



## William "Billy" Ervin Wills Sr.

July 3, 1935 - January 27, 2025

It is with deep sorrow and heartfelt gratitude for a life well-lived that we announce the passing of William Ervin Wills, Sr., age 89, of West Point, Virginia. William (known as "Billy" and also as "Popie") left this world peacefully, surrounded by the immense love of his family on January 27, 2025.

Billy was born in Lynchburg, Virginia on July 3, 1935. He embodied the values of hard work, humility, and unwavering dedication to family. A man of extraordinary character, he shared nearly seventy wonderful years of marriage with his high school sweetheart and the love of his life, Grace Seward Wills, who preceded him in death. Together they built a legacy rooted in love, kindness, and faith, serving as an enduring example of devotion. He was the proud father of three children: Mr. William "W.E." Wills, Jr. (Rachel), Mrs. Robin Wills Williams (Jon) and Dr. Douglas Wills (Suzanne), each of whom carry forward his values and spirit. His wisdom, kindness and humility were treasures he imparted to his ten beloved grandchildren: Ben Wills (Meghan), Jordan Wills Sligh (Wesley), Winston Williams (Alisha), Garrett Williams, Kathleen Grace Williams Speidel (Chapin), Alex Wills, Justin Benkovsky (Meshva), Camden Benkovsky, Griffin Benkovsky, Bronson Benkovsky; and his five great-grandchildren, William Sligh, Virginia Grace Sligh, Lillian Sligh, Kate Wills and Jane Wills, all of whom were blessed to experience the warmth of his gentle and giving heart. He is also survived by

many beloved nieces and nephews.

Billy was preceded in death by his parents, Mary Aileen Tinsley Wills and Dewitt T. Wills, as well as his four siblings, Jack Wills, Thomas Wills, James Wills and Anne Wills Mayes.

Billy grew up with a strong work ethic, starting work as a young boy at a nearby dairy farm with his three brothers. After graduating from Pleasant Hill High School at the age of seventeen, he worked at the Chesapeake Corporation for almost ten years and left there in 1962 to begin a lifelong career of thirty-seven years as the agent for State Farm Insurance Company in West Point. He also was a certified electrician and shared an electrical business with his brother, Jack Wills.

Billy was an active member of his community throughout his entire life. He was a proud veteran of the United States National Guard in which he eagerly served his beloved country. He was also an active member of the United States Junior Chamber of Commerce and was very proud to call himself a "Jaycee." He served as president of the West Point Jaycees in the 1960's. He was a member of the West Point Masonic Lodge # 238. He was also an active member of the United States Junior Chamber of Commerce and was very proud to call himself a "Jaycee." He served as president of the West Point Jaycees in the 1960's. He was also a volunteer firefighter and EMT for the West Point Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad. He served several years as an elected councilman on the West Point Town Council and as a scout leader of the West Point Boy Scout Troop. He was a member of the West Point Lions Club and a life-long long member of Ducks Unlimited. However, his most cherished role was that of a devoted and loving husband, dedicated and adoring father, as well as grandfather, and most importantly a faithful child of God. He was a long time, dedicated member of First Baptist Church, West Point, where he served as a Deacon, chairman of the Deacons

and a Sunday School teacher.

Billy's hobbies included fishing, hunting and occasional golf and hunting trips with his "good buddies." He was also extremely crafty and artistic having made many handmade treasures over the years such as wooden cheeseboards and lamps for family and friends. He enjoyed traveling and was able to visit many places around the world with his wife, family and friends. A treasured, lifetime family memory is of the five-week cross country camping trip that he took his wife and children on during one of the school summer breaks.

His faithful love of God, his heartfelt care for all people and the sincere kindness and desire to always help those in need will be his lasting legacy.

Rest in Peace Dear Popie!

A visitation will be held from 4-6 p.m. on Saturday, February 1, 2025, at Vincent Funeral Home, West Point, Virginia with Masonic last rites being performed at 6 p.m.

A memorial service to celebrate Billy's life will be held 1:30 p.m., Sunday, February 2, 2025 at First Baptist Church West Point. Interment will be private.

