



Rev. Willard M. Murrie

January 27, 1920 - April 20, 2017

The Rev. Willard Monroe Murrie, age 97 years, a resident of Vienna, passed away Thursday morning, April 20, 2017, at 8:42 AM at his home.

Willard was born January 27, 1920 in Simpson, Illinois. He was the son of Walter Willard and Sylvia Anna (Dunn) Murrie.

On December 28, 1943, Willard was united in marriage to Betty Louise McCoy in Middletown, Ohio. She preceded him in death on April 3, 2009.

Willard is survived by: 2 daughters – Rinda Jean Tuck of Sebastian, Florida and Carol Ann Money of Winchester, Tennessee; grandchildren and great grandchildren – Russell “Rusty” Tuck and son, Robyn (Russ) Henson and children, Michael (Paula) Money, Jr and sons., Daniel K. (Jennifer) Money and daughters, Joy Anna (Jeremy) Burriss and sons, Molly Grace Matthews and daughters, and Adam Keith (Karen) Waddell and daughter; a son-in-law – Keith Waddell of Vienna; 2 sisters-in-law - Natalie Murrie of Alton and Dorothy Murrie of Lockport; as well as a host of other relatives and many dear friends.

In addition to his parents and wife, Willard was preceded in death by: a daughter – Alisa Karen Waddell; 2 sons-in-law – Ronald Tuck and Michael Money; a sister – Edna Fay Murrie, 3 brothers – Elbert Wayne Murrie, Howard L. Murrie and Clifford Paul Murrie; and a half-brother – Norris Murrie.

Willard was ordained as a minister by the Covenant Presbytery of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in August 1942 and was a retired teacher having taught for 17 years at Vienna High School.

He was a graduate of the Memphis Theological Seminary of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Memphis, Tennessee and Bethel College in McKenzie, Tennessee.

His ministry included student pastorates at Fullerton and Dewitt, Illinois as well as Lexington and Maple Springs, Tennessee and full-time pastorates at Latta C.P. Church in Ada, OK, Highland C.P. Church in Paducah, KY, Mansfield C.P. Church in Mansfield, MO, Lenoir City C.P. Church in Lenoir City, TN, South Pittsburg, Tennessee, Winchester, Tennessee, Bethel C.P. Church in Kevil, KY, Gilead C.P. Church in Simpson, IL, Mt. Zion C.P. Church in Dongola, IL, and Frayser C.P. Church in Memphis, TN. Additionally, Willard had served as the interim pastor of the Metropolis Presbyterian Church.

Willard was very active in a number of community and civic organizations and served on many advisory boards and committees, namely: Modern Woodmen of America, Omega Phi Fraternity, Vienna Masonic Lodge # 150 A.F. & A.M. and was a 32nd degree Scottish Rite Mason. He was also a member of the Rotary Club and the Ministerial Alliance in each community that he served as pastor. He was a founding member of the Vienna Area Christian Ministerial Alliance. Willard was a member of the Bethel College Alumni Association, the Board of Trustees at Memphis Theological Seminary, the Vienna High School Retired Teacher's Association, the National Education Association, the Illinois Education Association, the Council of Exceptional Children, the Shawnee Development Council of Economic Opportunity (where Willard served as secretary of the Board of Directors), Illinois State Association of Community Action Agencies, the Johnson County Advisory Council, the Shawnee

Resource Conservation and Development Council, Past-Chairman of the Shawnee R.C. and D. Forestry Committee. Willard served one year as the State Forestry Chairman for the Illinois State Association of Soil and Water Districts, former district Chairman for the Johnson County Soil and Water Conservation District, Tri-County Advisory Council of Soil and Water Conservation District, the Illinois Sheriff's Association, Johnson County Farm Bureau, Fruit Belt Service Company, Shawnee Wood Energy Product's Association, Shawnee Firewood Inc., and served on fundraising committees for the United Way, American Cancer Society, American Heart Association and the Shriner's Children's Hospitals.

Willard was honored to serve as a member of the Southernmost Illinois Delta Empowerment Zone (SIDEZ) board of directors as well as the Southern Illinois Stimulus Corporation.

Willard served in the U.S. Army as a Chaplain and obtained the rank of First Lieutenant during the Korean War. He was assigned to the 1st Field Artillery Observation Battalion and served under Colonel Ralph B. Coffin.

