



## Mr. Billy Willard

February 26, 1924 - June 21, 2015

A celebration of the life of Mr. Billy Willard, 91, of Henderson will be held at 11 am on Thursday, June 25, 2015 at First United Methodist Church with Rev. David Luckert officiating under the direction of Crawford-A. Crim Funeral Home. The family will receive friends immediately following the service in the parlor at the church.

Billy Willard was born February 26, 1924 in the Church Hill Community to the late Ernest Hamm Willard and Mary Angeline Pool Willard. He was the oldest of two children. Although Ivan & he were seventeen years apart, he adored his little brother. Billy attended school in Henderson and graduated from Henderson High School in 1942. He played football, ran track and was in other various clubs.

After graduation, Billy went to work for Brown & Root in Corpus Christi, Texas. He went into the Army in February, 1943 to defend our country during WW II. After training in Louisiana & Georgia, he served as a Paratrooper with the 11th Airborne Division in the Philippines and was off the coast of Japan when the war ended. Billy then served as Military Police Sergeant in Japan for 8 months before returning home.

After returning to Henderson, he worked at his father's Conoco Gas Station. He was also in the poultry business. In 1946, he met Geneva Irwin and she

was to be the love of his life. They married April 5, 1947. Blessings came with the birth of daughters Susan in 1948 and Beth in 1955. In 1957, he went to work for Eastman Kodak and that is where he spent the next 31 years. Billy was loyal to his company & enjoyed the people he worked with. In 31 years of working seven day shifts, he never missed a day on the job.

Billy was a longtime member of First United Methodist Church and a very active member of the PALS Sunday School Class. He was a good cook and always enjoyed helping out. He loved his family & would never hesitate to get in the car & come to visit! And he enjoyed socializing with friends too. He remained active in an Eastman Bowling League even after retirement. You could always count him in to play a round of 42 in dominoes. Billy also loved his miniature daschunds! Those little dogs spent a lot of time in his lap, on a car ride and got ice cream almost every day.

Billy and Geneva participated in several 11th Airborne Reunions, reuniting with past Army buddies. In 2013, he was able to travel with his two daughters along with other veterans and their families on The Honor Flight to Washington, DC. There he and other veterans visited the WW II Memorial as well as other memorials. It was a privilege to recognize his service to our country.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by; wife, Geneva Irwin Willard; brother, Ivan Willard.

Survivors include: two daughters, Susan Hensley and husband Kenny of Austin, and Beth Miller and husband Thomas of Dallas; three grandchildren, Jamie Hensley and wife Trinity of New Braunfels, Wesley Hensley and wife Kelly of Hutto, and Travis Miller of Dallas; four greatgrandchildren, Tripp and Brandt Hensley of New Braunfels, and Hannah and Hudson Hensley of Hutto;

sister-in-law Cyndy Willard of Henderson & many loving nieces & nephews.

The family would like to thank the staff at Henderson Health and Rehab, Brookdale Henderson, Assist Care and Hospice of East Texas for the kind, loving and considerate care provided to Billy in the last few years.

Memorials may be made to First United Methodist Church at 204 North Marshall Street, Henderson, TX 75652.

Words of comfort may be shared with the family at [www.crawfordacrim.com](http://www.crawfordacrim.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Rusk County Memorial Gardens

Hwy 259 N.  
Henderson, TX 75652

# Previous Events

## Service

JUN **25**. 11:00 AM (CT)

First United Methodist Church  
204 N. Marshall  
Henderson, TX 75652

## Visitation

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

First United Methodist Church  
204 N. Marshall  
Henderson, TX 75652

# Tribute Wall



“ *Crawford A.Crim Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mr. Billy Willard*



**Crawford- A.Crim Funeral Home** - June 24, 2015 at 04:24 PM

CM

*A beautiful tribute for a man who is treasured by many.*

*Lee and Cynthia Miller*

**Cynthia Miller** - June 24, 2015 at 05:46 PM

AG

*Susan, what a moving tribute. Dad & Billy both lived to be 91 years old. We were both blessed to have them with us for that long. My prayers are with you.*

