



James Henry Wills

December 1, 1942 - June 1, 2022

James Henry Wills was born on December 1, 1942, in Edenton, North Carolina, to James Frank and Helen Blount Wills. He grew up in Edenton among many uncles, aunts, and cousins. He graduated from Edenton High School in 1959 at age sixteen, and then earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from North Carolina A&T State University in 1963.

He began his career in finance at Manufacturers Hanover Trust in New York. He enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1965 and ascended to the rank of Captain. After his honorable discharge in 1969, he moved to Asheville, NC, where he worked for Wachovia Bank & Trust Company. He met his life-long love Alpha Leahbelle Little in March 1970; they wed June 6, 1971 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. James and Alpha lived in Asheville until 1974, when a new job brought them to Gainesville, GA. In 1977, they built their home in Rainbow Village, and in 1978, they welcomed daughter Jacqueline Nicole. James continued his career in the finance department of SKF (TRW), where he was known as “Jim”, and remained there until his retirement in 2005.

The son of an A.M.E. Zion minister, James was always committed to serving the Church. He and Alpha joined St. Paul United Methodist Church in 1974, and he served in many positions, including Finance Committee Chair, Pastor-Parish Relations Committee Chair, Chairman of the Administrative Board, Lay Leader, and Building Committee member during the renovation and expansion of St. Paul in 1988.

His desire to be of service extended to the Gainesville community. He was a member of the Jaycees, and subsequently served on the boards of the United Way of Hall County, Northeast Georgia Medical Center Advisory, Chestatee Regional Library (now Hall County Library) and the Hall County Credit Union. He also served on the Athletic Committee and Board of Trustees of Lakeview Academy, where his daughter attended. He was a member of the Gainesville-Hall County Black History Society and a volunteer mentor for youth through Center Point. He also worked for the election campaigns for several local Democratic party leaders.

James was a big sports fan—his favorite teams were the Dodgers, Braves, Falcons, and Hawks. He loved watching old westerns and courtroom shows. And he especially loved Saturday morning breakfasts, discussing community affairs with fellow members of the

Men's Progressive Club.

After a battle with Alzheimer's disease, he passed away on June 1, 2022 at the age of 79. He was preceded in death by his father, Rev. James F. Wills, mother, Helen (Blount) Wills, and infant siblings Franklin and Katherine Olivia. He is survived by his loving and devoted wife Alpha of 51 years, daughter Jacqueline, and a host of extended family members and friends.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN **10**. 12:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wimberly Funeral Home
325 Summitt St SE
Gainesville, GA 30501
(770) 536-3251
info@wimberlyjackson.com
<https://www.wimberlyjacksonfuneralhome.com>

Receiving Friends

JUN **10**. 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wimberly Funeral Home
325 Summitt St SE
Gainesville, GA 30501
(770) 536-3251
info@wimberlyjackson.com
<https://www.wimberlyjacksonfuneralhome.com>

Service

JUN **11**. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Paul United Methodist Church
705 Summit St.
Gainesville, GA 30501

Tribute Wall



“ *James Henry Wills*

October 22, 2023 at 04:48 PM

BL

“ *Such a beautiful service today. Jim was loved and respected by so many. I always valued his friendship and guidance. I could always count on him to be there for me. Love and prayers for both of you Alpha & Jackie.*

Beth Edwards Lane

Beth Lane - June 11, 2022 at 08:07 PM

ES

“ *My sincere condolences*



Elaine Sawyer - June 11, 2022 at 05:03 PM

WT

“ *Deepest condolences to the Wills family. May you feel God's loving comfort and peace today and in days to follow.*



Winona W. Thompson - June 11, 2022 at 01:32 PM

DT

“ *Deon S. Turner lit a candle in memory of James Henry Wills*



Deon S. Turner - June 11, 2022 at 08:51 AM

SH

“ *May the God bless bless and keep you during the loss of your loved one James, .I thank God that you will always have the memories.*

Sue Hallums



Sue Hallums - June 10, 2022 at 04:07 PM

DB

“ *Deanna Burris-Rucker sent a virtual gift in memory of James Henry Wills*



Deanna Burris-Rucker - June 10, 2022 at 02:06 PM

HF

“ *Henry and Dorothy Blount & Family purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of James Henry Wills.*



Henry and Dorothy Blount & Family - June 10, 2022 at 12:46 PM

DS

“ *Becky and I enjoyed knowing Jim and Alpha since 1975. Jim was one of the first employees of MRC/TRW in Flowery Branch. We had a great working relationship in the accounting department. When there was a special project that had to be done, you could always count on Jim to give his best. His work ethic and pleasant personality was a good fit. He will be missed by many. We have so many good memories.*

Our prayers and condolences to the family. God bless.

