



Howard Wills Jr.

December 6, 1974 - February 22, 2025

It is appointed that man must die, and after death comes the Judgement.
“Therefore be ye also ready; for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.”

Howard L. Wills Jr., a beacon of love and generosity, passed away peacefully in his father’s arms on February 22, 2025 at the age of 50. Born on December 6, 1974, in Kankakee, IL, to Howard and Carol Wills.

Howard Wills Jr. accepted Christ at an early age of 9 years old, baptized by his father. Howard attended and graduated from Kankakee High School in 1993 and continued his education at Kankakee Community College. After graduating, he continued his studies at Livingstone College in North Carolina, went on to attend Greenville College in Southern Illinois, and was currently pursuing a bachelor’s degree at Full Sail University in Winter Park, FL.

Howard pursued a career in social services for special needs adults. After moving to Atlanta in 2004, Howard worked for Just People, followed by time supporting the care of individuals at a privately owned facility. Upon his return to Kankakee in 2020, he continued this important work at Rest Care.

Howard’s life was filled with joy. He was a songwriter and singer of his music, loved cooking, and loved spending time with his family, friends, and cousins. Words cannot express his unconditional devotion to his daughter, Neeah

Joelle-Sue.

He leaves to cherish is memory, his parents, Rev. Howard Sr. and Carol Wills; his brother and sister-in-law, Davin and Katrina Wills; his beautiful daughter, Neeah Joelle-Sue Sheldon Wills; and a host of relatives and friends.

Preceding him in death were his grandparents Joseph and Eliza Wills and Sam and Christine Riley.

Cemetery Details

Mound Grove Cemetery

1000 N. Greenwood
Kankakee, IL

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 28. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Lax Mortuary
187 S. Greenwood Avenue
Kankakee, IL 60901
(815) 935-0090
laxmortuary@laxmortuary.com
<http://laxmortuary.com/>

Visitation

MAR 1. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

Greater New Hope Baptist Church
1591 E Cedar St
Kankakee, IL 60901-2632
(815) 935-8188

Service

MAR 1. 10:00 AM (CT)

Greater New Hope Baptist Church
1591 E Cedar St
Kankakee, IL 60901-2632
(815) 935-8188

Tribute Wall

DF

“ Debra Brown, Teresa Dorn, Brown Family purchased the *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* for the family of Howard Wills Jr..



Debra Brown, Teresa Dorn, Brown Family - March 14, 2025 at 07:57 PM

DF

“ Debra Brown, Teresa Dorn, Brown Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Howard Wills Jr..

Debra Brown, Teresa Dorn, Brown Family - March 14, 2025 at 07:57 PM

JS

“ Howie T such a good guy! Sending my heartfelt condolences and prayers to the family.
Jolan “Jodi” Shell and family.



Jolan Shell - March 01, 2025 at 12:08 PM

JH

“ Sorry for your loss. Pray God will comfort you and family as only He can. Love Joise and Darnell Helm.



josie helm - March 01, 2025 at 10:54 AM

MG

“ *My condolences and prayers for the families*



Mary Gant - March 01, 2025 at 10:24 AM

TI

“ *FROM THE INGRAM FAMILY...*

We are so saddened by your loss, Wills family. Please know that the Ingrams are and will be continually lifting you up in prayer during this time of grief.

Ted and Mark Ingram - March 01, 2025 at 09:42 AM

SF

“ *Prayers and Condolences to the family. May GOD comfort and strengthen all who loved him*



Samuels Family - March 01, 2025 at 08:14 AM

DW

“ *My condolences to the family*



Debra Williams - February 28, 2025 at 09:03 PM

CT

“ My condolences to the family of Howard Wills Jr



cheryl Tall-Hawkins - February 28, 2025 at 08:05 PM

RE

“ ResCare purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Howard Wills Jr..



ResCare - February 28, 2025 at 01:18 PM

MG

“ I remember Howard as one of my kindergarten students. 😊 I remember his smile would light up the room whenever he entered. He was a gentle person. My condolences to the family.

Marie Goosby - February 28, 2025 at 12:06 PM

AP

My condolences and prayers to the Wills family. 🙏

Armar Parnell - March 01, 2025 at 07:57 AM

SB

“ You were such a great light in this world. I know you knew how much you are loved but your impact will be felt for years to come. Your reward is well earned. Rest in peace, old friend ☐

Stephanie Billips - February 28, 2025 at 08:40 AM

MC

“ Marshonn Calvin lit a candle in memory of Howard Wills



Marshonn Calvin - February 28, 2025 at 05:39 AM

MC

“ Marshonn Calvin sent a virtual gift in memory of Howard Wills



Marshonn Calvin - February 28, 2025 at 05:38 AM

MC

“ Howard,

Your death has truly rocked all of your brothers and friends to our core. I will cherish all of the memories of our times hanging out in high school back home in Kankakee, Illinois, our online conversations and catch-ups. I am truly thankful for the brotherhood we all shared from middle school into adulthood, a bond that will continue to live inside me and the rest of your brothers who loved you my brother💔.

