



## Mr. Willard C. Beard

December 28, 1925 - October 9, 2025

Willard C. Beard, beloved husband, father, grandfather, and servant of God, passed away peacefully on October 9, 2025, at 3:15 p.m., surrounded by family. He was born on December 28, 1925, in Independence, Kansas, to Pearson Beard and Daisy Williams. Daisy later married Jesse J. Wilkes, who lovingly raised Willard as his own alongside his six brothers and sister.

Willard spent most of his life in Kansas City, Missouri, where he met and married the love of his life, Maggie B. Beard, on January 18, 1960, in a ceremony officiated by his father, Reverend Jesse J. Wilkes. Their union was one of faith, family, and enduring love.

A proud veteran, Willard served honorably in the United States Army from April 19, 1944, to December 10, 1946, during World War II. After his military service, he dedicated nearly three decades to the Kansas City Area Transportation Authority (KCATA), where he became a familiar and friendly face to countless passengers. Known for his kindness, encouragement, and mentorship, many riders credited "Mr. Beard" for inspiring them to complete their education and pursue their dreams. He retired on March 1, 1991, leaving behind a legacy of service and compassion.

Beyond his professional and military service, Willard devoted his life to serving God. He was a longtime Deacon at the Church of the Living God, Pillar, and

Ground of the Truth, Olathe Kansas where his brother, Leonard Wilkes, faithfully served as pastor. Willard cherished this role deeply, continuing his ministry even after relocating to Texas attending the Church of the Living God P. G. T . in Dallas. In 2003, Willard and Maggie moved to Lewisville, Texas, where they resided with their daughter Kimberly and son-in-law Anton and their children. There, they enjoyed many joyful years surrounded by their children and grandchildren.

Willard, affectionately known to family and friends as “Bill,” will be remembered for his gentle spirit, his devotion to family, his unwavering faith, and his signature style—he was rarely seen without one of his favorite hats and had a love for Cadillacs.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his beloved wife Maggie B. Beard, his siblings Ira Wilkes Sr., Lahoma Wilkes Watson, Harold Wilkes, Percy Wilkes, Leonard Wilkes, Jesse Wilkes, and Carl Wilkes, and his cherished grandson Dion Herring

He leaves to cherish his memory the loving family he shared with his late wife, Maggie B. Beard: their children Monica Beard, Jerome Keith Beard (Lori), Kelvin C. Beard, Rita Arthur (Tyrone), and Kimberly Gates (Anton). He is also lovingly remembered by Willard C. Beard Jr., to whom he was a father and mentor. His legacy continues through his grandchildren Gerrika Green (Curtis), Gerron Herring, Monique Taylor, Montez Kendall (Vannessa), Ryan Gates, Jared Beard, Kristyn Gates, and Jada Beard, along with fourteen great grandchildren, one great-great grandson, many nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family members, and friends whose lives he touched.

Willard’s life was a testament to faith, perseverance, and love. He lived with grace, led with humility, and leaves behind a legacy that will continue to inspire generations.

[www.MSTCsunset.com](http://www.MSTCsunset.com)

Funeral Services will be held on Tuesday October 21, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. at Lawrence A. Jones & Sons Funeral Chapel 1800 East Linwood Blvd. KCMO 64109. Interment: Leavenworth National Cemetery at 1:30 p.m. Visitation: 10 – 11:00 a.m. at the chapel. Arrangements entrusted to Lawrence A. Jones & Sons Funeral Chapels. Condolences may be shared on our website [lawrenceajones.com](http://lawrenceajones.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Leavenworth National Cemetery

150 East Muncie Road  
Leavenworth, KS 66048

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT **21**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Lawrence A. Jones Funeral Homes & Cremation - Missouri  
1800 E Linwood Blvd  
Kansas City, MO 64109  
(816) 921-1800  
lajfc1@yahoo.com  
<https://www.lawrenceajones.com/>

## Funeral

OCT **21**. 11:00 AM (CT)

Lawrence A. Jones Funeral Homes & Cremation - Missouri  
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Kansas City, MO 64109  
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lajfc1@yahoo.com  
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# Tribute Wall

FF

“ Fran Patton and Family purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Mr. Willard C. Beard.



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**Fran Patton and Family** - October 20, 2025 at 01:47 PM

FF

“ Fran Patton and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Willard C. Beard.

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**Fran Patton and Family** - October 20, 2025 at 01:47 PM

WL

“ Wanda L. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Willard C. Beard.

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**Wanda L.** - October 20, 2025 at 12:37 PM

ER

“ Ericgreenlee lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willard C. Beard



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**Ericgreenlee** - October 20, 2025 at 10:36 AM

TF

“ *the Harper & Downs Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Mr. Willard C. Beard.*



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**the Harper & Downs Family** - October 20, 2025 at 09:36 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mr. Willard C. Beard.*



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October 18, 2025 at 08:24 PM

DF

“ *Dee and Virginia and all the Wyman Family purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Mr. Willard C. Beard.*



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**Dee and Virginia and all the Wyman Family** - October 18, 2025 at 06:39 PM

TF

“ *The Jackson Family purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Mr. Willard C. Beard.*



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**The Jackson Family** - October 17, 2025 at 09:39 AM

TD

“ Terry Copeland Duncan purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Mr. Willard C. Beard.



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**Terry Copeland Duncan** - October 14, 2025 at 12:14 PM

TD

“ Terry Copeland Duncan planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Willard C. Beard.

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**Terry Copeland Duncan** - October 14, 2025 at 12:14 PM

RC

“ Ron and Terri Cass purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Mr. Willard C. Beard.



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**Ron and Terri Cass** - October 13, 2025 at 04:22 PM

CE

“ Celeste Evans purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Mr. Willard C. Beard.



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**Celeste Evans** - October 13, 2025 at 03:32 PM