



## Darrell James Willis

September 2, 1955 - June 15, 2021

Darrell James Willis was born on September 2, 1955 to Juanita J Thomas and James Virgil Willis. He grew up in Celt and as a young boy was saved at a revival at Celt Union Church. At 19 years old he married Anita L. Stokes and into this union two children were born, Damon and Amber (Willis) Maack. In September 2004 he married Teresa Jane (Reichtmyer) Crocker and into this union he gained two more children by marriage, Chris Crocker and Amanda (Crocker) Riley.

Darrell spent a good portion of his working life for what would eventually become FedEx Freight. He worked for 20+ years before retiring in 2017. Anyone that knew Darrell knew that he could not just retire and do nothing. He then became employed for the County in Dallas County for a short time before retiring to farm life. Darrell loved being outside and doing anything farm related. He was also a classic piddler. He could spend hours going through drawers, boxes or just digging in junk. Anyone who knew him knew that it took an eternity for him to get a story told mostly because he would fall asleep in the middle of telling it or get sidetracked and start telling another story. Darrell also had this amazing ability to fall asleep anywhere, anytime and in any condition.

Darrell loved his family and he loved them with everything he had. He would drop everything to be there for and take care of them. He was not afraid to laugh with them or cry with them if that is what they needed. Darrell always found a loving way to connect with people and could talk to anyone for hours.

He truly found his calling as he became a grandpa. He had a cup that said, "My favorite people call me Papa." He loved his grandkids so much and they were truly the light of his life. Darrell loved playing with them and teasing them until they got mad or laughed or both. He would sing them silly songs and truly invested all of himself into them when they were around. He loved playing toys with his grandsons and granddaughters, and not once would he dare tell them no. Candy, cookies and ice cream were acceptable meals any time of the day or night despite what mom and dad said. Darrell loved his wife, children, and stepchildren dearly as well. He always said that he would have had a whole bunch of kids if the Lord would have given them to him. He also said that he would have long hair all the way down his back if he was not bald. Thank goodness God saw fit to have him lose his hair at an early age! Darrell was a member at Cherry Grove Baptist Church. He was fortunate enough to be raised by a mother and father that taught him about the Lord. God was such an important part of his life and what kept him going. Having salvation was especially important and he wanted everyone to have a time and a place to tell about.

Darrell touched many lives and made such a huge impact in so many people's lives. He was always willing to lend a helping hand to anyone who needed it. Darrell never told anyone no and he always tried to make sure those around him were always taken care of. He had so many friends that loved him and he never met a stranger. Just to put into depth how good of a friend Darrell was, his best friend Joe Roofener and he were still best friends after 60+ years. There is a huge void left in so many hearts. He is rejoicing in heaven with his mom and dad and many more family members that had been saved.

Darrell is preceded in death by his parents, Virgil and Wanda Willis. He is survived by his wife, Teresa Willis of the home; his sister, Janice Kinney of Macks Creek, MO; his children, Damon Willis & wife Katricia of Buffalo, MO, Amber Maack & husband Doug of Bolivar, MO, Chris Crocker of Urbana, MO, and Amanda Riley & husband Brandon of Buffalo, MO; 12 grandkids, Davon Willis, Quincey Willis, Jayce Talbot, Bryce Willis, Kaden Spicer, Djon Willis,

Grayson Maack, Mason Riley, Lenora Willis, Lyla Riley and twins Everly and Adley Maack; and one great-grandchild, McKinley Willis.

Funeral services will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 19, 2021 in the Cantlon-Otterness & Viets Funeral Home with Bro. John Stewart and Bro. Dennis Skinner officiating. Escorts will be Joe Roofener, David Perkins, Gary Dugsdale, Tim Stokes, Ivan Stokes, and Chris Crocker. Honorary escorts will be Damon Willis, Quincey Willis, Bryce Willis, Tommy Parrack, Brandon Riley, Doug Maack, Cheyenne Roofener, Rusty Willis, Chris Kinney, Terry Willis, and Kenton Kinney. Interment will be in the AB Cemetery under the care and direction of the Cantlon-Otterness & Viets Funeral Home of Buffalo. Visitation will be from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Friday at the Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the AB Cemetery or the Cherry Grove Church.

# Cemetery Details

## AB Cemetery

Celt, MO

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**JUN 18.** 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Cantlon-Otterness & Viets Funeral Home - Buffalo  
931 W. Main St.  
P.O. Box 993  
Buffalo, MO 65622  
(417) 345-2211  
[info@cantlonotterness.com](mailto:info@cantlonotterness.com)  
<https://www.cantlonotterness.com>

## Service

**JUN 19.** 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Cantlon-Otterness & Viets Funeral Home - Buffalo  
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P.O. Box 993  
Buffalo, MO 65622  
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# Tribute Wall



“ *Darrell James Willis*

October 09, 2023 at 12:27 PM



“ *Darrell James Willis*

October 09, 2023 at 04:09 AM



“ *Darrell James Willis*

October 05, 2023 at 11:14 PM



“ *Darrell James Willis*

October 05, 2023 at 05:41 PM



“ *Darrell James Willis*

December 20, 2022 at 10:20 AM



“ *We were so shocked to hear the news. Darrell and Jason worked together at FedEx for years, and later became my "early morning" hunting pal, he would wave as he walked to his tree stand and I walked to my blind. Fly high Darrell, you will be missed dearly. Prayers for his family.*

**Kathy Banks** - June 21, 2021 at 12:45 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Darrell James Willis.*



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June 20, 2021 at 08:11 AM



“ *Was shocked to hear of his passing. Just visited with him at a farm auction. Prayers for the family, Bill and Flo Brown*

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**Florence Brown** - June 19, 2021 at 08:27 AM



“ *Sending our heartfelt condolences to all of the family. He will be missed by many. Sincerely, Bobby Nagurne Family.*

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**Bobby Nagurne** - June 18, 2021 at 08:51 PM



“ *Sending healing prayers and comforting hugs. Words fail to express our deepest sorrow for you and your families loss Teresa. Darrell will be truly missed.*

*Lee & Carol Nixon*

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**Lee & Carol Nixon** - June 18, 2021 at 06:31 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Darrell James Willis.*



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June 18, 2021 at 12:05 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Darrell James Willis.*



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June 18, 2021 at 11:30 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Darrell James Willis.*



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June 17, 2021 at 09:55 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Darrell James Willis.*



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June 17, 2021 at 08:51 PM

CK

“ Charles & Nancy Nash - Davey Kohler purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Darrell James Willis.



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**Charles & Nancy Nash - Davey Kohler** - June 17, 2021 at 07:34 PM

NN

“ Someone I look forward to seeing again over Jordan. A good friend, husband, father and brother in Christ. Sincerest sympathy and prayers for his family. His loss is great.  
Charles and Nancy Nash and Davey Kohler

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**Nancy Nash** - June 17, 2021 at 07:24 PM

WB

“ He surely was a great man and I will miss his friendship and calls. He always love the lord our savior and I know he's with him now. I again was shocked to hear the news and prayers go out to Teressa and family. Love you all and may God bless you always.  
Wade, Dixie and Emery Bailey

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**WELDON WADE BAILEY** - June 17, 2021 at 05:37 PM