



Robert Lee Willhite

August 24, 1931 - August 14, 2014

Robert “Bob” Lee Willhite, son of the late William Ira and Ferne Louise (Wilkinson) Willhite, was born August 24, 1931 in Kansas City, Missouri where he grew up and attended high school. As a young boy, Bob was raised by his maternal grandmother.

Bob left school at 15 years of age to begin work as a cook, and then joined the United States Navy. After 4 years in the Navy, he entered University of Missouri Kansas City receiving his Bachelor’s Degree in 1961, majoring in Accounting.

Bob met the love of his life, Anne Mae Cantrell, while they were both competing in roller skating. On July 21, 1956, Bob and Anne were united in marriage in Kansas City. They shared over 35 years of marriage together and were blessed with two children: Robert James and Linda Lou. Anne preceded Bob in death on August 6, 1991.

Bob was very hard working. He worked for Midland Lithography in Kansas City where he loaded paper for printing Hallmark Cards. He later worked for Harry Surface Construction and served as treasurer of the company. He then bought a franchise from Mes-Tex Steel and built 19 commercial buildings in Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas and Louisiana. One of those buildings was the bowling alley in St. Robert. Bob later purchased the bowling alley and moved

to the St. Robert area in 1964 because he was tired of the traveling and being away from his family. After the bowling alley burned down in 1975, Bob purchased Jim's Music and then the Rivera Lounge and Annie Roos which he operated until 2003.

Bob was an avid collector. He collected coins and also old Cadillacs and restored them. In his 40's, Bob learned how to snow ski and he loved being out in the snow. He was an avid outdoorsman and owned his own boat. He also enjoyed going to the remote part of Canada to go fishing and due to him being a private pilot, he would fly to Canada and land on very short runways.

Bob loved his country and was honored to be able to serve as a member of the Abou Ben Adhem, 32nd Degree Mason, Shriner and was captain of the Motor Corps and rode motorcycles with the Shriners. He took great pride in flying children to the Shriner's Children's Hospitals for treatment. Most importantly, Bob loved his family and enjoyed spending time with them whenever possible.

Bob passed away Thursday, August 14, 2014 in the Harry S Truman Veterans Hospital of Columbia, Missouri having attained the age of 82 years. He will be sadly missed, but fondly remembered by all those that knew and loved him.

Bob leaves to cherish his memory, one son: Robert James Willhite (Debra) of Universal City, TX; one daughter: Linda Lou Willhite of Unionville, CT; three grandchildren: Shaun Willhite (Amanda) of Burke, VA, Jennifer Park (Jeff) of San Antonio, TX and Rebecca Bellos (Thomas) of Austin, TX; three great grandchildren: Madilyn Willhite, Vivian Willhite and Mckenzie Bellos; one nephew: Bill Willhite; one niece: Kathi Willhite Butler; and a host of friends.

In addition to his parents and wife, Bob was preceded in death by one brother: William "Bill" Willhite.

Cemetery Details

Waynesville Memorial Park

Waynesville, MO 65583

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 18. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Memorial Chapels and Crematory of Waynesville/St. Robert
202 Historic 66 W.
Waynesville, MO 65583
(573) 774-6111
memorialchapels@embarqmail.com

Masonic Service

AUG 18. 7:00 PM (CT)

Memorial Chapels and Crematory of Waynesville/St. Robert
202 Historic 66 W.
Waynesville, MO 65583
(573) 774-6111
memorialchapels@embarqmail.com

Service

AUG 19. 10:00 AM (CT)

Westside Baptist Church
801 Historic 66 West
Waynesville, MO

Tribute Wall



“ *Memorial Chapels and Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of Robert Lee Willhite*



Memorial Chapels and Crematory - August 18, 2014 at 05:33 PM



Beautiful video, I just now discovered what happened to Bob. I'm so incredibly sorry! Bob used to always come into my window at Phelps County Bank and deposit his many multupal rolls of coins from the coin machines. He was certainly a dear sweet man. I got to see his wife, Anne on occasion, she was always an eye catcher, a truly beautiful lady.

