



## Willie Gravitte, Jr

June 21, 1931 - July 9, 2013

Pawleys Island

Willie Earl Gravitte, Jr. age 82 passed away Tuesday, July 9, 2013 at Waccamaw Community Hospital.

Born in Roxboro, NC, he was a son of the late Earl and Lucy Gravitte. Willie was a 20 year Army veteran. After returning from active duty he served at the White House under 3 Presidents and worked for the Defense Communications Agency. He ended his career at the Drug Enforcement Agency in 1995. Willie was a past Worshipful Master of Springfield Masonic Lodge #217 in Virginia, a member of Kena Shrine in Fairfax, VA and a member of the Royal Order of Jesters in Alexandria, VA. He and Rita retired to Pawleys Island, SC in 1996. He was preceded in death by a brother, Connie Mac and a sister, Jean Norton.

Survivors include his wife of 33 years, Rita Gravitte; a son, Ron Gravitte and wife Joann; daughters, Melissa Longo and Jennifer Merkel and husband Dane; a brother, John Gravitte and wife Ann; sisters, Anne Crews and husband Bud, Brenda Newton and husband Charles and Linda Humphries and husband Ray; 6 grandchildren; 6 great-grandchildren; 2 great-great grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

He was a big man with a big heart and always had a twinkle in his eye. We will miss him.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:00 AM Saturday, July 13, 2013 at Precious Blood of Christ Catholic Church with Father Patrick Stenson

officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Shrine Hospital for Children c/o Kena Temple PO Box 456 Merrifield, VA 22116 or Father Pat's Kitchen at Precious Blood of Christ Catholic Church, 1633 Waverly Rd. Pawleys Island, SC 29585.

An online guestbook is available at [www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com/obituaries](http://www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com/obituaries)  
Goldfinch Funeral Home, Beach Chapel is in charge of the arrangements.

# Previous Events

## Service

JUL 13. 10:00 AM (ET)

Precious Blood of Christ Roman Catholic Church  
1633 Waverly Rd  
Pawleys Island, SC 29585  
(843) 237-3428

# Tribute Wall

JH

“ I am writing to Willie's family from the UNC Baseball Office in Chapel Hill, NC We have some photos of his brother Connie, and I have not been able to find any of Connie's relatives to send them to. We took down player photos in Boshamer Stadium and are putting them back up, just in a different format. We are sending pictures and plaques to all former players, or their relatives. I am hoping there is someone that would like these. My email address is [jholt@unc.edu](mailto:jholt@unc.edu) My office number is 919-962-2351. Thank you for any assistance.

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**Joan Holt** - February 13, 2020 at 11:59 AM

DS

“ Rita,  
So many years since you last hosted our family in your lovely Virginia home. I am so grateful for the time I spent traveling with Willie - still remember fondly the extended flights to London and Pakistan - they actually ran out of Jack Daniels on one flight - largely due to Willie and me. So large in life and friendship - I am a richer person for sharing time with him. Sorry for your loss but you had a great partner and both of you were lucky to have found each other.  
Warm Personal Regards,  
Don Sturn

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**Don Sturn** - August 19, 2013 at 05:28 PM

1A

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



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**1600 Communications Association** - August 19, 2013 at 03:49 PM

JB

“ I am so sorry for your loss. May the outpouring of sympathy, the kind acts of friends and strangers, as well as your memories give you comfort to help you endure the days ahead. The Bible also offers comfort. “For God is near to those broken at heart. “ Ps 34:17,18. Our Creator promises that there will soon be a time when “death will be no more.” Revelation 21:4

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**J. Bell** - July 21, 2013 at 09:06 AM

DK

“ Dearest Rita,  
You know how much I cared for Willie....we always had a special laugh together. I hope he is in a better place now, no more suffering for either of you.  
I think of you often. I wish you peace and healing.  
Love,  
Debbie

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**Debra Kent** - July 15, 2013 at 06:53 PM

EK

“ Edward Kalat sent a virtual gift in memory of Willie Gravitte, Jr



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**Edward Kalat** - July 13, 2013 at 08:23 AM

DG

“ Rita, I will never forget the first time I met Willie. All I could think was, WOW! He's a big guy! So that's what I called him these past forty-plus years: Big Guy! He would just smile at me with that twinkle in his eye and give me a hug. He is with the Lord now. We will never forget him, as he was bigger than life. That's why we all loved him so much.  
Delores and Jim

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**Delores and Jim Greenup** - July 13, 2013 at 07:08 AM

MD

“ Dear Rita, We are so sorry to learn of the death of your beloved Willie....what an awesome guy! Always had a story to share and a drink to go with it! We will miss him! And we are sorry we are not in PI to help celebrate his wonderful life. We will be thinking of you and your family tomorrow. We will be home Sunday...again, we are so sorry! You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers....God's peace!  
Love, Monique and Dave



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**monique and dave** - July 12, 2013 at 11:30 PM

SC

“ Dear Rita, Know that you and your family are in our thoughts and prayers at this most difficult time. Willie was a gentleman in every sense of the word. We are all better for having been lucky enough to have him as a friend. May it comfort you to know that his spirit will be alive in the hearts of all who knew him.

*Love, Suz & Conrad*

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**S Conrad** - July 12, 2013 at 02:20 PM

ES

“ It was our privilege and honor to be part of Willie's Life. He is now with Our Lord in Heaven. You will always have Him in your Heart.



*Peace and love to you Rita and your family, Lovingly Lucian &Ed Slomkowski*

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**Ed & Luciann Slomkowski** - July 12, 2013 at 01:21 PM

PT

“ Rita, both Phil and I offer our deepest sympathy for the loss of your beloved Willie.  
*The Thompsons*

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**Phil and Pat Thompson** - July 12, 2013 at 01:16 PM

BD

“ Will always have a good memory of Willie driving a golf card during the Pawleys Island Festival of Music as a volunteer. He was great and will be sorely missed. Rita, you are in our thoughts and prayers.

*Becky and Don Dobbins*

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**Becky Dobbins** - July 12, 2013 at 09:33 AM

BC

“ Rita, Larry and I are saddened to learn of Willie's passing. We are so sorry. We will always have fond memories of the Lady Jester gatherings. Please accept our deepest sympathy. Larry and Betty Canada

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**betty canada** - July 11, 2013 at 08:01 PM