



Daniel Clayton Willis

July 26, 1943 - December 27, 2024

I've never heard of anyone not liking Dad – nor of him not liking anyone. He couldn't go into town without talking to half a dozen folks, many of whom knew him from his 25 years at the post office.

Dad was the last surviving of six children – Doris, Harold Gene, Mary Lou, Belva “Polly” Adaline, and Samuel – born to loving parents Daniel and Jewel Willis.

Dad's idyllic childhood was straight out of *Where the Red Fern Grows*. He ran wild in the Arkansas Ozarks, hunting, fishing, and swimming.

He was still a teenager when he met Linda on a blind date. Even though Col. Rudolph said, “No daughter of mine's marrying a hillbilly!” that hillbilly married Mama, the love of his life.

Dad was at the end of his Naval tour when Elaine was born. Mama stood on the pier with her when he took his last step off a ship. She was six weeks old when Dad, the greatest teacher of her life, first held her.

Dad and Mama lived in Tulsa when Sandra came along eighteen months later. She was a daddy's girl. He coached her in our back yard and on the softball field. She was in the yard and garden with him so much, she caught his green thumb.

Two years later, Danny entered the world. Dad finally had an excuse to buy boy's stuff. We'll never forget the Christmas Danny got the electric train set Dad always wanted. We moved to Skiatook in 1975.

In 1978, we were devastated by the loss of our dear mama. Dad shouldered single parenthood like the hero he was and always will be to Elaine, Sandra, and Danny.

In 1981, Dad married Rhonda, who survives him. She had four sons: Mike and Mark Juby and Steven and Sean Willis who dad adopted. They soon had Jennifer, who brought the total to eight kids.

Jennifer was Dad's little companion. She went from being carried like a football, to toddling hot on his heels, to riding shotgun everywhere he went.

Dad moved his big, rowdy bunch out to Hillside, where he gardened, watched game shows with Rhonda, and never stopped being there for us.

Today, all eight of us kids survive our beloved Dad, along with eighteen grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JAN 2. 1:00 PM (CT)

Stumpff Funeral Home - Skiatook
14206 N. Cincinnati Ave.
Skiatook, OK 74070

Tribute Wall

FC

“ From Cousins planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Daniel Clayton Willis.

From Cousins - January 01, 2025 at 01:03 PM

FC

“ From Cousins purchased the Heavenly Grace Spray for the family of Daniel Clayton Willis.



From Cousins - January 01, 2025 at 01:03 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Daniel Clayton Willis.



December 31, 2024 at 01:51 PM

FR

“ From Diane Rudolph planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Daniel Clayton Willis.

From Diane Rudolph - December 30, 2024 at 10:56 AM

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“ *From Diane Rudolph purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Daniel Clayton Willis.*



From Diane Rudolph - December 30, 2024 at 10:56 AM