He was always in a great mood, smiling and happy. I'm also sorry to see he was in a wheelchair. He was a great man. May God be with him, his wife and their beautiful family.

Sally Davis - October 26, 2016 at 12:37 PM



“ *Robert Lee Willhite*

January 28, 2023 at 06:53 AM



“ *Pamela Cox lit a candle in memory of Robert Lee Willhite*



Pamela Cox - September 07, 2014 at 09:28 AM

SJ

“ SARA JONES lit a candle in memory of Robert Lee Willhite



SARA JONES - August 31, 2014 at 04:36 AM

CH

“ So many great memories from my youth. Of Saturday mornings spent at Riviera Lanes. Playmates. Bowling. Burgers. The Willhite family always there as back-up to so many moms and dads.

Linda and Bob I'm so sorry that you've lost your father. My family has been and will continue to pray for yours.

Cary L. Hansen

Cary Hansen - August 26, 2014 at 12:34 AM



“ Thoughts and prayers are with you all during this difficult time.

Robin and Glen Snyder

Robin Snyder - August 22, 2014 at 09:53 PM

MF

“ Nice memories with the Willhite family at Riviera Lanes Saturday morning kids bowling.



Miller family - August 20, 2014 at 06:59 PM

AB

“ Audrey Pickett Bressler sent a virtual gift in memory of Robert Lee Willhite



Audrey Pickett Bressler - August 19, 2014 at 06:00 PM

AB

“ Audrey Pickett Bressler lit a candle in memory of Robert Lee Willhite



Audrey Pickett Bressler - August 19, 2014 at 05:47 PM

DM

“ Debby Myers lit a candle in memory of Robert Lee Willhite



Debby Myers - August 19, 2014 at 04:04 PM

MS

“ MARLIN STEVENS lit a candle in memory of Robert Lee Willhite



MARLIN STEVENS - August 19, 2014 at 07:20 AM

PL

“ *Phyllis Lowe lit a candle in memory of Robert Lee Willhite*



phyllis lowe - August 18, 2014 at 08:58 PM

SW

“ *Sandy Wilson lit a candle in memory of Robert Lee Willhite*



Sandy Wilson - August 18, 2014 at 07:08 PM

TW

“ *Linda and Bobby I am so sorry for your loss...my thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time...Bob is loved and will be greatly missed..Big Hugs!! Rest in Peace Bob*



Tamma Wilkerson - August 18, 2014 at 04:01 PM

 Mike Moeller

“ *Mike Moeller lit a candle in memory of Robert Lee Willhite*



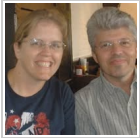
Mike Moeller - August 18, 2014 at 11:35 AM

PS

“ Pam Seda lit a candle in memory of Robert Lee Willhite



Pam Seda - August 18, 2014 at 10:36 AM



“ John Pruetting lit a candle in memory of Robert Lee Willhite



John Pruetting - August 18, 2014 at 09:03 AM

BO

“ Bill Odell lit a candle in memory of Robert Lee Willhite



Bill Odell - August 18, 2014 at 08:04 AM

SC

“ SUSAN COVERT lit a candle in memory of Robert Lee Willhite



SUSAN COVERT - August 18, 2014 at 07:38 AM

SC

“ *Suzi And Ron Cook lit a candle in memory of Robert Lee Willhite*



Suzi and Ron Cook - August 18, 2014 at 07:09 AM

DV

“ *Dee Vinson lit a candle in memory of Robert Lee Willhite*



Dee Vinson - August 17, 2014 at 09:54 PM



“ *Patti Dumas lit a candle in memory of Robert Lee Willhite*



Patti Dumas - August 17, 2014 at 09:25 PM

TA

“ *Tony And Donna Amato lit a candle in memory of Robert Lee Willhite*



Tony and Donna Amato - August 17, 2014 at 07:54 PM

TA

Bob was not only My Hero But also My other Dad. I cherish all the memories of him and always will keep them close to my heart. He was so loving, caring and I will Miss him and am looking forward to the day we meet again in Heaven. I Love you Bob!

