



Mr. Willard Laverne Jacobs

October 23, 1931 - September 5, 2011

Willard Laverne Jacobs, 79, of Lydia, SC died at home on September 5, 2011.

Willard was born in Chesterfield, SC to Mary Dell Graves Jacobs and John Brunson Jacobs, Sr. He is survived by his beloved wife Judy Belk Askins Jacobs of the home, his sister Sylvia Jacobs James (Edward) of Darlington, SC, his brother John Jacobs(Beverly) of Spanaway, WA and his brother Charles Jacobs of Monroe, NC. Also surviving are his niece Debbie Suggs (Glenn) and their sons Josh and Tyler and nephew Ricky James (Cheree') and their sons Ryan and Mark of Darlington, SC, his niece Stephanie (Carl) Cooper and their daughters Carla and Lindsey of McClellanville, NC, step-children Becky Askins-Weaver (Jeff), and Kirk Askins (Meredith) of Hartsville, SC and Dan Askins, III (Susan) of Pinehurst, NC and six step-grandchildren, Alexis, Mac, Elizabeth, Katherine, Laney and Andrew. He was predeceased by his parents, his sister Betty and his first wife, Shirley McQueen Jacobs. Brown Pennington Atkins is assisting the family with the services. A private graveside service will be held at Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church Cemetery in Lydia, SC at 11am on September 8. A memorial service will be held at 2pm at Wesley United Methodist Church in Hartsville, SC with a visitation following in the All Saints Hall.

Friends and family may call at the home from 5-7pm on Wednesday, September 7.

Willard became an active member of Wesley United Methodist Church in Hartsville, SC when he married his wife Judy and served on several

committees and was chairman of the Pastor Parish Relations Committee. Before his first wife's death, he was a long-time member of Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church in Lydia, SC.

Willard retired from Sonoco Products Company in 1991 after 41 years service beginning his career in the Carpentry Shop and ending as an Industrial Engineer.

His first love, however, was art. In 1969, while at Sonoco, he was asked by the company to organize an arts program for the Hartsville community. His program earned instant acclaim as the 1969 Esquire Business in Arts Award winner. Willard was a sculptor of both metal and clay as well as a painter, photographer and set builder. He volunteered for many years with the Florence Little Theater and the Hartsville Community Players and served as the Director of the Hartsville Community Arts Program until it became Black Creek Arts in 1985.

Willard has many works of art in private collections but was most proud of his commissioned piece for the Florence City-County Complex. The 2/3 scale metal sculpture was commissioned to commemorate the Bi-Centennial in 1976 and is composed of seven figures, each representing a different era of American history. Recently, Willard was honored by the naming of the Willard Jacobs Pottery Studio at Black Creek Arts and the Willard Jacobs Award for Volunteerism named in honor of his decades of service.

Willard was known for his work in a variety of media including Raku, hand-built and thrown pottery, clay sculptures, metal sculptures, water color and oil paintings, wood block and pen and ink drawings. He also directed plays and built sets, first for Florence Little Theater and Hartsville Community Players and more recently for Wesley United Methodist Church.

Willard, an avid golfer, belonged to the Hartsville Country Club where he was on the Board and served a term as chairman. During his recent years he earned his certificate from the Clemson Extension Service in Master Gardening and loved trying all he learned in his own gardens.

Willard was educated in the Hartsville Schools and graduated from Hartsville

High School in 1950. He attended USC at Florence, Coker College and the Penland School of Arts. His High School graduating Class of 1950 will serve as Honorary Pallbearers.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Wesley United Methodist Church at 145 E. College Ave., Coker College, Black Creek Arts, Kalmia Gardens or the charity of one's choice.

Willard "Stretch" was a big man with a big heart and will be missed by his family, his friends, the community and the art world.

Cemetery Details

Wesley Chapel Methodist Church of Lydia Cemetery

3061 Wesley Chapel Road
Lamar, SC 29069

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 7. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

his home, 601 Wilson Dr.
601 Wilson Dr.
Hartsville, SC 29550

Service

SEP 8. 2:00 PM (ET)

Wesley United Methodist Church
145 E. College Ave.
Hartsville, SC 29550

Tribute Wall

HJ

“ *Judy, I am so mournful about Williard. He was such a wonderful person. But I am especially happy that you had some time with him...you deserved that!! Love you, Judy!! Hibby Jeffords*

Hildrethe R. Jeffords - September 09, 2011 at 09:17 PM

BF

“ *Brenda Funderburk lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willard Laverne Jacobs*



Brenda Funderburk - September 09, 2011 at 01:47 PM



“ *We are so sorry for your loss. Mr. Willard was loved by all and gave so much to his church. He will be missed. Love to all, Rudy and Jayne Tyner*

jayne Tyner - September 08, 2011 at 09:20 PM



“ *Jayne Tyner lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willard Laverne Jacobs*



jayne Tyner - September 08, 2011 at 09:11 PM



“ *Rebecca Skinner lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willard Laverne Jacobs*



