



Willard John "Will" Genz

November 29, 1933 - January 21, 2019

Willard John "Will" Genz, age 85, of Marion, IL, passed away with his family by his side at 3:46 p.m. on Monday, January 21, 2019, in Memorial Hospital of Carbondale, IL.

Will was born on Wednesday, November 29, 1933, in Elgin, IL, the son of Leslie and Viola (Keeker) Genz.

He grew up in the Carpentersville-Dundee area, attending school there and was a graduate of Carpentersville-Dundee High School Class of 1951.

After graduation from high school Will answered the call of this nation in 1952, and served in the United States Navy during the time of the Korean War as a corpsman, medic and pharmacy technician and faithfully served until he was honorably discharged November 30, 1956.

He was united in marriage to Elizabeth Ann Owen on Wednesday, August 17, 1955, in Bethesda, Maryland and together they shared nearly 46 years of marriage until her death on Thursday, May 17, 2001.

After he was discharged, Will continued his education at the University of Illinois Circle Campus in Chicago, IL where he received his degree as a Registered Pharmacist. His working career as a Pharmacist began with Rexall Drugs in West Chicago. Later he worked for Kroger's in Lincoln, IL and eventually owned and operated his own pharmacy called "Will Genz Pharmacy" in Lincoln for several years until his health forced his to retire.

During his lifetime, Will has lived in many states including Maryland, Oregon, Ohio, Kentucky and Illinois. Since moving to Marion, IL in late 2000 he has been a member of Good Sheppard Lutheran Church. Everywhere he moved he became involved with a church. While living in Owensboro, KY, for 25 years he was a member of St. John's United Methodist Church where he taught bible study and was part of the Men's Club and in Lincoln, IL was a member of First United Methodist Church.

When he was younger he enjoyed playing the ukulele. Will was known as being a gifted fast pitch underhand softball pitcher being able to deliver the ball over the plate at 98 mph and played for the Lincoln Road Runners. In 1969, under the direction of his pitching, the Road Runner's won the Illinois State Softball Championship Tournament and Will was selected as the MVP. In his later years he enjoyed painting by numbers, reading and

writing poetry and was an avid bridge player.

Will loved his family and enjoyed the many times they all would be together. He was always interested in all of their many activities, especially those of his grandchildren and great grandchildren, and the many memories created will now be cherished by those who knew and loved him.

He is survived by five children, Gretchen Genz Davidson of Skokie, IL, Camilla Genz Klaskin and her husband George of Kettle River, MN, Jennie Genz of Metropolis, IL, Christopher Owen Genz and his wife Wendy of Denver, CO and Antoinette "Toni" Genz Hayden and her husband Tony of Marion, IL; seven grandchildren, Katie Penrod of Metropolis, IL, Daniel Penrod and his wife Tish of Danville, KY, Elizabeth Genz of Nashville, TN, Kenai Klaskin of Duluth, MN, Gus Klaskin of Minneapolis, MN, Joe Hayden and Kirsten Hock and her husband Daniel all of Marion, IL; seven great grandchildren, Leah Cook, Jase Cook, Olivia Penrod and Annabel Penrod all of Danville, KY, Saige Hock of Benton, TN and Luna-Ann Hock and Axton Hock both of Marion, IL, other extended family members, and many friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Elizabeth Ann Owen Genz and sister, Donna Reckers.

Arrangements for Willard John "Will" Genz have been entrusted to Wilson-McReynolds Funeral Home, 900 N. Court St., Marion.

In accordance with Will's wishes there will not be any type of public service conducted. For those who prefer, memorial contributions may be made to "The United Way of Southern Illinois" and mailed in care of Wilson-McReynolds Funeral Home, 900 N. Court Street, Marion, IL 62959. Memorial envelopes will be available at the funeral home. For additional information please call the funeral home at 618-993-2131.

Events

JAN **No Public Services**

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Wilson McReynolds Funeral Home

900 North Court Street, Marion, IL, US, 62959

Comments



“ To Will's family,
I remember when my United Methodist Women circle of St. John came to visit with Will. He was still just as friendly as he always had been, and I remember him always being very smart as far as where to find things in the Bible. We all enjoyed the time we had with him. I remember Kathy Sherman drove us all up there and I think there were six of us that went or maybe eight my memory is getting a little less these days, too, however it was a very nice day. We all shared a lot of memories at St. John. I'm still at St. John only now I play the organ. My name is Ila Culp. I forgot to say that my husband , Bruce also enjoyed being around Will when he was at St. John. I' m so sorry for your loss but, we know he's in a better place now.
Sincerely,
Ila Culp

Ila Culp - January 30, 2019 at 12:14 PM



“ Thanks so much, Ila, for sharing your memories and kind thoughts! Gretchen Genz Davidson

Gretchen Genz Davidson - July 03, 2019 at 03:37 PM



“ Gretchen, Camilla, Jennie, Christopher and Toni and the rest of the family:

Condolences and Sympathy on the passing of your father Willard. He is at peace, with family and in the arms of the Lord. Willard and I met only through emails as we searched our ancestors and discovered they were one and the same. Our journey led to his fifth/ my fourth great grandpa Laas/Claas/Lars Jensen who became our brick wall. Willard, when you meet him send us the answer.

