



Willie Thomas Powers

March 9, 1944 - October 29, 2025

Willie Thomas Powers, 81, was born in Only, Tennessee, to Oliver and Gracie Powers on March 9, 1944. He graduated from Hickman County High School in 1964 and later earned a Bachelor's Degree from Cumberland University. He spent 36 years in the National Guard serving his community and his country, retiring as First Sergeant on May 31, 2002. Willie was an avid outdoorsman and loved to hunt.

Willie T. Powers enlisted in the Tennessee Army National Guard on the 30th of August, 1965, at the rank of Private E2 and retired as First Sergeant E8 with 36 years, 8 months, and 1 day of continuous service. He was a member of Company B 473 Support Battalion, Co D 473rd Support Battalion and 779th Maintenance Company for all of Centerville, Tennessee. As he rose through ranks, he was awarded the following Military Occupational Specialists positions: Administrative Specialist and Mechanical Maintenance Supervisor.

Willie married the love of his life, Minnie, in 1967. Together, they shared 58 years of marriage, 3 children, 6 grandchildren, and 6 great grandchildren. They enjoyed line dancing, watching the grandkids play sports, and going to Homestead after church on Sundays. He rarely missed an event that involved his family. He made sure everyone knew how wonderful of a woman he married.

Willie gave his all to his three kids, Rhonda, Brian, and Darla. He even drove their school bus and pulled it on the side of the road many times to pull his switch out of the window. He took on the role of Jr. Pro coach and even teacher when it came time for them to learn how to drive a stick shift, even though they didn't make it very far down the road. As kids, they enjoyed watching WWE wrestling after church on Sundays. He loved going hunting with Brian during deer and turkey season. One of their favorite memories is when he was trying to carry all three of them on his back, dropping Darla along the way, and broke his toe.

Out of all of his accomplishments in life, Willie took the most pride in being "PawPaw" to his grandchildren and great grandchildren. Pawpaw's perfect day would likely include working in his building with Hunter boy, cutting twigs with Alby, a night of line dancing with Bri Bri, Addie girl, and SB, grabbing a milk shake at Sonic with Eli, and getting lots of hugs and kisses from the great grand-babies.

Some of their favorite memories are:

Hunter loved getting to work every summer together while school was out.

Alec loved getting to cut twigs together anytime he had a break from school, even sometimes going in some questionable places to get them.

Addie used to sit on the porch with pawpaw and watch the school busses drive by. One day, a bus driver didn't wave back and it made her cry. Pawpaw decided that was unacceptable and drove to the bus garage to let them know it hurt his grandbaby's feelings and they needed to wave back.

Sara Beth loved getting to bring Millie and Annie during the summer and watching him get to play with them every day.

Brianna laughs every time she thinks about all of the comments he made sure to make anytime she showed up to their house wearing jeans with holes in them.

Eli will thoroughly miss his Sunday and Wednesday church services with MawMaw & PawPaw.

All of the granddaughters loved getting to dance at The Stables with their PawPaw and hope he's already found a dance floor in Heaven.

Not many grandparents get the opportunity to meet their great grandchildren, much less SIX. Willie got to enjoy time with Everleigh, Millie, Oakley, Huntley, Annie, and Presley. He loved each of them endlessly and they could do no wrong in his eyes.

Willie Thomas Powers is preceded in death by: His parents, Oliver and Gracie Powers; Brothers, John Edwards Powers, James Powers, and Roy Powers; Sisters, Mary Ann Powers, Maxie Lance, Shirley Garton, Daisy Beard, Brenda Smith, Louise Powers, and Janet King.