**Amy Goehring** - June 24, 2015 at 07:41 PM

LT

*My deepest sympathies to the Crawford family.*

**Linda Thomas** - June 25, 2015 at 08:08 AM

JH

*What a wonderful life of love, friends and family.*

**Jan Higgd** - June 26, 2015 at 08:32 AM

SD

“ Sorry to hear about Billy,I didn't know he had passed until a week later,Billys Aunt Phenie Mock, is my Maternal GrandMother,.....Scottydavis223@yahoo.com



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**Scotty Davis** - July 16, 2015 at 01:00 PM

RI

“ Ronnie Irwin lit a candle in memory of Mr. Billy Willard



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**ronnie irwin** - June 25, 2015 at 09:36 AM

JS

“ Susan and Beth,  
What a wonderful, kind, loving, and strong man your Dad was! Mom, Jimmy, and I will be praying for God's strength, mercy, and grace for you and your families. What sweet memories you both will carry.



*Much love,  
Jimmy and Jan Summers*

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**Jan Summers** - June 25, 2015 at 03:56 AM

JC

“ *Uncle Billy and Aunt Geneva were always so sweet to our family. They were good people. Our thoughts and prayers are with you in your dad's passing.*

*Joe Irwin*

*Jeanne and Jim Cowart*



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**Jeanne Cowart** - June 24, 2015 at 10:44 PM

RI

“ *Susan and Beth, thoughts and prayers. Your Dad was a loving and caring man.*



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**ronnie irwin** - June 24, 2015 at 07:50 PM

KB

“ *Kay (Fears) Bateman lit a candle in memory of Mr. Billy Willard*



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**Kay (Fears) Bateman** - June 24, 2015 at 06:39 PM



“ 71 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



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**Crawford- A.Crim Funeral Home** - June 24, 2015 at 04:03 PM

JH

“ *Sonny and Jenny Hardy*



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**Jenny Hardy** - June 24, 2015 at 01:36 PM

JL

“ *Jan Lee lit a candle in memory of Mr. Billy Willard*



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**Jan Lee** - June 24, 2015 at 12:36 PM

MH

“ Susan and Beth, I do regret I will not be able to be there for the service tomorrow. You girls and your family have always been very special to me. Your dad has been such a revered and respected influence in my life. I love and appreciate Billy so very much -- he is such an important part of my family memories and has always been supportive of me. His strength and faithfulness to care for and support all of our family members has been endless. He was always so committed to Jesus Christ and faithfully served him and His church. I so look forward to seeing him again. Love to you and the rest of the family, Michael Hackney

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**Michael Hackney** - June 24, 2015 at 09:35 AM

BH

“ Bob & Sue Henderson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Billy Willard



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**Bob & Sue Henderson** - June 24, 2015 at 08:46 AM

CW

“ Johnny and I are so sorry about Mr. Billy's passing. He has been missed at church in recent times, and always will be. He and your mom were such an integral part of our church. God's comfort to you all.



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**Cyndi Walker** - June 23, 2015 at 08:38 AM

SR

“ Beth and family, ironic that I've had your dad on my mind lately. I thought the world of your dad (and your mother) as he and my mother had known each other for years and I'd to them discuss "the bygone days with laughter" MANY times!!! I'm truly sorry for the loss and please know that there will be brighter days ahead. My thoughts and prayers are with you all at this sad time in life.



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**Suzanne Reed** - June 22, 2015 at 06:43 PM

 Rachel Dessecker

“ Rachel Dessecker lit a candle in memory of Mr. Billy Willard



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**Rachel Dessecker** - June 22, 2015 at 11:04 AM

GA

“ Gale And Terry Austin lit a candle in memory of Mr. Billy Willard



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**Gale and Terry Austin** - June 22, 2015 at 05:28 AM