Rebecca Skinner - September 08, 2011 at 09:03 PM



My thoughts and prayers are with each of you during this difficult time. Sincerely, Rebecca Skinner-Fulmer

Rebecca Skinner - September 08, 2011 at 09:06 PM



“ *Judy and Family, Gene and I send our condolences to you all. Willard was such a gifted artist who shared his beautiful talents with the community. He will be missed, but not forgotten. Please know that you all will be in our constant Prayers. Gene and Teresa Gibson*

Gene and Teresa Gibson - September 07, 2011 at 11:13 PM



“ *Judy and Family, I am so sorry for your loss. Willard was always such a Fine Southern Gentleman. I will continue to keep you all in my prayers throughout this very difficult time.*

Susan Goode - September 07, 2011 at 06:41 PM



“ *ETHEL & LARRY JOHNSON sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Willard Laverne Jacobs*



ETHEL & LARRY JOHNSON - September 07, 2011 at 06:15 PM

CH

“ *Judy, Kirk and family,
I am so sorry to hear about Willard. I will keep
you in my thoughts and prayers.*
Chrystal Holloman-Rafferty



Chrystal Holloman-Rafferty - September 07, 2011 at 05:29 PM

EJ

“ *I am sorry to hear of the passing of Mr. Willard. Having lived in Lydia
for most of my life, I got to know Mr Jacobs though hi many visits to
our business over his years in Lydia. I will always remember him for
his smile and his art work. Iend my condolences to Judy, his
extended family and many friends.*
Edwin G. Bass, Jr.

Edwin G. Bass, Jr - September 07, 2011 at 03:30 PM

JT

“ *Dear Judy, Mr. Willard was such a wonderful person. He will be
greatly missed at Wesley Church. Sincerely, Jane Tedder*

Jane Tedder - September 07, 2011 at 02:52 PM

JJ

“ *i have always admired willard since i was a child, he was truly an
influence on my early life. les jacobs, godson.*

joseph leslie jacobs - September 07, 2011 at 09:35 AM

BM

“ Judy, I knew Willard through work at Sonoco and remember him as a kind and talented person. I also remember a tour of his house and art studio once during the Hartsville Tour of Homes. . . . what a treat that was! My prayers are with you and the family. May you feel God's loving presence in a special way at this time. Sincerely, Billie McManus

Billie T. McManus - September 07, 2011 at 06:53 AM

AL

“ Dear Judy and Family, My thoughts and prayers go out to all of you during your time of sorrow. Agnes

Agnes Lyles - September 06, 2011 at 05:56 PM

DS

“ Judy...I am very grateful I had the opportunity to meet & befriend Mr. Willard! I enjoyed our conversations about art, but more importantly...our conversations about the Lord! My wife, Terry, and I will be praying for you & your wonderful family; whom I've learned so much about...

*Because of Him,
Doug Simmons*

Doug Simmons - September 06, 2011 at 05:42 PM

AW

“ Dear Judy, My thoughts are with you today. Willard was a friend for so many years and a wonderful gifted man. His beautiful works of art will be with us forever.

*Fondly,
Anna Williams*

anna williams - September 06, 2011 at 03:35 PM



“ *By second cousin Paula Shamburger:
Willard Laverne's first cousin Barbara Russell
Shamburger so loved to talk to Willard over the
phone while grandmother "Meme" Mary Jacobs
Russell also known as Willard's Aunt Mary
when she lived in Tyler, Texas with her
daughter Barbara and husband Jerry Shamburger!
Willard would call at least 1 time a month to check on his Aunt Mary
and her spirits were lifted each time she got to talk to Willard to find
out all that he knew for the month! WOW what stories he would
share!
I recall one day when I answered the phone he asked me how Aunt
Mary was doing? Grandmother would sit for hours if she could and
listen to all that Willard had to say and then she would tell all her
updated information to Willard! He knew more about me than I did
him! LOL I don't recall the art that he did but grandmother sure did
and she enjoyed even hearing about the art that he worked on! He
will be missed!*



*Sylvia, you and the family are in my prayers!!!
With an Heart filled love, Paula Shamburger*

Paula Shamburger - September 06, 2011 at 01:12 PM



“ *Crystal Talbert Minnehan lit a candle in
memory of Mr. Willard Laverne Jacobs*



Crystal Talbert Minnehan - September 06, 2011 at 11:38 AM

AG

Judy, our prayers are with you and family. It's wonderful to have the assurance that he is in our Lord's hands, and his suffering is over!

Anne Coker Garrett - September 06, 2011 at 03:42 PM