



## Harold Willis

January 7, 1927 - December 3, 2009

A memorial service celebrating the life of Harold Willis will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, December 11, 2009 at the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Wadena, MN, with Pastors Rob Nelson and Rachel L. O. Stout officiating. A visitation will not be held. There will be a service in Hendricks on Monday, December 14, at the Christ Lutheran Church. Burial will be in the City Cemetery in Hendricks. Harold passed away peacefully at the Quiet Oaks Hospice House in St. Augusta on December 3, 2009 at the age of 82 years. Harold was born on January 7, 1927 to Lucius and Matie (Running) Willis in Hendricks, MN, in Lincoln County. He graduated from Hendricks High School in 1945 and from South Dakota State University in 1949. He married Joyce Veenbaas on August 20, 1950. He taught and coached in Hendricks for four years and Ortonville for two years before moving to Wadena in 1955 to teach U.S. History and become the boy's varsity basketball coach, retiring in 1985. Harold was a devoted husband, a loving father, and a good friend. He enjoyed fall, pheasant hunting, golf, hiking, birds, reading, and anything involving family and friends. He was a member of the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Wadena. Survivors include his wife Joyce of Monticello; sons Greg, and wife Pam, of West Fargo, ND, Jebb, and companion Kimberly of St. Joseph, MN, Bradford, and wife Tammy, of Albert Lea, MN; daughter Kari Selisker, and companion Kyle of West Fargo, ND; sister Geraldine, and husband Don VonEschen, of Clear Lake, SD; and 10 grandchildren. Harold was preceded in death by his parents and brother Marlo. Our family cannot say enough good

things about the care Harold received during his last months and because of that we ask that in lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to Quiet Oaks Hospice House, 5537 Galaxy Rd., St Augusta, MN 56301

# Tribute Wall

M(

“ Sorry to hear about Harold's death. He was my U.S. History teacher in the 10th grade back in 1959-60. He was an excellent teacher.

Mary Williams

---

**Mary Williams (Hoffman)** - December 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM

SA

“ I was so sorry to hear about Mr. Willis' passing. He will always be Mr. Willis to me since a respected teacher. My brother Vern, mother Naomi and I went to the funeral and felt something we will never forget after being part of that funeral. I knew he was a great man/teacher and could feel he was a fine husband, dad, grandpa, teacher, golfer and so much more that day. I believe I was blessed to have Mr. Willis as my History teacher. My condolence to the Willis family.

Sandi

---

**Sandi** - December 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ I work part time for Casey's as a cashier and last summer your father was in several times getting fuel and I greeting him as "Mr. Willis", but he preferred to be greeted by his first name. He told me you were in Fargo area and I mentioned that we would be having a reunion over Labor Day weekend 2009. I didn't see you there, Greg, but had hoped to get to the funeral and didn't make it. My condolences for your recent loss. Peace and Blessings on you and your family, Donna (Carter)

---

**Donna Mayo-Fearing** - December 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ Dear Willis Family,  
I was saddened to hear about your loss.  
I don't know if you remember me, Greg. I graduated in the class before you in 1968. I just wanted to tell you that I admired your father. He was always very nice to me at school. Something that students remember! He was a good man. You should be very proud of him.  
Please take gentle care of yourselves.  
Sincerely,  
Jeanne Bottemiller LeFevere

---

**Jeanne Bottemiller Le Fevere** - December 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DW

“ Even though I eventually majored in History in college, the one thing that sticks out for me is something I learned from Mr. Willis that I have not forgotten to this day-the golden spike was driven at Promontory Point, Utah in 1869. I only took one class of his, but after all these years, I remember that fact out of everything. Please know that I am thinking of him and the family at this time.  
Diana (White)

---

**Diana Westphal** - December 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM

NH

“ Joyce and family,  
I have such fond memories of our years in Wadena when Hank was wrestling coach and Willie was the basketball coach. They spent lots of time hunting on their free weekends and drinking lots of beer. I also have enjoyed seeing you in the summer when I am at the lake. Please know my thoughts and prayers are with you now. Willie was a wonderful man and will always have a special place in my heart!

---

**Nancy Hettwer** - December 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM

CM

“ I have fond memories of a stately, good looking couple who walked into church smiling and greeting those around them. My daughter from a very young age watched them with awe. Harold always said hi to her. One particular Sunday she turned to me and said, "They must be movie stars!" They sure looked the part, I had to agree. From then on our family called them "the movie stars". Harold will be missed greatly. Blessings to you as you grieve your loss.

---

**Christie Meier** - December 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ Dear Family,  
My sincere sympathy to all of you. I enjoyed Mr. Willis as a teacher and as a friend to my family. His sense of humor was artful, and one never knew when he was going to conjur up a line or a story. Please find comfort in all of the thoughts and prayers from those many lives your husband and father touched.

---

**Mike Mueller** - December 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JW

“ Thank you for sharing your father and husband with all of us at WHS those many years. And thank for the hospitality your family shared with mine. --Joe

---

**Joe Wallevand** - December 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM

ML

“ 12/7/09

*Mr. Willis- What can I say but one of the best! Our families go back many years teaching and coaching at WHS.*

*I spent much time at the Willis house and was able to always get that big smile or some great humor that often was Mr. Willis. He called me "Lars" just like my dad. As I grew older he would still always smile and kid me .He was simply just one of the nicest guys you would ever meet.*

*I know how hard it is losing a loved one. Just know he is in a better place, in fact he is up in heaven and my mother is offering him a cookie as he is telling her a Scandinavian joke!*

*Mark Larson*

---

**Mark Larson** - December 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM

RW

“ *I wanted to extend my deepest sympathy to the family of Mr. Willis. He was one of my favorite teachers from my high school days. Mr. Willis was one of those teachers that had the complete respect of the students and made the class and learning fun at the same time.*

---

**Rose Webster** - December 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DA

“ *I remember Mr. Willis from school and church. He was always so kind and usually had a smile on his face. My sympathies are with Joyce and the family, he was a nice man and teacher.*

---

**Deb Andrews** - December 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DD

“ Harold was my dad's teacher when he was in school here in Wadena. I always heard such fond stories of Mr. Willis and his class. I got to know Harold when I worked at the Wadena Golf Course in the summers of 2001-2002. I always enjoyed visiting with him and hearing his stories on the fairway. God Bless to a wonderful teacher, great golfer, and a gentleman.

---

**Dana Damm** - December 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DP

“ Mr. Willis was one of my favorite instructors and I always admired him as a person as well as a teacher. It was not hard to see he truly cared about his students and sincerely wanted to see them succeed. His wit and humor made the classroom interesting and fun as well as educational. He was a class act whose character could never be questioned. My deepest sympathy goes out to his family and my hope is that they find comfort in knowing that he is now in a better place.

---

**Dave Palloch** - December 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM

SO

“ I offer my sympathy to you, Joyce and family. Mr. Willis was my high school study hall supervisor. I remember him turning on the intercom so we could listen to the State basketball tournaments. You also lived across from my parents, Casper and Loretta Schwartz on 1st St. SW. We always enjoyed visiting with you.

---

**Sister Jean Schwartz, OSB** - December 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM