



## Leonard John Willis

October 21, 1955 - January 19, 2024

Exeter- Leonard (Lenny) John Willis, of Exeter, NH, passed away on January 19th after a sudden and heartbreaking accident. Lenny was born in Haverhill, Massachusetts on October 21, 1955, to the late Walter and Mary (Angelotti) Willis. He graduated from the University of New Hampshire and worked many vocations throughout his life—real estate, photography, hospitality, calligraphy, yoga. His greatest gift was his son, Jackson Willis, who he lovingly co-parented with Karen Willis, leaving both behind. He also leaves behind his sister and her husband, Cindy and Larry Dunphey, his nephews, Todd and Matt Taylor, and Matt's wife, Jenn, his cousin Paul McIsaac, his best friends, Jeff Knapp and Cara Siegel, and their children, Sam and Ava, and longtime friend Kellie Johansen and her children.

Lenny's spirit was larger than life and shone through to everyone he knew. He loved deeply—his family, his friends, nature, the written word, music, strangers. He had an amazing ability to make anyone feel like the most important person in the room. Always optimistic and encouraging, Lenny saw beauty in everything and has left an indelible mark on his corner of the world. There is no doubt that his beautiful spirit will live on, especially in those whose lives he touched the deepest.

Family and friends will gather to honor and remember Lenny for a period of visitation on Thursday, January 25, 2024, from 4 PM until 7 PM in the Remick

and Gendron Funeral Home, 811 Lafayette Road, Hampton, NH. Funeral service will take place immediately following the visitation in the funeral home.

# Previous Events

## Calling Hours

JAN 25. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Remick & Gendron Funeral Home - Crematory  
811 Lafayette Road ·  
Hampton, NH 03842  
(603) 926-6500  
info@remickgendron.com  
<https://www.RemickGendron.com/>

## Service

JAN 25. 7:00 PM (ET)

Remick & Gendron Funeral Home - Crematory  
811 Lafayette Road ·  
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<https://www.RemickGendron.com/>

# Tribute Wall

SM

“ *Lenny great guy lots of fond memories Steve*

Stephen Moustafa - January 30, 2024 at 03:19 PM

TH

“ *How do you even eulogize a man like this? My husband and I are heart broken. I don't even know how to find closure. I mean.. It's Lenny. I met Lenny through my mom Linda Goodnow. She has since passed, but she adored Lenny. My husband and I were casual friends with Lenny. But when it comes to Lenny there is no casual. Anyone that has ever met him knows what I mean. One day, one week, one month, one year... Its all the same. No time has passed. You just pick up where you left off. So you're in Market Basket.. You see him across the isle, He sees you.. And then there is that smile. Only meant for you. Hug is next.. And all of a sudden you're ok. Nothing hurts, No stress. It's Lenny and nothing else matters to him but you in that moment. He was a beautiful soul. We were better people because he was in our lives. I talk to people that did not know him... I say you are lucky. Otherwise you would be broken, Life will never be the same for me;;; there will be a a piece of my heart that is empty yet filled with sadness.*

tracie hurley - January 26, 2024 at 09:46 PM

DF

“ *1 file added to the album Video of Coach Lenny*



DAVID OCONNOR FAMILY - January 26, 2024 at 05:30 PM

RB

“ So very sorry to hear about Lenny. Had the pleasure to know Lenny from the Old Haverhill days and also for the last 25 years while living in Hampton. Enjoyed bumping into him occasionally and having some great conversations. He was a great guy and will be missed. Sincere condolences, Ron Buccini

Ronald G Buccini - January 26, 2024 at 12:29 PM

MC

“ Michelle C. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Leonard John Willis.

Michelle C. - January 26, 2024 at 12:20 AM

 Michael  
Cesati

“ I am so sad to hear of Lenny's passing... A great guy who I remember from high school on. I enjoyed talking with him the last time we spoke . A beautiful man. May he RIP. Mike Cesati

Michael Cesati - January 25, 2024 at 09:45 PM

 Staci  
O'Neil

“ I met Lenny several times through his wonderful friends and he was always so engaged with conversation, caring, inquisitive, and a beautiful soul. I also want to note he was an excellent pickleball player. I pray for peace for his family and friends.



Staci O'Neil - January 25, 2024 at 04:22 PM

FW

“ Jackson, Karen and Family, Words fail to express our deep sorrow for your loss. Our thoughts are with you and your family.”

