



## Willa Dean Givens "Gran Gran" Williams

September 19, 1948 - April 16, 2023

Mrs. Willa Dean Givens "Gran Gran" Williams, age 74, of Carthage, TN, passed away Sunday, April 16, 2023.

Mrs. Williams was born September 19, 1948 in Carthage, TN, daughter of Clarence Willard Givens and Annie Ruth Grisham Givens. She was preceded in death by her husband: Danny Williams: father, Clarence Willard Givens; grandparents, Melvin B. and Alma Doin Proffitt Grisham and Andrew and Maggie Thomas Givens: brother-in-laws William "Stick" Mason and Carter Dickens. She was a 1966 graduate of Smith County High School, affiliated with Pentecostal Church. She worked as a secretary, was a talented artist and liked to pull pranks on people.

Mrs. Williams is survived by son: Jason (LeAnn) Cook of Bethpage, TN: grandson, Samuel Cook of Bethpage, TN: mother, Mrs. Annie Ruth Grisham Givens of Carthage, TN: siblings, Doris Mason of Lancaster, TN, Anita (Paul) Sansone of Gordonsville, TN, Sue (Randy) Teat of Lancaster, TN, Kay (Al) Kent of Cesterfield, Missouri, David (Denise) Givens of Defeated, TN, and LeAnn (Benny) Williams of Pea Ridge community, also a host of nieces and nephews.

Memorial services for Mrs. Williams are scheduled to be conducted from the Carthage Chapel of Bass Funeral Homes on Wednesday, April 19, 2023 at

1PM with Randy Teat officiating.

Visitation with the Williams family will be held at the Carthage Chapel of Bass Funeral Homes on Wednesday April 19, 2023 from 10AM to 1PM .

Mrs. Williams family request memorial donations to Smith Co Humane Society.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR **19**. 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Carthage Chapel of Bass Funeral Home  
807 N Main Street  
Carthage, TN 37030  
(615) 735-1212  
kurtbass@bassfh.com  
<https://www.bassfh.com/>

## Memorial Service

APR **19**. 1:00 PM (CT)

Carthage Chapel of Bass Funeral Home  
807 N Main Street  
Carthage, TN 37030  
(615) 735-1212  
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# Tribute Wall

AS

“ *My wonderful sister, we shared so many memories. many of your stories are my stories. Your birthday is a reminder how blessed I am you were with me through it all....miss u so much! Anita*

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**Anita Sansone** - September 18, 2024 at 10:22 AM

AS

“ *April reminds me of you and me playing in a creek looking for tadpoles, hiding our special puppy under the house when someone came to pick one. Our precious grandfather ( Melvin Grisham) who took us to church when dad wasnt able to drive and made Saturdays special going to town. You loving a fishing trip most of all....miss u Dean. Sister Anita. We will stroll over heaven some day with everyone then all things will be made new, like after a spring rain we see His beauty all around we just dont havet to look far !*

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**Anita Sansone** - April 17, 2024 at 09:31 AM

AN

“ *At a tent revival next to where Sherrys Diner use to be and across from old Shirt Factory thats where me, Dean, and my brother in law william Mason got saved. That nite several not even at the revival ,just out side sitting in their cars heard the message and came in and were saved. Thats one of my best memories ...praise be to God! Anita*

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**Anita** - April 19, 2023 at 07:06 AM

BC

“ *Condolences and Prayers to a classmate's family she was a beautiful girl inside and out.* 🙏❤️

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**Bill Cothorn** - April 17, 2023 at 08:32 PM

NP

*Bill, Dean drew the picture of you on the front of your Junior Play program.*

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**Nancy Pettross** - April 18, 2023 at 12:04 PM

NP

*Bill, Dean drew the picture of you on the Junior play program. She was very talented.*

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**Nancy Pettross** - April 18, 2023 at 12:07 PM

JC

4/19/23

Mom,

*Congratulations on your new body and new mansion. I am sure that everything, including all the birds and flowers have exceeded your expectations now that you have realized the blessed hope.*

*We are all going to miss you, Mom. But I wanted to take a minute to thank your kind and gentle soul for being my mother during your time here on this earth. It takes a special kind of woman to be the mother of an only child. She has to be the big brother who chases the bullies away, the sister who helps hide evidence to keep you out of trouble and the friend that you can confide in, all the while maintaining the nurturing and loving hands of a mother when you are afraid or sick. Your love delivered on all those things and more. I thank you and am truly grateful. You made sure that my childhood was a good, safe, unique and wonderful experience. Indeed, some of the happiest years of my life were 76 through 80, when your presence, influence and love were strongest.*

