Havana, passed away at 9:38 a.m. on Thursday, October 9, 2025 at his home. He was born on June 15, 1949 in Poplar Bluff, Missouri to Wayne and Pauline (Jones) Willis. He married Phyllis Silberberg on January 19, 1973 in Belleville, Illinois.

Larry is survived by his wife, Phyllis Willis of Havana; children, Noah (Ashley) Willis of Rushville and Rachel (Ryan) Bieneman of Geneseo, Illinois; and grandchildren, Ava, Maya, and Eliza Beineman and Norah and Naomi Willis. He was preceded in death by his parents and sister, Roberta.

Larry served in the U.S. Air Force from 1967 to 1971 and later became one of the first employees at the Jake Wolf Memorial Fish Hatchery, where he worked until retiring in 2010. He loved spending time outdoors—whether he was fishing, gardening, or just watching the wildlife around him. Larry was also an avid bird watcher and enjoyed doing the monthly bird count at Emiquon Nature Preserve. Larry enjoyed watching his granddaughters participate in their sporting events, musical performances, and theater productions. He also enjoyed watching St Louis Cardinal baseball and was a lifelong fan.

Cremation rites have been accorded and no services are planned at this time. Memorial donations may be made in Larry's name to the Havana Food Pantry. Online condolences can be left for his family at www.hurleyfh.com. Hurley Funeral Home in Havana is in charge of arrangements.

Tribute Wall

PH

“ Thank you for sharing your thoughts and memories. Your kind words touch my heart and gave me smiles. I am a very lucky girl.to have so.many wonderful people in my life. Thank you is not enough, but it is from the heart. Love to all.

Phyllis - October 15, 2025 at 08:04 AM

KC

“ Phyllis. From Ellen and I are heartfelt condolence. Shocked to learn of Larry's passing. So many great and fond memories of him through all our times at Jake Wolf and in Fisheries. Great biologist who truly cared and made many lasting contributions to the Fishery resource of Illinois.

Kirby and Ellen Cottrell - October 14, 2025 at 02:50 PM

GW

“ Phyllis and Larry went on my first date at the Waterworks with my wife Bobbie Sue.
I remember going cross country skiing with Larry. He knowledge of fish amazed me
He was a great guy, husband, and father
He will be truly missed

Gary Wessel - October 13, 2025 at 05:25 PM



“ Met Larry 40 years ago....He married my dear friend, Phyllis. He was a great father, grandfather, and friend. He loved the outdoors and had excellent knowledge of it.
I remember the time we all went camping at Blue Springs. His facts were amazing! I am not an outside person, but Larry and Phyll made it enjoyable. Since I had the best camping experience with these 2 wonderful people, I never camped again. Love you <3

Jo Freer - October 13, 2025 at 10:00 AM



“ Rose Phillips lit a candle in memory of Larry Willis



Rose Phillips - October 13, 2025 at 08:37 AM



“ Phyllis I am so sorry for your loss Larry was a beautiful person he loved his Chicken & Noodles! Every time I made them, I always made extra so I could share with you & Larry. He will always be with you in your heart even though he is gone he will never be forgotten everyone that knew him loved him. RIP my good friend you will be forever loved and forever missed. You have earned your wings fly high. Rose



Rose Phillips - October 13, 2025 at 08:36 AM

MH

“ *Mary Herring lit a candle in memory of Larry Willis*



Mary Herring - October 13, 2025 at 02:00 AM

DW

“ *Sorry for your loss Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family* ❤️ † †



Dan and Chris Wilson - October 12, 2025 at 03:34 PM

PF

“ *Pam Flores purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Larry R. Willis.*



Pam Flores - October 12, 2025 at 02:59 PM

BS

“ *I will forever remember his warm smile, his easy going demeanor and wry wit. I'm truly sorry for his passing.*

Bobbie Sue - October 12, 2025 at 12:12 PM

PG

“ *PATRICIA GILBREATH lit a candle in memory of Larry Willis*



PATRICIA GILBREATH - October 12, 2025 at 10:38 AM

ES

“ *So sorry for your family's loss!*



Elva Stigall - October 11, 2025 at 05:21 PM

DW

“ *Dan And Chris Wilson lit a candle in memory of Larry R. Willis*



Dan and Chris Wilson - October 11, 2025 at 10:20 AM

EW

“ *Edward m W. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Larry R. Willis.*

Edward m W. - October 11, 2025 at 10:11 AM

EW

“ *An exceptional biologist and an even better friend. RIP, buddy.*

Ed Walsh - October 11, 2025 at 10:08 AM

LH

“ *Larry and Mary Hundt sent a virtual gift in memory of Larry Willis*



Larry and Mary Hundt - October 11, 2025 at 09:08 AM

KB

“ *So sorry for your loss.*

Kenneth Barnes - October 11, 2025 at 08:50 AM

AA

“ *Noah and family, Alan and I want you to know we are thinking of you all and praying for comfort. We think of you with love and will be praying for you during this time of sadness. Love you .
The Ashbrooks*

Alan & Paulette Ashbrook - October 10, 2025 at 10:43 PM



Phyllis the obituary talks about a wonderful man. I extend my sincerest condolences to you and your entire family and hope the memories will keep you together long 🙏 long after he is gone. You are very fortunate to have such a loving family. May Larry rest in peace.

El Fin - October 12, 2025 at 11:47 AM

JC

“ *Julitta Carpenter lit a candle in memory of Larry Willis*



Julitta Carpenter - October 10, 2025 at 06:46 PM

RL

“ *Larry was a hard worker and a good friend. I worked with him at the Fish hatchery for several years. He was very proud of his family. He could always make me laugh. He will be missed.*

Randy and Deanna Lovell - October 10, 2025 at 05:06 PM

PZ

“ *Pam Hazzard Ziegler lit a candle in memory of Larry Willis*



Pam Hazzard Ziegler - October 10, 2025 at 04:33 PM