



James Dennis Willman

July 17, 1948 - December 16, 2021

On December 16, 2021, James Dennis Willman was welcomed into Heaven by his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. He lived an extraordinary life of faith in service for the Lord. He became suddenly ill and died in the hospital intensive care unit near his hometown outside Birmingham, Alabama.

James "Jimmer" was born on July 17, 1948 in Columbus, Ohio to the late James William Willman and Dorothy Ann (Clark) Willman. He is survived by his beloved wife of 55 years and high school sweetheart, Sarah Gail (Newport) Willman; cherished children James and David (Ashley) Willman and grandchildren Michael, Jered, Alex, Drew, Callie, Carissa, Nash, Sami, Lauren, Matthew, Peyton, Presley, and great-grandchildren Olivia, and Lina whom were all the apple of his eye. Jimmer also leaves behind his sister, Pamela (John) Chambers, and his brother Robert (Patty) Willman, mother-in-law Gladys Newport, brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law Jerry (SuAnn) Newport, and Claude (Karen) Newport. He also

leaves behind

numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and special friends. He modeled his love for his family

after the love given to him by Jesus Christ, selflessly and unconditionally.

Jimmer grew up a super athlete playing every sport imaginable. After high school he served in

the United States Air Force as an Illustrator. While in the Air Force he played fast pitch softball

for the Foxhill Peninsula All-stars and the Air Force team that finished runner-up in the World in

1970. He even tried out for the Pittsburgh Pirates major league baseball team, and was invited

back for a final try-out but ultimately declined due to family obligations. After the military he

graduated from Wittenberg College where he cultivated his talent as an artist.

Over the years he

would become an absolutely amazing artist and continued to paint, carve, and create works

loved by many. He taught commercial art for many years and eventually changed career paths

to management at Honda. There he worked for many years as a training manager for Honda

with responsibilities as the head of the Voluntary Involvement Program, and writing training

plans and teaching classes for the Associate Development Center, until his retirement in 2009.

He and his wife then relocated to Trussville, Alabama where they loved the beautiful landscape

and weather. He transformed his yard into a paradise for all the family and friends to come and

enjoy time together, making many wonderful memories.

In 1978 he had become a born again Christian, which changed his life drastically. He grew stronger and stronger in his faith and spent much of his time in service for the Lord. He really loved and enjoyed the prison ministry, as well as volunteering at the food pantry. He attended church regularly and never missed his daily devotions and spending time in the Word. His biggest concern was reaching the unsaved.

Another love of his was riding his motorcycle. He spent many days riding with his family and friends and frequently discussed that it was one of his favorite things in the world to do. He made many memories and met many people while doing this. As we all know, he never met a stranger.

His favorite Bible passage, John 14:1-4, was Jesus comforting His Disciples "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me so that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going."

A Celebration Life ceremony will be held on the first weekend of February, 2022, in Springfield, Ohio, the details yet to be determined.

In lieu of flowers, please donate in his name to your local food pantry.

You may leave condolences at the following website:

[https://www.deerfootmemorialfuneralhome.com/m/obituaries/James-Willman/
Memories](https://www.deerfootmemorialfuneralhome.com/m/obituaries/James-Willman/Memories)

Tribute Wall

TF

“ *Jimmer Was One Of The Best That Came From Our Hood. We All Loved Jimmer and Will Always Have A Place In My Heart For Him.* ”

Tim Fent - January 06, 2022 at 07:57 PM

JW

“ *My Dad, my best friend. Words cannot express how sad I am at the loss. Celebration of Life ceremony on Saturday, February 5th, 2022 at 11a.m., Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church 1801 Saint Paris Pike, Springfield, Ohio 45504* ”

Jim Willman - December 29, 2021 at 11:50 AM

BF

“ *So sorry for your loss prayers and condolences to the family Brian and Fay Fuller* ”

Brian Fuller - December 28, 2021 at 08:46 AM

TA

“ *Tonia Ashley lit a candle in memory of James Dennis Willman* ”



Tonia Ashley - December 27, 2021 at 10:40 PM

GS

“ I had the absolute pleasure of working with Jim in the Associate Development Center. He was so good and what he did... what an artistic talent he had! And a sense of humor to match. I will be ever forget his cartoons of what a “scribe” looked like complete with flowing robes and curly toed shoes!! Too funny. He even took time out of his schedule to come to Bellefontaine from Springfield to watch my son play baseball. Proud to call him a friend.. Heaven got a good one.. and we lost one. Greg St.Clair

Greg St.Clair - December 27, 2021 at 09:50 PM

BR

“ Dear Gail and family, my deepest condolences on the passing of my old highschool buddy and fellow art student, Jimmer. We had some great times at South High School here in Springfield, Ohio. Jimmer was always a hoot and just a lot of fun to be around. Bless you and all your children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. Bobbi Rice Ruf

Bobbi Rice Ruf - December 26, 2021 at 06:54 PM

CB

“ Jimmer was a very special man. He had a great sense of humor, was an awesome artist, good friend, and a strong Christian.. we always enjoyed our visits with him. He will definitely be missed by us as well as many others. Our prayers are with the family..❤️❤️

Cherylene Bails - December 24, 2021 at 06:08 AM

JB

“ Will miss you Jimmer! What a great ride we shared to Tennessee! I'm sure heaven is not the same since you've arrived!! See you soon, my friend.
John Bails

John Bails - December 24, 2021 at 05:53 AM

BS

“ Jim was in my Sunday School Class at Trussville 1st Baptist. He, Gail and Miss Gladys were some of my favorite people. Jim was always friendly and very personable. He made everyone feel like he genuinely cared for them. He was always willing to help with anything that someone needed. He was surely fun to be around. I have two of the Santas that he carved and painted that I will always cherish and remember Jim by every Christmas as I put them out.

Betty & Eddie Stovall

Betty Stovall - December 24, 2021 at 01:21 AM



“ We are all heartbroken with the passing of Jimmer. I know he is the life of the party in heaven with his mom, dad, and loads of aunts and uncles. I feel so blessed to have seen Jimmer right before mom passed 7 months and again when Aunt Maddie passed away just 2 short months ago. You will forever be in my memories. Thoughts and prayers for all of you. Love you all!

*Sue Hunter Pass
sue.pass731@gmail.com*

Sue Pass - December 23, 2021 at 06:45 PM

JW

“ We were best friends for a lot of years and enjoyed each other's friendship. It included white water rafting on the Gulley I W.V. He always found a way to make everyone laugh and smile. It is with a saddened heart that I have a hard time smiling since I learned of his passing. Jimmer, my brother I will love you forever. Thank you for picking me as one of your friends. RIP , I love you. John Welch

John Welch - December 23, 2021 at 04:29 PM