*I know things got a little rough for you after a while, but I want you to know that it's okay, Mom. I understand. I was there, I saw how you were betrayed, I saw and know your pain. I experienced it too. I was powerless and confused at the time, but now I understand. There were times when I was frustrated and angry, times when I was harsh, times when I didn't like you, but I never for one second stopped loving you. I did the best I could, I know it was not always enough, please forgive me.*

*You were a good Mom and a good Grandmother, Samuel will always have the memory of his "Gran Gran". You helped him catch his first crawdad, just like you did me, on one of those summer days that he stayed with you. You made him hard boiled eggs for breakfast. He still loves them today, and he and I both agree that no one can top your spaghetti. Thank you for saving his artwork that he did at your house during those stays. We found it and will cherish the memories it contains.*

*Until now there has never been any space between us, Mom. But even now I can feel the great love that you have for me and the family.*

*There are many things that an only child has to do alone, milestones and challenges that might be easier met with the support of a sibling. Many have offered their support to me during this time of having to give you up and for that I am grateful. But only another only child fully understands how alone I am. No one on the face of the earth can all*

*you "Mom" except me. This is the toughest thing I have ever had to do. By any measure, if I was not a man before, I will be when this day is done.*

*I hope Heaven is big enough for your heart, Mom. Today mine is broken, but I am happy that you are well now.*

*How many Boston Terriers do you have up there? Give them all a petting for me and don't worry about Dexter, we will take good care of him.*

*Tell Jesus I said hello and can't wait to meet him. Tell him thanks again for his mercy and to take good care of you. I know he will.*

*Tell Danny and Pa I said hello and when you get around to looking them up Mammy and Pap as well.*

*Thank you Mom for the love you have given me. You will always be in my heart. I hope I did not let you down, I sincerely did the best I could.*

*I promise to guard and keep that part of your life that you so lovingly poured into mine.*

*I love you Mom. Enjoy your new home until we meet again.*

*Jason*

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**Jason Cook** - April 20, 2023 at 09:19 AM

LW

*Thank you both for the great memories. She was very talented.*

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**Lee Ann Williams** - April 20, 2023 at 07:42 PM

RF

*“ I too have very fond memories of childhood days when we visited uncle willard and aunt ruths home. Dean and i would get into battles throwing hedgeapples at each other. There will never be another dean. Bright, witty and very gifted. I will greatly miss her. Fly high with the angels dean. We love you so much!*

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**rick givens family** - April 17, 2023 at 07:23 PM

KK

*I miss you so much dear sister. I always enjoyed spending special time when I'd visit you in Carthage. You always encouraged others to use their talents. I know you had so much pain Dean but I rarely saw you cry. You were a fighter to the end. I'm so sad that I will never see your face on Earth but I'm glad Jesus gives us that opportunity again as believers. I'll see you again dear sister never to be parted again! Love you always! Kay*

**Kay Kent** - September 18, 2023 at 11:41 PM

AN

“ *Pam do u remember when u Dean and some more ladies went to a Tom Jones concert? Toward the end of the show Dean decides shes going to go running to the stage, everybody was Dean! Dont do that!! Dont! But she did and security stopped her but Tom Jones saw them and motioned for them to let her come on stage and he gave her a big hug.....she always got a kick out of telling that ! We will miss u Dean. You were our Lucy !! Your love of Christ was strong and I know in Heaven theres no more pain. Miss u forever Anita*

**Anita** - April 17, 2023 at 05:51 PM

RF

“ *Rick Givens Family lit a candle in memory of Willa Dean Givens "Gran Gran" Williams*



**rick givens family** - April 17, 2023 at 05:18 PM

CW

“ *I will always remember Dean's sweet smile and her kindness. We went to school together. RIP Dean ❤️ Carol Wilmore*

**Carol Wilmore** - April 17, 2023 at 08:37 AM

AN

“ My beautiful sister Dean,when we lived across from Cumberland Supply in the 50's : we ran through fields of clover, collected lightning bugs in a jar , made mud pies and picked wild flowers for our rock under a tree playhouse.you put dirt in moms tub turned upside downput wildflowers on top, I can still see that beautiful cake! U climbed trees I never could and loved saying the cows in the field might be a bull and was comingafter us because we were wearing red.when snows came ,i can see u now u r idea to make a sled out of a rocking chair,with our dog in your lap going down hill! Those cherished memories of seasons in the sun I will forever hold dear.....How beautiful Heaven must be, rest under His wings.love u your sister Anita We will run through fields of clover again some day

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**Anita** - April 16, 2023 at 07:18 PM