



Larry David Willis

February 13, 1947 - May 31, 2025

Larry David Willis, 78, of Bartow, Florida passed away on May 31, 2025 due to the results of an extended illness.

Born February 13, 1947, in Ironton, Ohio. Larry is preceded in death by his wife of 44 years, Judy Mays Willis, his parents Otto and Leona Willis, four brothers, Meredith, Harlon, Donald and Kenneth and two sisters, Helen Vanderhoof Turner and Shirley Willis Spriggs.

Survivors include a brother, Gary and Patti Willis of South Point, Ohio, two sons, Matthew (Todd) and Wendy Willis of Saint Augustine, Florida and Ryan (Nick) Willis of Lawtey, Florida. Two grandsons, Joshua and Wendi Willis of Lakeland, Florida and Chance Willis of Saint Augustine, Florida and several nieces and nephews.

Larry graduated from Ironton High School in 1966. He served with the Lawrence County Ohio Sheriff's office from 1972-1974. He relocated to Bartow, Florida in 1978 where he spent the majority of his life. He then became a certified Adjunct Law Enforcement Defensive Professor and Instructor in the Florida Department of Law Enforcement from Polk State College, Winter Haven, Florida. He retired in 2010 as a Corporal with the Bartow Police Department. Larry is a member of the Moose Lodge in Winter Haven, Florida. He is a member of Vinyard Church of God, Bartow, Florida.

Larry was a Pioneer Volunteer for 35 years with Sun and Fun in Lakeland, Florida.

A celebration of life will be held at Vinyard Church of God, 490 W Vine St. Bartow, FL on Saturday, July 12th at 1 p.m.

A second celebration will take place at Phillips Funeral Home, 1004 S 7th St. Ironton, OH on Saturday, July 19th at 11 a.m. Inurnment will follow at Sugar Creek Cemetery.

Cemetery Details

St Johns Crematory

385 State Road 207
Saint Augustine, FL 32084

Tribute Wall

DS

“ Larry and I were very good friends. My wife and I drove to Bartow and took him to lunch and as always he had a big smile and we told stories and laughed the entire time. Then when Larry moved in with his son in St Augustine my wife and I drove up there and took him to lunch again we had a fabulous time. We talked often and were planning another luncheon with him when he passed away. RIP Brother I am really going to miss those talks we had. You are in a good place my friend and we will meet up again

Danny Searls - July 09, 2025 at 03:14 PM

SS

“ Sharon Riffe Scott lit a candle in memory of Larry David Willis



Sharon Riffe Scott - June 30, 2025 at 09:44 PM

JB

“ Larry and I rode the same School bus in Junior and High School. He always had a big smile on his face and I never heard him say a bad word about anybody. We are going to miss him at our class Reunions, RIP Larry, until we meet again ! Jack Bowman. IHS 1966.

Jack Bowman - June 30, 2025 at 08:13 PM