



Leona Fay Willis

May 8, 1936 - January 18, 2025

Leona Fay Willis, born on May 8, 1936, in Wellston, Oklahoma to Iry and Dessie Graves. She married Arlie Louis Willis on February 18, 1956 at Lone Star Baptist Church. Leona passed away peacefully on January 18, 2025, in Lubbock, Texas. A dedicated wife, mother, sister, grandmother, and great-grandmother, Leona is survived by her loving daughters Rebecca Wilson (Teddy), DeLaurie Mize (Tim), and Sarah Beth Rodriguez (John Hogan), as well as her cherished twin sister Cleona Taylor. She will be greatly missed by her six grandchildren David Wilson, Nichole James, Zachary Mize, Wesley Rodriguez, Zane Mize, April Zingone, and twelve great-grandchildren: Seth Wilson, Paul Wilson, Rylee Mize, Karsee Mize, Hannah Wilson, Aubree Mize, Emmalyn Rodriguez, Calvin James, Andrew Mize, Grant Mize, Quinton James, and Addison Mize. Also, numerous nieces, nephews, other family and friends. Leona was preceded in death by her husband Arlie Willis, Father Iry Graves, Mother Dessie Graves, Sister Betty Smith, Brothers Weldon Graves, and Winfred Graves.

Leona was a graduate of Lockney High School and made a significant career for herself as a Cotton Classer with the USDA, contributing her expertise to the cotton industry. Her professional accomplishments were complemented by a rich tapestry of personal passions and talents. She was an active member of Christian Life Assembly of God for many years, where she dedicated herself to women's ministries, taking on various roles and responsibilities throughout

the years. At the time of her death she was a member of Indiana Avenue Baptist Church.

Known for her creative spirit, Leona was not only a talented seamstress but also an accomplished artist, cake decorator, cook, baker, gardener, and a skilled wedding and party planner. Her legendary cakes and beautifully planned events brought joy to many and showcased her exceptional attention to detail and her gift for bringing people together.

Leona's warmth, kindness, and unwavering faith will be remembered by all who had the privilege to know her. Her legacy will live on in the hearts of her family and friends.

Visitation will be held on January 20, 2025, at Sanders Funeral Home at 6:00 PM. The funeral service will take place on January 21, 2025, at Sanders Memorial Chapel at 10:00 AM, followed by a private graveside service at the City of Lubbock Cemetery on January 22, 2025, at 2:00 PM. Leona will be laid to rest in a place of honor next to her husband, where her family can cherish her memory forever.

Cemetery Details

City of Lubbock Cemetery

2011 E 31st Street
Lubbock, TX 79404

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 20. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Sanders Funeral Home
1420 Main Street
Lubbock, TX 79401
(806) 763-6433
director@sandersfuneralhome.com
<https://www.sandersfuneralhome.com>

Funeral Service

JAN 21. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Sanders Memorial Chapel
1420 Main Street
Lubbock, TX 79401

Tribute Wall



“ Sanders Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Leona Fay Willis



Sanders Funeral Home - January 21, 2025 at 09:56 AM



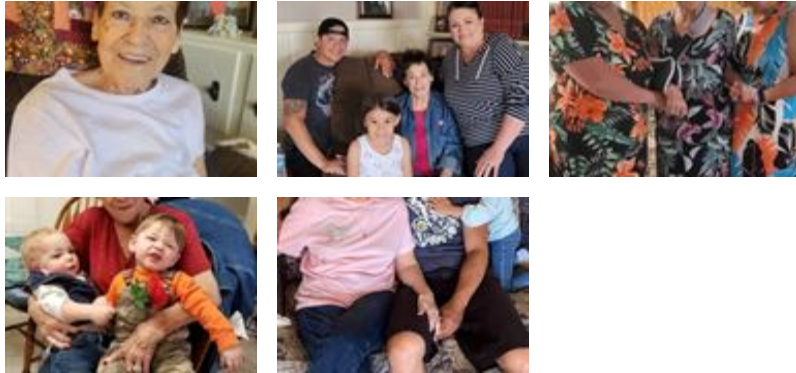
“ Sanders Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Leona Fay Willis



Sanders Funeral Home - January 20, 2025 at 05:06 PM



“ 55 files added to the album Life Tributes



Sanders Funeral Home - January 20, 2025 at 04:59 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Leona Fay Willis.



January 20, 2025 at 04:20 PM