Memorial contributions can be made to First Baptist Church West Point in memory of William E. Wills, Sr.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 1. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Vincent Funeral Home, West Point Chapel  
417 11th St  
West Point, VA 23181  
(804) 843-2550

## Memorial Service

FEB 2. 1:30 PM (ET)

First Baptist Church  
414 Main Street  
West Point, VA 23181

# Tribute Wall

JE

“ W.E., Robin, and Douglas:

*I am very sorry to hear about the passing of your dad. Besides being members of what I believe to be the "best generation," Mr. and Mrs. Wills were definitely the "cool parents" among all of our friends. Moreover, if anyone should want to enhance their relationships with family members or friends, an understanding of how Mr. and Mrs. Wills treated everyone would give them all the answers they need. These lovely folks will surely be missed!*

*Jimmy Edmonds*

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**Jimmy Edmonds** - February 09, 2025 at 10:59 PM

BL

“ Brenda Lee lit a candle in memory of William "Billy" Ervin Wills Sr.



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**Brenda lee** - February 03, 2025 at 01:01 PM

BS

“ Betty K Sullivan lit a candle in memory of William "Billy" Ervin Wills Sr.



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**Betty K Sullivan** - February 02, 2025 at 07:59 AM

KR

“ With our deepest sympathy. It was an honor to meet Winston’s Popie and Grandma last year at Winston and our daughter Alisha’s wedding. He was a lovely and talented man. You are all in our thoughts and prayers. With love Karen, Andy & Olivia Robinson.



Karen Robinson - February 01, 2025 at 01:34 PM

AH

“ What a kind and talented man whose legacy lives on in his family. So grateful we met him at the wedding of our daughter to his grandson Ben. May memories bring comfort. Anita and Rick Heisterman

Anita Heisterman - February 01, 2025 at 10:46 AM

ES

“ Condolences to Grace and the Wills family. May fond memories bring you peace now and comfort on those days when you need it most! ✨🙏✨

Eddie R Sears - January 31, 2025 at 03:19 PM

DC

“ My sincere condolences. I meet Mr. Wills briefly and I so enjoyed our conversation. He truly was so proud of the life he had made with his wife. He beamed with pride telling me about his children and grandchildren. He was so precious.



Dena Cunningham - January 31, 2025 at 03:05 PM

AW

“ Avril & Gerald Williams lit a candle in memory of William "Billy" Ervin Wills Sr.



Avril & Gerald Williams - January 30, 2025 at 09:12 PM

BE

“ Beverly Edwards lit a candle in memory of William "Billy" Ervin Wills Sr.



Beverly Edwards - January 30, 2025 at 03:33 PM

GC

“ A great friend. Always had a smile and kind word every time I saw him.

Gene Carter - January 30, 2025 at 02:24 PM

TG

“ Tina Gulley lit a candle in memory of William "Billy" Ervin Wills Sr.



Tina Gulley - January 30, 2025 at 11:46 AM

TG

Sorry to hear this sad news . Grace and Billy were wonderful people and neighbors. Prayers for friends and family as they share memories with one another.

Tina Gulley - January 30, 2025 at 11:47 AM

JR

“ John And Vickie Roane lit a candle in memory of William "Billy" Ervin Wills Sr.



john and vickie roane - January 30, 2025 at 08:55 AM

RC

“ R.T. Croswell And Donna Croswell lit a candle in memory of William "Billy" Ervin Wills Sr.



R.T. Croswell and Donna Croswell - January 30, 2025 at 06:17 AM

VA

“ We were blessed to be neighbors of Billy and Grace for many years. We have so many fond memories and all of the family are in our thoughts and prayers.

Virginia&Will Addison - January 29, 2025 at 10:33 PM

TR

“ Tina Reamer lit a candle in memory of William "Billy" Ervin Wills Sr.



Tina Reamer - January 29, 2025 at 09:06 PM

SP

“ Sue Perry lit a candle in memory of William "Billy" Ervin Wills Sr.



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**Sue Perry** - January 29, 2025 at 09:00 PM

BB

“ Lit a candle in memory of William "Billy" Ervin Wills Sr.



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**Brian Boswell** - January 29, 2025 at 08:52 PM

VB

“ Vicki Blake lit a candle in memory of William "Billy" Ervin Wills Sr.