He is survived by his loving wife of 58 years, Minnie Jayne Powers. His three children Rhonda Powers, Brian Powers, and Darla "Shorty" (Tommy) McClanahan. Seven grandchildren, Hunter (Makayla) Powers, Alec (Mallory) Dorton, Brianna Tanner, Addison (Lane Roberts) Dorton, Sara Beth McClanahan, and Eli Powers; six great grandchildren, Everleigh Powers, Millie Faye Dorton, Oakley Littleton, Huntley Powers, Annie Jane Dorton, and Presley Powers; Sisters, Hattie Mayberry and Lois Lindsey; and Brother, Jerry Powers. As well as a host of many other friends, family members, and former members of the Company B 473 Support Battalion.

The family wants to issue a special note of gratitude to the nursing staff at Ascension Saint Thomas Hickman Hospital, Hickman EMS, Dr. Fahad Mirza, Samantha Claud, Jason Craft, Randy Powers, Ryan McDonald and the entire staff at McDonald Funeral Home.

Cemetery Details

Memory Gardens

2833 Highway 100 E
Centerville, TN 37033

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 2. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (cst)

McDonald Funeral Home, Inc. - Hickman County
102 West End Ave.
Centerville, TN 37033
(931) 729-3561

Visitation

NOV 3. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (cst)

McDonald Funeral Home, Inc. - Hickman County
102 West End Ave.
Centerville, TN 37033
(931) 729-3561

Funeral Service

NOV 3. 1:00 PM (cst)

McDonald Funeral Home, Inc. - Hickman County
102 West End Ave.
Centerville, TN 37033
(931) 729-3561

Tribute Wall



“ *Loveless Carole lit a candle in memory of Willie Powers*



Loveless Carole - November 03, 2025 at 02:38 PM

DS

“ *I'm so sorry for your loss. You are all in my prayers. May God comfort you , and give you strength and peace.*



Debbie Semore - November 02, 2025 at 08:40 PM

JW

“ *Janet Wright sent a virtual gift in memory of Willie Thomas Powers*



Janet Wright - November 02, 2025 at 05:24 PM

FW

“ *Felicia D Wilbanks sent a virtual gift in memory of Willie Thomas Powers*



Felicia D Wilbanks - November 02, 2025 at 11:01 AM

DJ

“ *I miss the good times at the guard unit when i was 18 years old.
WILLIE WAS. GREAT*

David Jones - November 01, 2025 at 09:12 PM

CW

“ *So sorry for your family's loss. The times that I met Willie, he was a very sweet young man. My regret is not going to say hello the last time that he was in the swing wing at the hospital. Again, my prayers are with you all.*

Carolyn Wherry - November 01, 2025 at 07:10 PM



RL

“ *Ronald Lance lit a candle in memory of Willie Thomas Powers*

Ronald Lance - November 01, 2025 at 06:48 PM



GG

“ *Gail Gammons lit a candle in memory of Willie Thomas Powers*

Gail Gammons - November 01, 2025 at 01:47 PM



MF

“ *Mark and Melissa Filson lit a candle in memory of Willie Thomas Powers*



Mark and Melissa Filson - November 01, 2025 at 11:58 AM



“ *Sandi Westover lit a candle in memory of Willie Thomas Powers*



Sandi Westover - November 01, 2025 at 09:11 AM

TB

“ *1SG Willie Powers was my drill instructor at TMA (Tennessee Military Academy) in Smyrna, Tennessee in 1984.*

Terry Buckley - October 31, 2025 at 09:43 PM

RM

“ *Roy & Sharon McCoy lit a candle in memory of Willie Thomas Powers*



Roy & Sharon McCoy - October 31, 2025 at 07:35 PM

SG

“ Willie was a great friend as well as my First Sargent. I have many fond memories of us playing softball (he didn't like to lose) at Camp Shelby. He loved to eat at Mack's all you can eat buffet. He was all business when he needed to be. He had a large heart and loved his family dearly. We had many visits on Tuesdays at the convenience center. He will be missed. RIP my friend, Stanley.