Fran & Shane Wilson - January 25, 2024 at 08:15 AM

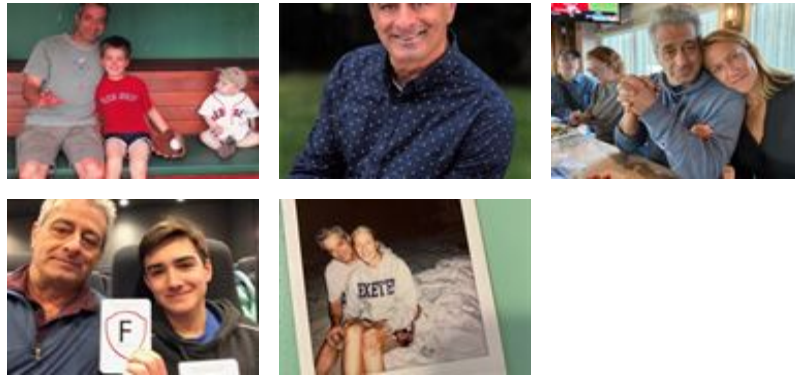
ED

“ Elaine D. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Leonard John Willis.

Elaine D. - January 24, 2024 at 05:24 PM



“ 225 files added to the album LifeTributes



Remick & Gendron Funeral Home - January 24, 2024 at 04:56 PM

DM

“ Things I took for granted:  
Last minute breakfasts and coffee just to "catch-up!"  
Sharing a seat on our way to Jackson's church mission trip to Providence RI.  
Co-teaching yoga classes for the kids at church.  
Pow-wow ideas for the kid's fellowship- "How bout sledding & cocoa?"  
Asking Lenny to teach for me in the Sunday school and he said, "of course!"  
Watching how he showed love to kids using Positive reinforcement- pushups!  
Lenny using his photography skills to create a church directory for us.  
I loved working with him on the CE board- he was the Holy Spirit" in person.  
Getting a crushing hug every time he saw me along with kind words!  
Seeing Lenny & Karen every week with Jackson sandwiched between in their pew at church- so many years ago, but I can still see them as if it was just yesterday.  
There is no greater love than Lenny's love for his Jackson- this I know!  
I will miss him very much.  
Love,  
Donna Mak

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Donna Makechnie - January 24, 2024 at 03:47 PM

TR

“ Tringali purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Leonard John Willis.



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Tringali - January 24, 2024 at 02:32 PM

LH

“ Love & prayers, Jay & Sue Hyland purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Leonard John Willis.



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**Love & prayers, Jay & Sue Hyland** - January 24, 2024 at 11:57 AM

EH

“ Emily H. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Leonard John Willis.

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**Emily H.** - January 24, 2024 at 10:12 AM

TT

“ The BAYADA People Leadership Team purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Leonard John Willis.



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**The BAYADA People Leadership Team** - January 24, 2024 at 09:48 AM

TT

“ From: The BAYADA People Leadership Team planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Leonard John Willis.

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**The BAYADA People Leadership Team** - January 24, 2024 at 09:48 AM

CS

“ Cynthia S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Leonard John Willis.

Cynthia S. - January 23, 2024 at 08:37 PM

LH

“ Laura H. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Leonard John Willis.

Laura H. - January 23, 2024 at 02:41 PM

TK

“ Tony, Jane, Donna and Kerry purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Leonard John Willis.



Tony, Jane, Donna and Kerry - January 23, 2024 at 02:04 PM

SS

“ Sandy (Dunphy) Spinola planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Leonard John Willis.

Sandy (Dunphy) Spinola - January 23, 2024 at 11:39 AM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Leonard John Willis.



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January 23, 2024 at 11:39 AM



“ I met Lenny the week after I started as wine steward at the long gone Beach House. He was highly territorial. I needed to ask him for glasses rather than go behind his bar & fetch them myself. A few requests for glasses one at a time earned me the privilege of getting my own stemware, if I asked to come aboard.

When my niece was christened, he did the calligraphy for my gift. I have several of his photographs framed. I was so happy to find him on Facebook.

When I was terminated at said restaurant, Lenny sent a card letting me know he remembered what I'd accomplished there. He was the only one. A good reason to remember among others to never forget his kindness.

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Michael Cashman - January 23, 2024 at 10:27 AM



“ Karen E. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Leonard John Willis.

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Karen E. - January 23, 2024 at 09:51 AM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Leonard John Willis.*



January 22, 2024 at 04:01 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Leonard John Willis.*



January 22, 2024 at 03:53 PM



“ *Lenny was a shining example of what a man, dad, husband, and human being. My first time meeting Lenny was when he coached me and his son in journeyman. Out of all the kids, he was the most energetic person there. He made other people feel his magnetic personality while still being just him. He recently gave me advice on the stuff I was dealing with and said He said “keep smiling Cole, your positive mood is what draws people to you, don’t ever get down on yourself, and Just keep on smiling babe.” God bless to the Willis family and I’m here for you guys.*

**Colton Dessell** - January 22, 2024 at 12:57 PM



*Of what human being should be\**

**Colton Dessell** - January 22, 2024 at 01:04 PM

DF

“ Our heartfelt Condolences to the Family. We are thinking of you Cindy, and wish a family peace and comfort as you all grieve of his passing. Prayers for his soul Rest in Peace.

*The Dunphy Family*

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**Dunphy Family** - January 22, 2024 at 12:09 PM

DF

“ Dunphy Family purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of Leonard John Willis.



