



William "Willy" Edward Carlson

August 22, 1931 - May 13, 2024

North Hampton - "Pop, I can help you write your obituary."

"No. All it needs to say is Willy lived. Then Willy died."

William (Willy) Edward Carlson lived. Then Willy died.

In between, he had a one hell of a ride.

One of a kind. Larger than life. An unforgettable character.

At family gatherings, Willy would grumble, "This place is a ZOO; who are all these people? Is your mother running a soup kitchen?"

We'd look around the room and respond, "All these people, are YOUR fault. YOU. Did. This."

These people.

Willy became a father at the age of 19 with Marlene, his first wife and mother to David, Lori, Sharon (Kim), and Russell. After Marlene's unexpected, early passing, he met his second wife, Janet. With Janet, (a fellow Leo; we have no idea how these two stubborn-ass individuals didn't kill each other) came two more children, August (Gus) and Kristin.

It ballooned from there: 6 grandchildren: Jessica; Shannon; Courtney; Fred IV; Jillian; and Sean; 9 great grandchildren: Reilly; Olivia; Raegan; Amelia; Tanner; Callie; Fred V; Ava; and Lennon; and 1 great great grandson, August, plus spouses; dogs; cats; fish; gerbils; hermit crabs and Freddy's chickens.

Willy worked at GE and IBM in NY and NJ for many years. He retired in 1984, got his ear pierced with a diamond stud from his former colleagues, donned cowboy boots, moved to NH, and he and Janet launched Seacoast Harley-Davidson, first in York, ME then relocated it to North Hampton, NH. They sold the successful business in 1990.

He dearly loved his mom, Lydia and father, Einar; loved old cars and motorcycles; Dixieland music; licorice; peanut M & M's; bacon; working with wood and tinkering. His expertise with fixing things and knowledge of how to keep this old (1835) North Hampton, NH "dump" of a house running will be sorely missed.

He was the griping, ribbing older brother to his sister Sylvia and brother Clifford; Uncle Bill to Cynthia, Greg, Eric, Susie, and Sandy.

The kids will always remember his Big Bad Wolf stories; long-winded jokes; ditties he'd sing; and great cartoons.

He was extremely short on patience, and you never quite knew what he was going to say or do. While there were definitely cringe moments, somehow, he could get away with saying things not many others could. He was always fond of pulling gullible people's legs until they realized they had been sucked in.

Despite his gruffness and sarcastic, irreverent, often inappropriate humor, he'll be predominately remembered for being loving; trusted; big-hearted; welcoming, and playful.

He was a father figure to too many to possibly name. A consistent supporter; listener; nudger. While he often claimed Janet was trying to kill him with her spicy cooking, in the end his body simply wore out and he left here surrounded by the love and support of an amazing family who never left his side—a truly lucky, successful man.

He said, “Don’t cry when I’m gone. I’ve had a great life.”

“Yeah pop, you did. We might miss you just a little bit.”

Family and friends will gather to honor and remember Willy for a period of visitation on Sunday, May 19, 2024, from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. in the Remick & Gendron Funeral Home, 811 Lafayette Road, Hampton, NH 03842.

In honor of his memory, please consider donating to Pumpkin Wall Farm, an animal sanctuary in Derry, NH by clicking here (<https://www.pumpkinwallfarm.com/>)

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 19. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Remick & Gendron Funeral Home - Crematory

811 Lafayette Road ·

Hampton, NH 03842

(603) 926-6500

info@remickgendron.com

<https://www.RemickGendron.com/>

Tribute Wall

JS

“ Although I knew Willy for only a short while, I feel as though I've known him my entire life. He definitely captured my heart... I guess for that, I am one of the lucky ones. Even nearing the end, he still had his wits about him. And he never lost his playful humor. He had a personality that was larger than life. And hearing him talk, I could tell that his children were his biggest legacy. ❤️

Willy you will be missed but not soon forgotten.💔

Rest in Peace. ✨

~Jenny Blue Eyes 😊✂️

jenny stevens - September 21, 2024 at 04:10 PM

BT

BIG PERSNALITY, one of the best managers that I worked for in my 32 years @ IBM. BJ