Stanley & Judy Gordon - October 31, 2025 at 06:50 PM

GB

“ George And Mary Sue Bragg lit a candle in memory of Willie Thomas Powers



George and Mary Sue Bragg - October 31, 2025 at 06:49 PM

KO

“ Kyle Orman lit a candle in memory of Willie Thomas Powers



Kyle Orman - October 31, 2025 at 05:36 PM

ME

“ Marty & Jody England sent a virtual gift in memory of Willie Powers



Marty & Jody England - October 31, 2025 at 05:11 PM

JA

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Jim adams - October 31, 2025 at 04:03 PM

JG

“ Willie was a good friend. I miss the good times we had in the National Guard. RIP Willie. --Jimmy Gordon



Jimmy Gordon - October 31, 2025 at 03:56 PM

PA

“ Patrick & Anita Allen sent a virtual gift in memory of Willie Powers



Patrick & Anita Allen - October 31, 2025 at 01:50 PM

RS

“ Renee Shepard sent a virtual gift in memory of Willie Powers



Renee Shepard - October 31, 2025 at 01:39 PM

SL

“ Scottie & Donna Lance lit a candle in memory of Willie Powers



Scottie & Donna Lance - October 31, 2025 at 01:12 PM

JM

“ My deepest sympathy and prayers for all the family



Joyce Aldridge McDaniel - October 31, 2025 at 01:03 PM



“ Loveless Carole lit a candle in memory of Willie Powers



Loveless Carole - October 31, 2025 at 11:52 AM

BC

“ *Bill and Teressa Clarke lit a candle in memory of Willie Powers*



Bill and Teressa Clarke - October 31, 2025 at 11:50 AM

PM

“ *RIP Willie. Prayers to the family!*



Phillip, Letitia & Mckenna - October 31, 2025 at 11:38 AM

RK

“ *Ricky King lit a candle in memory of Willie Powers*



Ricky King - October 31, 2025 at 10:45 AM

RG

“ So sorry. I was in the Guard with Willie and then joined the Ir Force in 1972. When I would come home on leave, many times I would stop by the Guard office and there Was Willie. He was always smiling and friendly. We talked about family and friends and where I was stationed and what I was doing in the Air Force. I enjoyed those visits very much. RIP Willie



Ronald Gammons - October 31, 2025 at 10:41 AM

KR

“ Thoughts and prayers to the family.



Kimberlee Ruegsegger - October 31, 2025 at 10:38 AM

TP

“ I am grateful for the influence and personal guidance shared with Willie during our time together in the military. I cherish the time we enjoyed together. Rest in Peace First Sergeant, prayers and condolences to the family.

Travis and Celine Powell - October 31, 2025 at 09:36 AM

TP

“ Travis And Celine Powell lit a candle in memory of Willie Thomas Powers



Travis and Celine Powell - October 31, 2025 at 09:29 AM

WP

“ *Willie always had a smile and a twinkle in his eye! A good friend--we will miss him and hold his family in our hearts!* ”



Wayne and Jewell Prince - October 31, 2025 at 09:14 AM



“ *..prayers and thoughts for Mr. Willie's family* ”



James Arthur (Tank) & Dana Atkinson - October 31, 2025 at 06:48 AM

SA

“ *Steve A Atkinson lit a candle in memory of Willie Thomas Powers* ”



Steve A Atkinson - October 31, 2025 at 06:41 AM

MB

“ *Martha Butler lit a candle in memory of Willie Thomas Powers* ”



Martha Butler - October 30, 2025 at 11:20 PM

PS

“ Pat Sullivan lit a candle in memory of Willie Thomas Powers



Pat Sullivan - October 30, 2025 at 11:19 PM

MM

“ Willie a good Christian man, always a lot of fun he will be sadly missed by so Minnie.



