



Steven R. Willis

January 9, 1967 - January 25, 2026

Steven R. Willis, 59, of East Peoria, passed away on Sunday, January 25, 2026, at his home. He was born in Peoria on January 9, 1967, to Robert and Eileen (Masters) Willis.

He is survived by his mother, Eileen Willis of East Peoria; three daughters, Shandice (Parker) Green of Normal, Jordan (Brock) Wallace of Peoria, and Stevie Willis of Peoria; his siblings, Greg (Debbie) Willis of Chandler, AZ, Kathy (Curtis Phillips) Kerker of Washington, Margaret (Scott) Thatcher of Georgetown, DE, Jennifer (Steve) Ball of East Peoria, Tim Willis of Tijeras, NM, and Julie (Orlando) Duran of Washington; special friend, Robin Willis; and his grandchildren, Brock Jr., Easton, Piper, Rhonin, Kade, and Sawyer. He was preceded in death by his father, Robert Willis; sister, Elizabeth; and his niece, Sabrina Duran.

Steve graduated from EPCHS with the class of 1985. He was a Table Games Supervisor at Par-A-Dice Casino, where he worked for over 30 years.

Everyone who knew Steve loved him. His laughter was infectious and his smile could light up any room. Steve always knew how to make an entrance and was often the life of the party. He enjoyed watching sports no matter who was playing, but was an avid Bears, Cubs, and Illini fan. Above all, he cherished his family and took great pride in being a grandpa.

Visitation will be from 3-5 p.m. on Friday, January 30, 2026, at Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services in East Peoria, with a Funeral Service beginning at 5:00 p.m. at the funeral home. Sports attire is welcome.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Jordan Wallace
- Kids College Account at CEFCU for his greatest loves; his grandchildren.
Online condolences may be left at www.GaryDeitersFH.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 30. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services Inc. - East Peoria
444 E. Washington Street
East Peoria, IL 61611

Funeral Service

JAN 30. 5:00 PM (CT)

Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services Inc. - East Peoria
444 E. Washington Street
East Peoria, IL 61611

Tribute Wall



“ Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Steven R. Willis



Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services - January 30 at 04:54 PM



Rest easy... you touched so many 💔

Robin Willis - January 31 at 08:59 PM



Robin Willis - January 31 at 09:02 PM

TM

Sending prayers to all RIP

Toni Morrison - January 31 at 09:25 PM

MP

“ Steve 🥺🥺🥺....I didnt know you were gone until last week when Carren called me... We were lost for words and We're so sorry we missed your Service!! I will forever cherish your laugh and you yelling Bhugga Lu to Carren across the whole first floor!!! 😭 We all lost a good one💔...you have touched many with your personality, that Wooooo (laughter) and just being you! Rest in Peace my friend...you will be truly missed 🥺🙏❤️

Mancy Pittman - May 11 at 05:51 PM

JE

“ Scuba Steve! Can't believe this news. So sorry for the families loss. Enjoyed working along side you for many years. Always a smile and a fun guy to be with. You'll be greatly missed. Thoughts and condolences to your loved ones at this devastating time.

Jeff Eberle - January 31 at 11:35 AM

MS

“ I don't even know where to begin. You broke my heart with this one Steve. My heart aches for your family. You had a Paradise reunion today. Thank you so much for all the fond memories and all the laughs. You will truly be missed!! Forever in my heart.

Monica Stokes - January 30 at 10:23 PM



“ 2 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services - January 30 at 03:52 PM



“ 4 files added to the album Life Tributes



Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services - January 30 at 10:40 AM



“ Thanks for all the great memories Steve, our hearts are with you and your family, you will be missed. d mac and tracey

Dennis McNamara - January 30 at 01:20 AM



“ 34 files added to the album Life Tributes



Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services - January 29 at 10:06 PM

GF

“ Gary Christopher and Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Steven R. Willis.



Gary Christopher and Family - January 29 at 05:39 PM

RW

“ To the Family of Steve,
I worked with Steve for many years before my retirement and beyond work we were friends and I loved him and he became apart of my extended family. During our last conversation this summer at Kartsville was him talking about how much he loved being a grandpa. He will truly be missed but his smile, wit and enthusiasm and laughter will never be forgotten. Rest in Heaven my friend, you were special to me.