Lisa - Fourth cousin, once removed from Michigan

LE - January 29, 2019 at 03:35 PM



“ Thanks so much, Lisa for your kind words!

Gretchen Genz Davidson - July 03, 2019 at 04:33 PM



“ Uncle Will:

We love you and your family and thank God for you! We thank God that you are with the Lord, Aunt Ann, our parents and loved ones now in paradise, but we'll miss you! We pray that God will comfort the Genz family with His love and peace. God bless you! "The Lord is my Shepherd..." (Psalm 23)
Love & Prayers, Jerry & Irene, Jim, Jeff & Sandra, Jody, Jill & Gary and families
(children of Donna Genz & Al Reckers)

Jill Haeubl - January 26, 2019 at 11:37 AM



“ Thanks so much, Jill! We love you all too!

Gretchen Genz Davidson - July 03, 2019 at 04:33 PM



“ Sent a gift in memory of Willard John "Will" Genz



Jill Haeubl - January 26, 2019 at 11:32 AM



“ Lit a candle in memory of Willard John "Will" Genz



Jill Haeubl - January 26, 2019 at 11:32 AM



“ Rest peacefully, Will. You were a great man, had plenty of stories, and knocked down MANY crossword puzzles. It was my honor to have met you, and hear some of your wit & wisdom. My condolences to the Genz family.

Rich Schwallie - January 25, 2019 at 08:06 AM



“ Thanks, Rich, for sharing your memories of my father! Gretchen Genz

Gretchen Genz Davidson - July 03, 2019 at 04:35 PM



“ While I was living in Owensboro, I visited with Will many Saturday mornings. We discussed many topics and I did learn a lot from those Saturday morning visits. He was a great friend and will be missed by many.

Tom Briscoe
Tipton, MO.

Tom Briscoe - January 24, 2019 at 07:49 PM



“ Thanks so much, Tom, for your kind words. Gretchen

Gretchen Genz Davidson - July 03, 2019 at 04:36 PM



“ I never met Will in person but corresponded with him over the years in his search to document his family history. I'm sure he has met all of his family and is looking down on us with a big smile. I'll miss you Will.

Judy Van Dusen - Elgin, IL

Judy Van Dusen - January 24, 2019 at 06:18 PM



“ Will was an amazing and inspiring man. He and I became acquainted when he hired me to work on his family history years ago. We discovered many interesting things, such as the full story from newspaper accounts of his grandfather's tragic drowning on Will's dad's 9th birthday. We learned he had an infant brother who died. We found an ancestor who served honorably in the Civil War from Illinois and many details about his life and family. We located many distant cousins also interested in family history with whom he enjoyed corresponding. Through this we became friends. I asked him once how he kept his positive attitude and wonderful sense of humor in spite of the sudden loss of his beloved wife and his health condition. He told me he felt he was just born with a positive personality, and that no matter what, he could go on with life with a smile in his heart somehow. I admire that. I will miss his emails making jokes with me and signing them with silly fictitious names. Will, you were one in a million, and I feel blessed to have known you.

Juli Claussen - January 24, 2019 at 11:30 AM



“ Will was one special guy! Heaven has gained a wise and gentle man! I'm sure he was greeted warmly by all the "Old Broads" from St. John who have gone before him! I'll miss you, Will. Love you!

Kathy Sherman - January 24, 2019 at 01:07 AM



“ In loving memory of my time working for him at his pharmacy in Lincoln, Illinois. He was the best fast pitch softball player I ever saw. May he rest in peace.

Tim Weimer - January 23, 2019 at 11:08 PM



“ My deepest sympathies upon learning of the passing of your dad, Will.

He was a great pharmacist and individual. He touched and influenced many lives over the years.

May he rest in peace.

Rick Ingram, Pharmacist - January 23, 2019 at 09:45 PM



“ Will was a dear, dear friend of our church family at St. John UMC in Owensboro. He will live on in our memories forever. Tony and Sarah Jane Minton

edward a Tony minton - January 23, 2019 at 03:21 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Gretchen Davidson - January 23, 2019 at 02:55 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Gretchen Davidson - January 23, 2019 at 01:56 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Gretchen Davidson - January 23, 2019 at 01:56 PM



“ Your in my thoughts and prayers at this sad time.

Maggie Ruble - January 23, 2019 at 11:32 AM



“ Loved bringing eggs to him!!

Joyce Steber - January 22, 2019 at 07:20 PM



“ Wilson-McReynolds Funeral Home lit a candle in memory of Willard John "Will" Genz



Wilson-McReynolds Funeral Home - January 22, 2019 at 06:44 PM



“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



Wilson-McReynolds Funeral Home - January 22, 2019 at 05:56 PM