Tony and Donna Amato - August 17, 2014 at 08:01 PM

KH

“ *Klaus & Linda Hardison lit a candle in memory of Robert Lee Willhite*



Klaus & Linda Hardison - August 17, 2014 at 07:26 PM

CD

“ *Craig & Susie Donah lit a candle in memory of Robert Lee Willhite*



Craig & Susie Donah - August 17, 2014 at 06:50 PM



“ *Richard Hood lit a candle in memory of Robert Lee Willhite*



Richard Hood - August 17, 2014 at 02:13 PM



“ Terry Roberson lit a candle in memory of Robert Lee Willhite



Terry Roberson - August 17, 2014 at 01:50 PM



“ RIP. Bob, our old friend. Luge and Paul Hardman

Luge Hardman - August 17, 2014 at 01:45 PM



“ Billy & Stephanie Fenton lit a candle in memory of Robert Lee Willhite



Billy & Stephanie Fenton - August 17, 2014 at 01:32 PM



“ Cornelia & Robert Dodds lit a candle in memory of Robert Lee Willhite



Cornelia & Robert Dodds - August 17, 2014 at 09:23 AM

LH

“ *Laura Huffman sent a virtual gift in memory of Robert Lee Willhite*



Laura Huffman - August 17, 2014 at 09:12 AM

TH

“ *Ted Helms sent a virtual gift in memory of Robert Lee Willhite*



Ted Helms - August 16, 2014 at 07:07 PM

MB

“ *So sorry Bobby to see of your fathers passing. My husband met him one time when I was home and they talked for hours about the old Cadillacs he had. He was a nice person and I remember the Bowling Alley well. Sometimes you never know the true value of a moment until it becomes a memory. He was an asset to St. Robert.*
Myrtle

M Burke - August 16, 2014 at 06:04 PM

LS

“ *Linda & Bob Schonbok lit a candle in memory of Robert Lee Willhite*



Linda & Bob Schonbok - August 16, 2014 at 12:03 PM

 Sandy McCarrie

“ *I remember growing up and spending lots of hours at Riveria Lanes and Mr Willhite. He was always nice to me. My thoughts and prayers are with Bobby and the rest of the family during this emotional time.*

Sandy McCarrie - August 16, 2014 at 11:04 AM

SK

“ *We are so sorry to hear of the loss of Bob, Ray and I have both known him for many years and he was a wonderful man, a kind man and he did not deserve the loss of his life to the hands of these thieves. Bob was one that would have given a person the shirt off of his back if someone had needed it. We loved him dearly.*



Sue Hayes & Ray Keeney - August 16, 2014 at 08:35 AM

VW

“ *Vicki Willis lit a candle in memory of Robert Lee Willhite*



Vicki Willis - August 16, 2014 at 07:50 AM

MV

“ Our thoughts and prayers go out to Bob's family, at this time..Bob was a good man,and a great friend, whose kind will toward others,will never be forgotten...You will be missed by many,but your memory will live on,in those who knew you...God Bless You,Our Dear Friend...Mr. & Mrs. Danny G. De Vido & Family



Mr. & Mrs. Danny G. De Vido - August 16, 2014 at 07:21 AM

GW

“ George And Linda Wheeler lit a candle in memory of Robert Lee Willhite



George and Linda Wheeler - August 16, 2014 at 06:03 AM



“ Kitt E. Katt lit a candle in memory of Robert Lee Willhite



Kitt E. Katt - August 16, 2014 at 12:21 AM

RC

“ Robert Chartier lit a candle in memory of Robert Lee Willhite



Robert Chartier - August 15, 2014 at 08:45 PM

RC

“ *Bob and Family, I am very saddened to hear of your Father's passing. We'll be praying for you and look forward to your safe return home here in TX.*

Robert Chartier - August 15, 2014 at 08:45 PM