Dave and Becky Stenander

David Stenander - June 10, 2022 at 12:17 PM

CD

“ *Praying that God give your family the strength you need during this time in your life. Clara & LaShae Dorsey*

Clara Dorsey - June 09, 2022 at 03:31 PM

JL

“ I had the great pleasure of knowing and working with Jim from his first day to his last day of working at TRW/SKF. Jim was one of the first core people hired to start up the new bearing operation. He was a key contributor to the ongoing success of the business. During those 30 years everyone knew they could always count on his support on any project we worked on together. He was always professional and a pleasure to work with.

Eileen and I always enjoyed seeing Jim, Alphaia and Jacqueline at the TRW/SKF family outings over those many years.

We want to express our deepest sympathies to Alphaia and your family for your loss. We will always remember all the good memories and times we had with Jim. He was a “good man”!

Jim and Eileen Lewis

Jim Lewis - June 09, 2022 at 02:51 PM

TP

“ Condolences & Prayers to the Family. May God wrap His loving arms around the Family.



Theresa Anderson Puryear - June 08, 2022 at 10:00 PM

VB

Heartfelt prayers and condolences to the family. Blessings always. 🙏❤️🙏

Velma A Ballard-Andrews - June 08, 2022 at 11:12 PM

KR

“ Karen Robbins lit a candle in memory of James Henry Wills



Karen Robbins - June 08, 2022 at 09:48 PM

KR

“ Karen Robbins lit a candle in memory of James Henry Wills



Karen Robbins - June 08, 2022 at 09:47 PM

KB

“ Kim Brown lit a candle in memory of James Henry Wills



Kim Brown - June 08, 2022 at 01:54 PM

TW

“ Teresa Wilder lit a candle in memory of James Henry Wills



Teresa Wilder - June 08, 2022 at 11:24 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James Henry Wills.



June 07, 2022 at 10:36 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of James Henry Wills.



June 07, 2022 at 09:11 PM

SD

“ Stephanie Daniel sent a virtual gift in memory of James Henry Wills



Stephanie Daniel - June 07, 2022 at 07:50 PM



“ Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of James Henry Wills.



June 06, 2022 at 07:07 PM

RH

“ Sending Out Prayers 🙏 To The Wills Family! 🙏❤️❤️ From The Harris Family!!



Regina Harris - June 05, 2022 at 07:42 PM

JM

“ Joyce Mitchell sent a virtual gift in memory of James Henry Wills



Joyce Mitchell - June 05, 2022 at 06:25 PM

EB

“ Elisa Bonds-Ratliff sent a virtual gift in memory of James Henry Wills



Elisa Bonds-Ratliff - June 05, 2022 at 04:05 PM



“ *Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of James Henry Wills.*



June 05, 2022 at 10:41 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of James Henry Wills.*



June 04, 2022 at 02:09 PM

KR

“ *After joining SKF (TRW at the time), I quickly learned that Jim was a man who met every one of his promises, who maintained always the very highest levels of ethical behavior, & who could be counted on to put forth his best effort on every project we had.*

He NEVER shirked his duties, & he always gave the very best effort it was possible for him to give.

Of all the employees I had the chance to work with during my 40 year working career, Jim Wills was the one who 100% of the time maintained the very highest levels of honesty, integrity, & ethical behavior at all times.

He was my right arm in the Finance Department, my confidant, my friend.

I will always miss his dedication to SKF, his really dry sense of humor, his counsel, & his friendship.

I suppose God just decided it was time to call him home.

Ken Rasheff - June 04, 2022 at 09:15 AM

RW

“ *Reggie Wilburn lit a candle in memory of James Henry Wills*



Reggie Wilburn - June 04, 2022 at 08:44 AM

KB

“ *Kimberly Bryant lit a candle in memory of James Henry Wills*



Kimberly Bryant - June 04, 2022 at 08:31 AM

KB

“ *Sending prayers of comfort and condolences to the Wills family*

Kimberly Bryant - June 04, 2022 at 08:30 AM

CS

“ *Camille Stephens lit a candle in memory of James Henry Wills*



Camille Stephens - June 04, 2022 at 04:59 AM

MH

“ *Minister Phyllis Hollis-Smith sent a virtual gift in memory of James Henry Wills*



Minister Phyllis Hollis-Smith - June 03, 2022 at 05:53 PM