Marshonn Calvin

Marshonn Calvin - February 28, 2025 at 05:36 AM



“ *Forever Our Angel Bouquet was purchased for the family of Howard Wills Jr..*



February 27, 2025 at 06:50 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Howard Wills Jr..

February 27, 2025 at 06:50 PM



“ *Vow Choir purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Howard Wills Jr..*



Vow Choir - February 27, 2025 at 04:25 PM



“ *Patricia Jamison lit a candle in memory of Howard Wills*



Patricia Jamison - February 27, 2025 at 12:54 PM

LZ

“ Love, Kris, Amanda, Trey, & Zach purchased the *Beautiful Dreams* for the family of Howard Wills Jr..



Love, Kris, Amanda, Trey, & Zach - February 27, 2025 at 10:06 AM

TP

“ Terry Prude lit a candle in memory of Howard Wills



Terry Prude - February 27, 2025 at 08:29 AM

EL

“ My deepest condolences to Howard’s entire family. I recently met him when he began picking me up from the airport, about two years ago. He just picked me up from the airport, this past January. We talked and laughed the entire time from the airport. He was such a nice person and was a professional at his job. Rest easy Howard in the arms of the Father 🌸🙏🙏



Ethel Lee - February 26, 2025 at 11:45 PM

CF

“ *Cousin Marshae & Family purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of Howard Wills Jr..*



Cousin Marshae & Family - February 26, 2025 at 09:16 PM

CF

“ *Cousin Marshae & Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Howard Wills Jr..*

Cousin Marshae & Family - February 26, 2025 at 09:16 PM

BM

“ *Bjunq (Bonk) & Dene Matthews purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Howard Wills Jr..*



Bjunq (Bonk) & Dene Matthews - February 26, 2025 at 08:14 PM

BM

“ *Bjunq (Bonk) & Dene Matthews planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Howard Wills Jr..*

Bjunq (Bonk) & Dene Matthews - February 26, 2025 at 08:14 PM

RT

“ Howard always greeted us with a smile, sowing his happiness, letting us know how gratefulness really looked. To the Wills Family you are in our prayers and thoughts of many, who share your sorrow. 🙏



Rev. James L. Terrell & Linda Terrell - February 26, 2025 at 07:05 PM

JF

“ joann FORD-BOX lit a candle in memory of Howard Wills



joann FORD-BOX - February 26, 2025 at 06:53 PM

TH

“ Trina Howery & Tommie Hawkins purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Howard Wills Jr..



Trina Howery & Tommie Hawkins - February 26, 2025 at 05:40 PM

TH

“ Trina Howery & Tommie Hawkins planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Howard Wills Jr..

Trina Howery & Tommie Hawkins - February 26, 2025 at 05:40 PM

VS

“ *Sending my prayers for comfort to the family.*

Valerie Snow - February 26, 2025 at 04:29 PM

AB

“ *My sincere condolences. Praying God 🙏 will give the family strength during this difficult time.*

Amanda Brooks - February 26, 2025 at 02:56 PM

RF

“ *I'm miss you cousin love you ...* ❤️❤️❤️❤️



Renee Fulton - February 26, 2025 at 02:08 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Howard Wills Jr..*



February 26, 2025 at 02:08 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Howard Wills Jr..*



February 26, 2025 at 01:53 PM

DF

“ *Davin’s Wesco Conyers family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Howard Wills Jr..*



Davin’s Wesco Conyers family - February 26, 2025 at 01:50 PM

WO

“ *Pastor Wills and Carol I know the pain you are going through I know there no pain greater than loosing a child.Praying for strength for you and your family.*

Willie Odeneal - February 26, 2025 at 12:27 PM

CW

“ *Cheryl Wilson lit a candle in memory of Howard Wills*



Cheryl Wilson - February 26, 2025 at 10:57 AM

DO

“ *My heart goes out to the Wills family. You have my deepest sympathy and prayers.*
Donna Odeneal

Donna Odeneal - February 26, 2025 at 10:28 AM

MB

“ minnie brewer brewster sent a virtual gift in memory of Howard Wills



minnie brewer brewster - February 25, 2025 at 10:17 PM

DW

“ My condolences to the Wills family.



Dr. Dana Washington - February 25, 2025 at 05:44 PM

AP

“ Howard had such a big heart. He loved others and always greeted people with a smile and open arms. His joy and kindness will certainly be missed. But we know we will see him again, so that brings us comfort. Prayers for comfort, strength and peace go out to his family.

Ardella Perry-Osler - February 25, 2025 at 04:24 PM

CP

Howard were a friend we grew up in greater new hope sleep on Howard Jr. I love you dearly caylon peterson

Caylon peterson - February 26, 2025 at 01:01 PM