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**Dunphy Family** - January 22, 2024 at 11:50 AM

HM

“ Lenny Willis was a helping hand in my healing journey. Knowing him has helped me live up to my best self and he will always have a special place in my heart and soul. He was dedicated to his yoga practice and I will continue to connect with him on my yoga mat. May his fun-loving kindness live on forever in all of our hearts. - Heidi M.

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**Heidi Martineau** - January 22, 2024 at 07:51 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Leonard John Willis.



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January 21, 2024 at 09:28 PM

JL

“ Lenny and I were friends for 23 years through yoga. He exemplified everything good in a human - kindness, compassion, integrity, humor, love and devotion to his son, his family friends and community. His gentle spirit will live on in my heart and he will be missed by so many. I hope he knew how much he was loved.



jennie lee - January 21, 2024 at 08:27 PM

SS

“ Solomon Siegel lit a candle in memory of Leonard John Willis



Solomon Siegel - January 21, 2024 at 05:22 PM

DM

“ Darlene Jane Katie Margaret planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Leonard John Willis.

Darlene Jane Katie Margaret - January 21, 2024 at 02:55 PM

DM

“ Darlene Jane Katie Margaret purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Leonard John Willis.



Darlene Jane Katie Margaret - January 21, 2024 at 02:55 PM

MC

“ I am blessed to have rec'd one of Lennie's wonderful hugs last Wednesday. In that moment he made me happy!

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**Margaret Chadwick** - January 21, 2024 at 02:55 PM

MT

“ In the words of the great Uncle Lenny, "today we learned hot and next week we will learn sharp." They don't come any better!! RIP Len

*Milt Taylor*

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**Milton H Taylor** - January 21, 2024 at 01:01 PM

WB

“ Lenny and I worked together when he was a volunteer for Hospice. His gentle and curious presence made him a favorite visitor for countless patients. He was generous not only with his time but his love for everyone and will be truly missed. Sending peace and comfort to his family

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**Whitney Blethen** - January 21, 2024 at 10:02 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Leonard John Willis.

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January 21, 2024 at 09:58 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Leonard John Willis.



January 21, 2024 at 09:55 AM



“ HHS Class Of 1973 sent a virtual gift in memory of Leonard John Willis



HHS class of 1973 - January 21, 2024 at 08:56 AM



“ D lit a candle in memory of Leonard John Willis



d - January 20, 2024 at 06:26 PM



Lenny taught a small group of us Yoga at the Congregational Church in Hampton, and his family attended services there was well. Jackson was his life. Lenny was a special light we were all privileged to know.  
Jo Ellen Pirie

Jo Ellen Pirie - January 21, 2024 at 01:28 PM



*Sometimes we meet someone who radiates peace and tranquility— Lenny was one. I knew him through a variety of the “hats” he wore as he moved through his various avocations— always easily engaging, living in the moment. I grieve not having the opportunity for more time as I’m learning we had more in common than I would have thought. My blessings to his family and all who loved him.*

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**Peter Thomas** - January 21, 2024 at 04:36 PM

MS

*Thinking of you Jackson. Your father was so proud of you....Mike & Ann*

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**Mike and Ann Sanok** - January 21, 2024 at 06:17 PM

KS

*Cindy and the rest of Lenny’s family,*

*My thoughts and prayers are with you all, but most especially with Cindy. My memories go way back to our growing up days in Riverside. What I remember most is your brother’s sense of humor and how he could charm your mother no matter what the situation. That grin and whatever comments went with it had a magical effect on her. That same sense of humor showed itself again when your mom had heart surgery in Boston and he came to visit her in the hospital soon after. As her nurse, I saw her face light up when he entered her room, gave her a hug and asked her “So, can you play the piano now?” When she said “No!” He replied “ then what good was that doctor?”. Which sent her into gales of chest clutching laughter. (I did not know she played piano, which it turned out she didn’t.) But his presence and his joking was just what she needed. I have never forgotten those few moments and immediately thought of that visit today when Rosie shared this sad news.*

*Jackson, please know that your dad was a very special person. May it bring all of you some solace to know that his final gift as an organ donor likely brought smiles to another family or more, in another place, going through their own sad times.*

*God Bless,  
Kathy (Wyka) Sweezey*

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**Kathy Sweezey** - January 21, 2024 at 08:20 PM

KC

*Such a bright spirit, Lenny. He will be missed deeply. May you rest in peace, Dear Friend.*

*In Divine Love and Light,  
Karen*

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**Karen Cook** - January 23, 2024 at 09:48 AM

DE

*There are no words...  
Lenny was an amazing human.  
Always insightful, so very kind, calming, and not to mention he gave  
the best hugs ever!*

*A bright light for everyone who was lucky enough to know him.*

*Rest easy, in everlasting peace, my dear friend.*

*My heartfelt prayers to Jackson and family.*

*With love,  
Deb*

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**Deb** - March 10, 2024 at 02:02 PM