A worship service in honor of the life of the Rev. Willard M. Murrie will be conducted Saturday afternoon, April 29, 2017, at 1 PM at the Gilead Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 4359 Gilead Church Road, Simpson, Illinois. Dr. Jay Earheart-Brown, Pastor Ronnie Pittenger, Pastor Ed Hoke, Pastor Ken Bain and Willard's grandson, Daniel Money, will officiate. Musical selections will be provided by Sharon Emery and congregational music will be led by Pastor Joe Richard.

Burial will be in the Gilead Cemetery. Military graveside rites will be accorded by the Beggs-Gurley VFW Post # 5222.

Visitation will be conducted Friday evening, April 28, 2017, from 5 PM – 8 PM at Bailey Funeral Home in Vienna, 705 North First St., Vienna, IL 62995. Masonic rites will be accorded at 8 PM Friday by Vienna Masonic Lodge # 150. There will also be a time of visitation from 12 Noon – 1 PM Saturday at the Gilead Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

The preferred form of remembrance would be donations to: The Memphis Theological Seminary (Willard and Betty Murrie Endowment Fund), 168 East Parkway South, Memphis, Tennessee 38104-4395; or Bethel University, 325 Cherry Avenue, McKenzie, Tennessee 38201; or to Shawnee Community College (Willard Murrie Endowment), 8364 Shawnee College Road, Ullin, Illinois 62992.

Cemetery Details

Gilead Cemetery

4385 Gilead Church Road
Simpson, IL

Previous Events

Visitation

APR **28**. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Bailey Funeral Home
705 North First Street
PO Box 695
Vienna, IL 62995
(618) 658-2311
baileyfhinc@hotmail.com
<https://baileyfh.com>

Visitation

APR **29**. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Gilead Church
4359 Gilead Church Road
Simpson, IL

Service

APR **29**. 1:00 PM (CT)

Gilead Church
4359 Gilead Church Road
Simpson, IL

Tribute Wall



“ *Bailey Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Rev. Willard M. Murrie*



Bailey Funeral Home - April 28, 2017 at 12:35 PM



“ *Rev. Willard M. Murrie*

January 30, 2023 at 12:19 AM



“ *Willard was a treasured friend to me. I always valued his opinion during the many years he served on the Southernmost Illinois Delta Empowerment Zone Board. He always stood up for what he thought was right. I know his family will sorely miss him.*

Donna Raynalds - May 04, 2017 at 01:28 PM

JF

“ *When my spirit, clothed immortal,
Wings its flight to realms of day,
This my song through endless ages:
Jesus led me all the way.*



Jim and Ruth Flanagan - April 29, 2017 at 09:23 AM

LG

“ *Lloyd Grant lit a candle in memory of Rev.
Willard M. Murrie*



Lloyd Grant - April 28, 2017 at 04:39 PM

LW

“ *Lois And Neil West lit a candle in memory of
Rev. Willard M. Murrie*



lois and neil west - April 27, 2017 at 08:58 PM

DL

“ Dear Uncle Willard,

I remember when you came out to Colorado to marry John Dean and me. It was one of my sweetest memories of you. And I am so thankful that you were able to do that for us. For so long you have put the Lord's mission your priority, now you can bask in His glory and watch over us.

Love and miss you,

Denise Barclay

Denise Lopez-Brclay - April 27, 2017 at 12:32 PM

WD

“ *A tireless public servant. Was always willing to dedicate his time and talent for the betterment of the area.*

Wayne Dunn - April 27, 2017 at 07:10 AM

KB

“ *Keith & Debbie Bradley lit a candle in memory of Rev. Willard M. Murrie*



Keith & Debbie Bradley - April 26, 2017 at 07:18 PM

RS

“ *Rev. Richard & Vickey Swiney lit a candle in memory of Rev. Willard M. Murrie*



Rev. Richard & Vickey Swiney - April 24, 2017 at 11:08 AM

TA

“ *The Green's Bill, Allen, Tammy, Bruce, Julie, et al purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Rev. Willard M. Murrie.*



The Green's Bill, Allen, Tammy, Bruce, Julie, et al - April 23, 2017 at 02:16 PM

BH

“ *Bro. Murrie and my grandfather attended college and seminary together and were both ordained Cumberland Presbyterian ministers. He pastored my great-grandparents church (Maple Springs CP) in the 40's. When I was ordained I so enjoyed talking to him about my grandparents and great-grandparents. He was a good man and will be missed.*

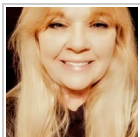
Brian Hayes - April 23, 2017 at 01:28 PM