Margaret Martin - October 30, 2025 at 11:05 PM

DN

“ Dana Nicholson lit a candle in memory of Willie Thomas Powers



Dana Nicholson - October 30, 2025 at 10:59 PM

MC

“ Michelle Cripps lit a candle in memory of Willie Thomas Powers



Michelle Cripps - October 30, 2025 at 10:34 PM

CM

“ *Christina Middleton lit a candle in memory of Willie Thomas Powers*



Christina Middleton - October 30, 2025 at 09:58 PM



“ *Cindy Tyler lit a candle in memory of Willie Thomas Powers*



Cindy Tyler - October 30, 2025 at 09:44 PM



“ *Cindy Tyler lit a candle in memory of Willie Thomas Powers*



Cindy Tyler - October 30, 2025 at 09:38 PM

BL

“ *Betty Litton lit a candle in memory of Willie Thomas Powers*



Betty Litton - October 30, 2025 at 09:25 PM

SA

“ Thoughts and Prayers for this Sweet and Dear Family .. Rest In Peace



Susan and Steve Anglin - October 30, 2025 at 09:12 PM

TJ

“ Tammy Jenkins lit a candle in memory of Willie Thomas Powers



Tammy Jenkins - October 30, 2025 at 09:08 PM

DW

“ Was a great man and a great friend will be missed !

Diane wilson - October 30, 2025 at 07:58 PM

DB

“ Willie helped throughout my military career. Willie will be missed.



David Bates - October 30, 2025 at 07:49 PM

BM

“ Keeping Minnie and family in our thoughts
and prayers!



Bobby/Sandy McFarlin - October 30, 2025 at 06:07 PM

KW

“ Keisha Walker lit a candle in memory of Willie
Thomas Powers



Keisha Walker - October 30, 2025 at 05:33 PM

GO

“ Glenda Orman lit a candle in memory of Willie
Thomas Powers



Glenda Orman - October 30, 2025 at 05:13 PM

JW

“ Willie had a heart big as Texas
We worked together a long time.
He wil be missed



John Wilson - October 30, 2025 at 05:13 PM

MB

“ *Michael Bates sent a virtual gift in memory of Willie Thomas Powers*



Michael Bates - October 30, 2025 at 05:11 PM

DL

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



daphne luctetr - October 30, 2025 at 05:08 PM

RB

“ *Randall-Sandra Barber lit a candle in memory of Willie Thomas Powers*



Randall-Sandra Barber - October 30, 2025 at 04:54 PM

SH

“ *Sarah Hinson lit a candle in memory of Willie Powers*



Sarah Hinson - October 30, 2025 at 03:48 PM

MQ

“ *martha qualls sent a virtual gift in memory of Willie Powers*



martha qualls - October 30, 2025 at 03:45 PM

MA

“ *MaelynnCampbell lit a candle in memory of Willie Powers*



MaelynnCampbell - October 30, 2025 at 03:39 PM

JG

“ *John & Wanda Givens lit a candle in memory of Willie Powers*



John & Wanda Givens - October 30, 2025 at 03:37 PM

CM

“ *Cheeva McClearen sent a virtual gift in memory of Willie Powers*



Cheeva McClearen - October 30, 2025 at 03:27 PM

GL

“ Gerry Loveless lit a candle in memory of Willie Powers



Gerry Loveless - October 30, 2025 at 03:02 PM

BL

“ He was the kind of person whose kindness and strength left a mark on everyone who knew him. I'll always be thankful that my son got to know his great grandpa and experience the love and example he set. He'll be deeply missed but never forgotten.



Blane Littleton - October 30, 2025 at 02:56 PM

RH

“ We are thinking of u.

Ruby & Rex Horner - October 30, 2025 at 02:12 PM

CG

“ Charles & Glenda C. Gilmer lit a candle in memory of Willie Powers



Charles & Glenda C. Gilmer - October 30, 2025 at 01:55 PM

ES

“ *Ed and Melinda Sullivan lit a candle in memory of Willie Powers*



Ed and Melinda Sullivan - October 30, 2025 at 01:53 PM

KB

“ *Karen Bowen lit a candle in memory of Willie Powers*



Karen Bowen - October 30, 2025 at 01:44 PM