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**Vicki Blake** - January 29, 2025 at 07:39 PM

GR

“ W.E.,

*Sorry to hear of the passing of your father. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers.*

*George Rogerson  
Duck Hunting Buddy*

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**George Rogerson** - January 29, 2025 at 06:38 PM

PS

“ Having Uncle Billy in my life has been a true blessing. I have so many fond memories of him and Aunt Gracie growing up. Many funny stories and great memories when I lived next door to them as I grew up. He was there when I chose to be baptized and there to hold my hand when my Dad sick and didn't leave my side. I'm truly going to miss you! Sending thoughts and prayers to his family. ❤️ love you always



Peggy Wills Sanford - January 29, 2025 at 01:59 PM

RC

“ Rick Cartwright lit a candle in memory of William "Billy" Ervin Wills Sr.



Rick Cartwright - January 29, 2025 at 01:25 PM

LG

“ Wills family, we were so sorry to hear of Billy's passing. My brother and I have known Billy our entire lives and our parents were good friends with Billy and Grace. We are sending prayers and comforting thoughts to the entire Wills family. God Bless and may Billy rest in peace. Lisa Gwaltney and the Gwaltney Family

Lisa Gwaltney - January 29, 2025 at 01:18 PM

DB

“ Wills Family , Condolences sent to your family at this time. Billy will certainly be missed in West Point & surrounding areas. Dolores ( Willis) Beeler

Dolores ( Willis) Beeler - January 29, 2025 at 12:14 PM

RO

“ Some of my best childhood memories are full of times spent with the Wills' family having lived 2 doors from them. Mr. Wills, Billy, I've always held in highest regard. He was a very good man. Memories of our family's camping adventure to Shenandoah Acres Campground, going sleigh riding somewhere in K&Q to find a good hill with Hot Chocolate to warm us, and Billy's Boy Scout Leadership, especially at Camp Brady Saunders are a few things shared together. I will always keep him in my thoughts and will miss him.

*Robbie Alley*

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**Robert** - January 29, 2025 at 12:03 PM



“ Douglas Somervell lit a candle in memory of William "Billy" Ervin Wills Sr.



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**Douglas Somervell** - January 29, 2025 at 11:42 AM

JB

“ Rest in Peace my Friend!!!

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**Jerry Blanchard** - January 29, 2025 at 10:46 AM

RC

“ Sure will miss Billy here at West Point Family Barbershop, he was always kind and high spirited . It was a pleasure cutting his hair and having good conversations with him. Love and prayers to the family



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**Rebecca Carter** - January 29, 2025 at 08:01 AM

PC

“ Pamela S Carter lit a candle in memory of William "Billy" Ervin Wills Sr.



Pamela S Carter - January 29, 2025 at 01:34 AM

JR

“ Our heartfelt sympathy to the family of such a respected man. Precious memories. God bless



Jim and Beverly Ross - January 28, 2025 at 10:42 PM

BA

“ Brenda Anerton sent a virtual gift in memory of William "Billy" Ervin Wills Sr.



Brenda Anerton - January 28, 2025 at 09:15 PM

DG

“ Diane Gaber lit a candle in memory of William "Billy" Ervin Wills Sr.



Diane Gaber - January 28, 2025 at 08:54 PM

NB

“ *Nancy H. Bland lit a candle in memory of William "Billy" Ervin Wills Sr.*



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**Nancy H. Bland** - January 28, 2025 at 08:46 PM

JP

“ *Billy was a true southern gentleman and always had a smile. We send our love and sympathy to his family.*

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**Judy and Glenn Palmer** - January 28, 2025 at 08:43 PM

GC

“ *Dear Family,  
I am so sorry to hear of Billy's passing.  
He was such a kind gentleman, neighbor and  
an asset to First Baptist Church, West Point.  
Cherish your precious memories.  
Praise God he and Grace are together again.  
With heartfelt sympathy,  
Gloria Couch (formerly Foster)*



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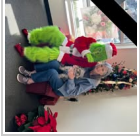
**Gloria Couch** - January 28, 2025 at 06:38 PM



“ *Billy was a dear friend! We shared so many good times with he and Grace and they are both going to be missed so very much. Love,  
John and Susan*

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**John Boughton** - January 28, 2025 at 05:41 PM



“ Margaret Ogg lit a candle in memory of William "Billy" Ervin Wills Sr.



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**Margaret Ogg** - January 28, 2025 at 04:46 PM

WH

“ Wayne And Marsha Healy lit a candle in memory of William "Billy" Ervin Wills Sr.



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**Wayne and Marsha Healy** - January 28, 2025 at 04:16 PM

WH

“ Billy was a good friend and a great neighbor we will miss him very much. RIP Billy

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**Wayne and Marsha Healy** - January 28, 2025 at 04:16 PM