AG

“ I so enjoyed visiting with Willard when he came to visit his family in Florida, his daughter, and my Aunt Rinda. He loved his of his family and his friends. He loved swapping stories with my dad. He was always smiling and full of cheer. He was also seeking God and sharing Him with all who would listen. He will be missed. Welcome home my friend.
Allen Green



Allen Green - April 23, 2017 at 12:33 PM



“ *Teresa Anderson lit a candle in memory of Rev. Willard M. Murrie*



Teresa Anderson - April 23, 2017 at 10:50 AM

FM

“ *Faye Mize lit a candle in memory of Rev. Willard M. Murrie*



Faye Mize - April 23, 2017 at 02:46 AM

MM

“ Willard has been a model and inspiration all my life. I remember his smile, treasure his encouragement, and admire his example of service to others and his community.

I especially treasure two memories. I attended a Promise Keepers rally with him in the 1990s. At one session with an audience of more than a thousand, the leader asked how many served as pastors ten, 20, 30, 40 and 50 years. Willard was one of only a few who stood as serving more than 50 years. That was more than 20 years ago. A few years later before I moved to Los Angeles, he took my family to sites in Southern Illinois like the Murrie Cemetery and the farm where he and my father grew up. I recorded the tour on video as he told the family stories, but at the end of the day I realized there was no sound on the video. The product of that tour, however, was much more valuable than I'd ever originally envisioned. My oldest son, Dan, and his wife, April, inspired by Willard's stories, decided to go ahead with their family. Our first grandson, Jacob, was born about a year later. Grace and peace to all who mourn as we find rich comfort in Willard's story.

Michael Murrie - April 22, 2017 at 10:23 PM

DH

“ Devvis And Pat Harner lit a candle in memory of Rev. Willard M. Murrie



Devvis and Pat Harner - April 22, 2017 at 06:15 AM

EK

“ Elizabeth Kerley lit a candle in memory of Rev. Willard M. Murrie



Elizabeth kerley - April 21, 2017 at 07:15 PM

MR

“ Mike And Teresa Richerson lit a candle in memory of Rev. Willard M. Murrie



Mike and Teresa Richerson - April 21, 2017 at 05:07 PM

FB

“ Faye Bowman lit a candle in memory of Rev. Willard M. Murrie



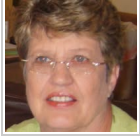
Faye Bowman - April 21, 2017 at 11:26 AM

FK

“ Floyd & Linda Koehler lit a candle in memory of Rev. Willard M. Murrie



Floyd & Linda Koehler - April 21, 2017 at 04:51 AM



“ Elaine Rotan sent a virtual gift in memory of Rev. Willard M. Murrie



Elaine Rotan - April 21, 2017 at 02:03 AM



“ Valerie Lynne lit a candle in memory of Rev. Willard M. Murrie



Valerie Lynne - April 20, 2017 at 11:02 PM



“ So sorry for your loss!!! Sending Prayers

Theresa McKenzie - April 20, 2017 at 09:35 PM



“ Ted & Joy Beggs




Joy Beggs - April 20, 2017 at 08:14 PM



“ RIP

Scott Hunsaker - April 20, 2017 at 08:13 PM


Kathryn
Dread

“ *Papa Willard. We will miss you.* ”



Kathryn Dread - April 20, 2017 at 06:18 PM


Mark
Racey

“ *Mark and Tracy J. Racey* ”



Mark Racey - April 20, 2017 at 05:49 PM

BC

“ *Barb Travelstead Clymore lit a candle in memory of Rev. Willard M. Murrie* ”



Barb Travelstead Clymore - April 20, 2017 at 04:19 PM

PS

“ *An old neighbor of the Walter Murrie Family* ”



Peggy Jean Smoot - April 20, 2017 at 03:03 PM



“ Jeannie McCall lit a candle in memory of Rev. Willard M. Murrie



Jeannie McCall - April 20, 2017 at 02:10 PM



“ J.C. THOMAS lit a candle in memory of Rev. Willard M. Murrie



J.C. THOMAS - April 20, 2017 at 02:02 PM



“ James And Diane Rainbolt lit a candle in memory of Rev. Willard M. Murrie



James and Diane Rainbolt - April 20, 2017 at 01:48 PM



“ Jim And Ruth Flanagan lit a candle in memory of Rev. Willard M. Murrie



Jim and Ruth Flanagan - April 20, 2017 at 01:46 PM

KH

“ *Kenna Jo Hancock lit a candle in memory of
Rev. Willard M. Murrie*



Kenna Jo Hancock - April 20, 2017 at 12:40 PM