



## Theresa "Black" Willis

July 20, 1950 - January 9, 2025

Lafayette -

A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, January 25, 2025 at 12:00 PM at Cypress Funeral Home for Theresa "Black" Willis, age 74, who passed away on Thursday, January 9, 2025 at UHC Medical Center in Lafayette, Louisiana.

Allison Dennis will officiate the service.

Visitation will be held on Saturday, January 25, 2025 from 10:00 AM until service time at Cypress Funeral Home.

Theresa Willis, also known as "Black", was born to the late Shirley Prejean and the late Mary Rachel Carmouche of Carencro, Louisiana on July 20, 1950. She was the fourth child out of nine children. Black was united in holy matrimony to the late Paul James Willis Sr. on April 19, 1969. They were married for 31 years until his death in January 2000.

Theresa worked for the Detroit Public School Board for over 25 years. She was a teacher's/lunch aide at Vernor Elementary in Detroit, Michigan. The children adored her and loved to make her laugh. They would always tell us how nice our mother was to them, especially the kids she would give extra lunch to. She showed much patience and took time to get to know all the kids

in the neighborhood. She also worked as a CNA at Oak Pointe Convalescent Home on the overnight shift. She worked both jobs until 1995.

Black loved her children, but simply adored her 3 grandsons. They did no wrong in her eyes; each one had a special place in her heart. The firstborn, Ray Ray, or shall I say "Mr. President?" She would say, "Where he is today?" Because one minute he is here, and the next he is there. Her Brah, aka Honeybun. She would always look for that truck to pull up. She would say, "Where are you going now?" Or, "Stay in one place, boy." And last but not least, her baby Keemie, you were so quiet. She would say, "What's wrong with them, Keemie?" And just laugh so hard.

Boi Boi, her road dawg; they enjoyed the casino and playing cards. They shared a close bond that will never be broken. Just know, momma is at peace and wants you to live in peace.

On Wednesday, January 8, 2025, Theresa suffered a massive heart attack and was taken to UHC Hospital where she later passed on January 9, 2025 at 5:19 pm.

Black is survived by her children, Bernnadette Willis-Rice (Charles) and Paul James Willis Jr.; her grandchildren, Rayshon Norris Gore-Willis, Ray'Von Robert Gore-Willis (Icey), and Hakeem Malik Rice (Nia); as well as her siblings, Evelyn Journet, Catherine Willis, Mary Louise Rubin (Ronald), Shirlene Babineaux (Steven) and Margaret Mouton; her sisters in law, Mary Ann Ward, Josephine Sonnier (George), Earline Sonnier, Theresa Richard (Wilbur), Elsie James (Wallace), Nearline Willis, Ruby Prejean, Joanne Prejean and Mildred Prejean; her step sisters in law, Edna Willis, Georgia Foggie and Janette Richard; her brotherd in law, Murphy Willis (Bonnie) and Roland Willis (Michelle); her Godchildren, Zachary Brooks, Shannon Wilkins, Carolyn Johnnie-Ward and Calvin Prejean; as well as a host of nieces,

nephews, family friends, and her special friend, Mr. Elwood Harding.

She was preceded in death by her loving husband, Paul James Willis Sr.; her parents, Shirley Joseph Prejean and Mary Rachel Carmouche; her mother-in-law, Theresa Alfred; her father-in-law, Albert Willis Sr.; her brothers, Carroll Prejean, Peter Prejean, and Juris Prejean; her sister-in-laws, Helen Prejean, Martha Ann Langford, and Linda Alexander; her brother-in-laws, Albert Willis Jr., Russell Willis Sr., Ray Mouton, Robley Journet, and Carlton Willis; as well as her great-grandchild, Baby Gore-Willis.

Honorary Pallbearers will be Rayshon Gore-Willis, Ray'Von Gore-Willis, Hakeem Rice, Charles Rice, Russell Willis Jr., and Todd Alexander.

Acknowledgement:

With sincere appreciation, we wish to thank our friends and family for your expressions of kindness during our time of bereavement.

Family of Theresa Willis.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Cypress Funeral Home & Crematory, 206 W. Lafayette St., Maurice, LA 70555.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN **25**. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Cypress Funeral Home & Crematory  
206 W. Lafayette St.  
Maurice, LA 70555  
(337) 740-3123  
director@cypressfunerals.com  
<https://www.cypressfunerals.com>

## Memorial Service

JAN **25**. 12:00 PM (CT)

Cypress Funeral Home & Crematory  
206 W. Lafayette St.  
Maurice, LA 70555  
(337) 740-3123  
director@cypressfunerals.com  
<https://www.cypressfunerals.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Cypress Funeral Home & Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of Theresa "Black" Willis*



**Cypress Funeral Home & Crematory** - January 24, 2025 at 12:03 PM

CP

*Rest in peace Auntie. I'll say a prayer for the family*

**Clarissa Prejean** - January 24, 2025 at 08:48 PM

GR

*Rest in peace grandma ❤️*

**Grandson RayVon** - January 28, 2025 at 05:36 PM



“ *Praying for Bernadette and Paul, love always your Littlefield Family. Traci Houghton Yewell & Sandra Houghton*



**Traci Yewell** - January 24, 2025 at 05:09 PM

RW

“ I will missed you my friend and neighbor,calling, talking, and sharing with you. May You Rest in Peace in the arms of Our Heavenly Father. I will pray for You Family, that the Lord will uplift your Spirit and bring you to a place of peace. Amen



Rose Helen Woods - January 22, 2025 at 02:32 PM

LP

“ God has took your angel and put her with him to be able to watch over y'all from above 🙏🏻 my deepest sympathy to you and your brother I love y'all and the rest of the family



LaToya Propst - January 18, 2025 at 06:42 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Theresa "Black" Willis.



January 17, 2025 at 03:11 PM

PD

“ Pamela Talley & Zachary Brooks Family De purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Theresa "Black" Willis.



Pamela Talley & Zachary Brooks Family De - January 16, 2025 at 05:57 PM

BW

“ *Even though our hearts are aching and heavy. We know God is our comforter...Rest In Peace, Momma!!*  
*Your children, Bernnadette & Boi Boi*



*Blessed are those who mourn , for they will be comforted. Matthew 5:4*

---

**Bernnadette Willis-Rice** - January 16, 2025 at 03:04 PM

KC

“ *Kamille Coston lit a candle in memory of Theresa "Black" Willis*



---

**Kamille Coston** - January 16, 2025 at 11:47 AM

LJ

“ *LYNDELL JOURNET lit a candle in memory of Theresa "Black" Willis*



---

**LYNDELL JOURNET** - January 15, 2025 at 01:30 PM

FP

*Black was a Friend who engaged  
Good human kindness!  
She was My first cousin.  
Theresa will be missed by All!*

---

**fred & Patsy Prejean** - January 15, 2025 at 11:42 PM



*Thank you!!*

---

**Bernadette Willis-Rice** - January 16, 2025 at 03:05 PM