B J Testerman - February 19, 2025 at 06:51 PM

TI

“ Tim sent a virtual gift in memory of William "Willy" Edward Carlson



tim - June 13, 2024 at 10:37 AM

TI

“ So sorry about your dad

tim - June 13, 2024 at 10:36 AM

DR

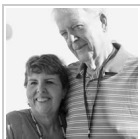
“ Hugs to all, so sorry to lose Will. You are a wonderful family, and he was a rock star among the bunch! He will be missed. Doris Rice

doris rice - June 12, 2024 at 11:09 AM

BK

“ Some of my fondest memories growing up were at the Carlson Zoo. There was always this sense of controlled chaos. My best wishes to the Zoo.

Brendan Klein - May 30, 2024 at 04:20 PM



“ Just reading of Bill's Passing, He was a great guy, Met him while working on his building and then his house. always loved his humor. rest in peace, sir.

Rusty Bridle

R.W. Bridle Builders

Rusty Bridle - May 28, 2024 at 02:04 PM

HF

“ Willy, you are already so missed by so many! Thank you for being like a dad to me, whether you helped me rivet metal on my old rusty hatchback, making pleta pancakes with lots of bacon and telling me good afternoon when I woke up at 9:30am, or having spirited political debates with a red wine glass full of ice you always knew how to make me smile. I am so grateful to have known you here on this earth and hope you will now be able to visit me in Arizona at our pool from time to time. There is always a place for you here. And just to egg you on in the afterlife, your favorite democrat sponsored a donkey in your honor at the Pumpkin Wall Animal Sanctuary ☐😘
😘 Love you Willy! ❤️ Finny



Heather Finn - May 19, 2024 at 01:34 PM

AB

“ My Mom and Pop always looked forward to Christmas cards coming from "Carlson's Zoo." My love goes out to all of you. Alicia Barnes

Alicia Barnes - May 19, 2024 at 07:48 AM



“ 108 files added to the album LifeTributes



Remick & Gendron Funeral Home - May 18, 2024 at 09:22 AM

DG

The best obituary I have ever read. I'm saving it for my turn

Denise Gough - May 20, 2024 at 12:10 PM

MT

I don't know your dad, but I think I may be married to his twin, whom I call Archie Bunker. It's folks like them that make life fun and death easier to handle. My condolences to all These people"

Merlene Tirone - May 22, 2024 at 08:20 AM

CB

“ Cathryn Blackwell purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of William "Willy" Edward Carlson.



Cathryn Blackwell - May 17, 2024 at 11:43 AM

DM

“ Dot & Bill Marchetti purchased the Sweet Tenderness for the family of William "Willy" Edward Carlson.



Dot & Bill Marchetti - May 17, 2024 at 07:48 AM

AS

“ Amy & Steve purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of William "Willy" Edward Carlson.



Amy & Steve - May 16, 2024 at 08:27 PM

DM

“ Absolutely wonderful obituary!



Donna M Meyer Miller - May 16, 2024 at 07:35 PM

EI

“ He gave me the best advice of my musical life....
Play like you just don't give a F...k!!!!
He was instrumental in my first Harley Davidson Purchase. But
most importantly,he treated Mr like family.



Earl Irving - May 16, 2024 at 05:12 PM

TI

so sorry about your dad Mr.Carlson

-Tim Curtis and the Curtis Family

tim - June 13, 2024 at 10:34 AM

BC

“ Bill, Milly, Skip, Nicole, and Chuck purchased the
Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of William
"Willy" Edward Carlson.



Bill, Milly, Skip, Nicole, and Chuck - May 16, 2024 at 01:13 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of William "Willy" Edward Carlson.*



May 16, 2024 at 11:59 AM



“ *The Hoxsie Clan, Buffalo & Catskill, NY purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of William "Willy" Edward Carlson.*



The Hoxsie Clan, Buffalo & Catskill, NY - May 16, 2024 at 10:18 AM



“ *Our deepest sympathy to your family. I pray for you all at this time. Robin and mark vanatta*

robin vanatta - May 16, 2024 at 09:30 AM



“ *Everyone at Cocoon purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of William "Willy" Edward Carlson.*



Everyone at Cocoon - May 15, 2024 at 04:31 PM