



Mrs. Jane Seddon Willson

October 20, 1923 - November 3, 2015

Jane Seddon Willson, 92, of Albany, GA, died Tuesday, November 3, 2015.

Her funeral service will be at 10 AM on Saturday, November 7, 2015 at the First United Methodist Church. The Rev. Dr. Don Adams will officiate. Mrs. Willson's burial service will be at 4 PM on Saturday at Westview Cemetery in Atlanta, GA. The Rev. David Wagner of St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Atlanta will officiate. The Willson Family invites all family and friends to attend either or both funeral and burial services as their schedules allow. The family will receive friends on Friday from 5-7 PM at Jane Willson's home at 1801 Oak Glen Ln, Albany, GA 31707.

Jane Seddon Willson was born in New York City. She and her late husband, William Harry Willson moved to Albany in 1951. Mrs. Willson was a graduate of Emma Willard School in 1941, and graduated from Wellesley College in 1945. She and Harry Willson met on a train when they both were returning to college in the Boston area. They were married in 1946. She was President of Sunnyland Farms, a highly successful company selling food products by mail, which she and her late husband founded in 1948. She is a past President and served on the Board of Directors of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Albany. She was Albany's Woman of the Year in 1983, in 2001 she received the Emma Willard School lifetime achievement award. The Girl Scouts of Southwest Georgia recognized her as their 2004 Woman of Distinction, and in 2006, she

and Harry Willson were listed in the YMCA Book of Honors.

Many buildings in Georgia are named in her honor, namely the Willson Hospice House, and the Jane Willson Unit of the Boys and Girl Clubs of Albany. Mrs. Willson was the first woman to serve on the Board of Directors of Bellsouth Telecommunications. She served on the Board of Directors of the Atlanta Opera, Inc. since 1988. Mrs. Willson co-chaired a major capital campaign in 1992 for Theater Albany, Inc. Her presentation to the Woodruff Foundation helped the campaign exceed its goal. She was a member of the Board and Past President of the Albany Museum of Art. Because of her efforts, the Albany Museum of Art is now one of five or six museums in Georgia which are accredited, and is the smallest.

Mrs. Willson was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Law Degree from the University of Georgia in 2006. In the same year, she was honored as a Friend of UGA Alumni. She served as a trustee of the University of Georgia Foundation from 1990-2012. She has also served on the Boards of Darton College, Albany Technical College, and Albany State University.

Mrs. Willson was a member of the First United Methodist Church, Albany since 1954. She was a Sunday School teacher, served on the Administrative Board, and on the Finance Committee.

Mrs. Willson is survived by her four children: Bill and Susan Willson, Atlanta, GA, Larry and Beverly Willson, Albany, GA, Arthur Willson and Jane Foster, Philadelphia, PA, Jane Willson and Malcolm MacDonald, Madera, CA; five grandchildren and their spouses: Hank Willson and Deb Thrope, San Francisco, CA, Alex and Staci Willson, Albany, GA, Charlie and Emily Willson, Washington, DC, Justin and Alexandra Willson, Princeton, NJ, and Isabelle Willson and Mark Bender, Washington, DC; 3 great granddaughters: Sophie Willson, Maria Willson, and Eila Willson.

Those desiring may send memorials to the Boys and Girls Club of Albany, Inc., 711 N. Monroe St., Albany, GA 31701.

Cemetery Details

Westview Cemetery

1680 Westview Dr., SW
Atlanta, GA 30310

Previous Events

Visitation at residence

NOV 6. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Residence of Jane Willson
1801 Oak Glen Ln.
Albany, GA 31707

Funeral Service

NOV 7. 10:00 AM (ET)

First United Methodist Church
307 Flint Ave
Albany, GA 31701

Burial

NOV 7. 4:00 PM (ET)

Westview Cemetery
1680 Westview Dr., SW
Atlanta, GA 30310

Tribute Wall



“ *Mrs. Jane Seddon Willson*

May 22, 2023 at 10:29 AM



“ *Mrs. Jane Seddon Willson*

May 22, 2023 at 01:29 AM



“ *Mrs. Jane Seddon Willson*

December 24, 2022 at 02:54 AM



“ *To the Willson Family:*

We were sorry to hear of Jane's passing. It is hard to think of anyone we know that has led a life more full of love for others. Her spirit of adventure for life was simply amazing.

*She was a wonderful friend to our Mom and Dad, Octavia and Emmett Heidt. Please know you are in our thoughts and prayers.
The Heidt Family*

Mary Heidt Shatt - December 12, 2015 at 02:49 PM



“ *Teresa Holley lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Jane Seddon Willson*



teresa holley - November 09, 2015 at 09:57 PM

TH

Mrs. willson will be miss by so many of us. I was glad I met Jane Willson 4 years ago. She was a nice and caring lady. we will miss her and going to her house every week to clean and see her. She is at peace now and with her husband in heaven. Rip mrs. Willson u will be miss.

teresa holley - November 09, 2015 at 10:01 PM

SA

“ So sorry to hear about your loss. Nothing can fully prepare prepare us for the loss of a loved one. But we can find comfort and hope that they are no longer suffering as ecclesiastes 9:5 reassures us that they feel nothing at all, and that One day we won't have to deal with death because there will be no more pain and death like Isaiah 25:8,9 tells us. hope this has brought some comfort to you. And again my condolences.

sarah - November 06, 2015 at 09:57 AM

DS

“ Jane and Family, Please know you are all in my thoughts and prayers. Your mother left such a legacy for you all to remember! She was an amazing woman! Although she was a New Yorker, she was a true Southern Lady! Her home was always open to so many events and she was the most gracious hostess. She touched so many lives with her presence and her gifts. I spent many childhood days in your home and spent many nights with your family in the house on Hilltop and 12th. So many fond memories. I know that your mother is in heaven with your Dad. They are together again and whole.

Debbie TenHagen Sutton

Debbie Sutton - November 06, 2015 at 08:42 AM

LL

“ May you find peace and comfort in knowing that your grief is shared by so many of us. Mrs. Willson will be sorely missed. God bless you and your wonderful family.

Loretta Lewis Lugo

Loretta Lugo - November 05, 2015 at 03:55 PM

MI

“ Melba Frazier, Judy Ashley - Names in the Mail, Inc. purchased the Rose Tribute for the family of Mrs. Jane Seddon Willson.



Melba Frazier, Judy Ashley - Names in the Mail, Inc. -
November 05, 2015 at 02:52 PM

PN

“ Craig and I celebrate Jane's amazing life well-lived. The devotion of her and Harry ' s children and grandchildren to them is a model for us all. I can only smile at the thought of Harry and Jane reunited. Watch out, heaven! Peggy Nielson



Peggy Nielson - November 05, 2015 at 01:33 PM

SE

“ "I am deeply saddened by the news of Mrs. Willson's passing. Her family is in my prayers during this time. Blessings to each of you. She will always be a very special lady." Sheila Jones Eaddy (Friend & Neighbor)

Sheila Jones Eaddy - November 05, 2015 at 12:29 PM

JG

“ I was so sorry to hear that Jane had passed away. She was my neighbor for many years and was always a sweet and friendly lady. Your family is in my prayers.
Janice Garey Gray

Janice Gray - November 05, 2015 at 12:24 PM

AN

“ Larry and Beverly,
Our thoughts and prayers go out to you. We regret to hear of Jane's passing. She was a very astute business woman and I always found her to be tough but fair and I always enjoyed my business dealings with her in the pecan business. Our deepest sympathies and condolences go out to you.
Austin and JoAnne Nixon
Corsicana, Texas

Austin E. Nixon - November 05, 2015 at 10:49 AM