Renee Wadley - January 29 at 04:18 PM

LP

“ We are so very sorry to Steve's family. We worked with him for years on the Par-A-Dice a very long time ago.....always enjoyed running into him around town and getting a big hug. Such a friendly soul with a great sense of humor and easy going nature. I know he will be missed dearly. Holding his kids and grandkids in my heart today. He was a good one.....Lisa & Tony Proctor

Lisa Proctor - January 29 at 04:08 PM

EH

“ Erin BlumenshineBenGouldBrooke Henderson purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Steven R. Willis.



Erin BlumenshineBenGouldBrooke Henderson - January 29 at 03:09 PM

EH

“ Erin BlumenshineBenGouldBrooke Henderson planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Steven R. Willis.

Erin BlumenshineBenGouldBrooke Henderson - January 29 at 03:09 PM

MS

“ My prayers are with the whole family. I was lucky enough to grow up with the Willis family. I am truly sorry for your loss.

Myra Blair Schatzman - January 29 at 11:41 AM

CF

“ Omgosh don't even know where to start... almost 40 years of friendship and memories starting in 1987 you were my true love, we parted ways and then reconnected again in 2011! We just had a conversation less than 3 weeks ago, my heart is broken for your girls! I know they were your world! I will miss you so very much, you will always be my lil flagpole Willy 💙

Cat Frazelle - January 29 at 11:33 AM

CP

“ You will be missed Steve. This one hit home, felt it in my heart. You always had a smile on your face which then put a smile on mine. Keep smiling down on us Steve.

Carol Payne - January 29 at 10:59 AM

MB

“ My condolences to his family. I always enjoyed working with him at the Paradise, his smile, laughter and sense of humor at work and always the life of a party RIP friend.

Melinda Brown - January 29 at 08:16 AM

JA

“ You will be missed. I wish I would have made that phone call sooner :(You touched a lot of hearts.

Jana - January 29 at 08:06 AM

BA

“ I have known Steve for a very long time. He will be deeply missed. Prayers for the family. His grandchildren were very important to him.

Barb - January 29 at 07:57 AM

KW

“ I have fond memories of Steve. We worked together for years at Par-A-Dice and there was never a dull moment with him around. May you rest in peace, Steve. My prayers go out to all of your family. Kim Walsh

Kim Walsh - January 28 at 05:57 PM

MM

“ *Rest In Peace cousin.*

Matt Masters - January 28 at 04:31 PM

MA

“ *Maria purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Steven R. Willis.*



Maria - January 28 at 02:20 PM



“ *Steve was a great guy and will be missed by all... I hope there is Wild life Machine up there you can beat....R.I.P*

Connie Carvalho - January 28 at 01:58 PM

YG

“ *My heart goes out to Steve's family. Steve was a high school classmate who made my classes way more fun than they should have been! Pure laughter is what I think of when thinking of Steve. I got the pleasure of reconnecting with him a few years ago hanging out at the East Port Marina pool. He brought pure laughter back into my life! He was a great guy and I will miss him! Yvette Goforth*

yvette goforth - January 28 at 01:04 PM

JF

“ *Will be truly missed..one of the most genuine guys I have ever met..he just made everything around him brighter..I will miss the 'come on man' he always said to me..he made a huge impact on my life..prayers to the entire Willis family..Jerry Frazee*

Jerry Frazee - January 28 at 12:48 PM

LP

I totally pictured him on stick and could hear him saying "Come on Man" lol

That's a good memory to share Jerry

Lynn Pedroza - January 28 at 01:57 PM

JF

He was def family to me..he made me enjoy life more

Jerry Frazee - January 28 at 02:42 PM

AI

“ *American Legion Dept of IL purchased the Fiery Lily and Rose for the family of Steven R. Willis.*



American Legion Dept of IL - January 28 at 11:54 AM

YT

“ *Your Carle Home Health Peoria Team purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Steven R. Willis.*



Your Carle Home Health Peoria Team - January 28 at 11:46 AM

YT

“ *Your Carle Home Health Peoria Team planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Steven R. Willis.*

Your Carle Home Health Peoria Team - January 28 at 11:46 AM