



James Earnest Willis

June 21, 1924 - November 9, 2013

James Earnest Willis passed away on November 9, 2013 at Hospice Family Care in Prescott, Arizona after a brief illness. He was born on June 21, 1924 in Doniphan, Missouri.

Jim married the love of his life, Velma Gilly, in Barrington, Il on June 17, 1944. They moved to Phoenix where he worked for A-1 Brewery and Co-Op Dairy. On December 31, 1953 they moved to Prescott where he and a partner bought Thumb Butte Dairy and a Chino Valley dairy farm to create Prescott Farms Dairy. They built a bottling plant on Miller Valley Road and did home delivery until they sold to Shamrock Dairy in 1964.

Jim and a partner developed land in the Prescott area until his retirement in 1989. He sat on the City Council and was president of the Chamber of Commerce during the 70's. Jim was also a member of the Prescott Moose Lodge for 60 years and held the highest honor of Pilgrim Degree. He was an avid fisherman and hunter. Jim and Velma enjoyed traveling throughout the west in their motorhome.

He is survived by his wife of almost 70 years, Velma; six children: Bonnie (Wayne) Butt, Hereford, AZ; Richard, Lubbock, TX; Patricia, Phoenix; Jerry (Joyce), Peoria; Judy (Butch) Salyers, Prescott; and Donald (Diana), Prescott; his sister, Alma Dean Mosley, Prescott; and a brother, Charles, Phoenix; nine

grandchildren: James, Kristine, Kathleen, Stacy, Sara, Laura, Reagan, Ryan and Valerie; 12 great grandchildren: James, Madison, Keely, Trace, Kasey, Nathan, Molly, Tatumn, Ethan, Elaina, Morgan, and Amanda. Jim was preceded in death by his son, James; brothers: Duane and Rodger; and parents Ray and Josie Willis. In lieu of flowers the family requests that donations be made in Jim's name to the Prescott Little League, 1042 Willow Creek Rd, #169, Prescott, AZ 86301. No services are planned at this time. Hampton Funeral Home was entrusted with the arrangements.

Tribute Wall

LB

“ *Rest in peace.....*

Larry Brooks - June 27, 2016 at 09:02 AM

PD

“ *Clarence always thought so much of Jim, so sorry to hear of his death. I remember the picnics that Prescott Farms Dairy used to have and the delicious Venison BBQ. That was many years ago, but time does keep moving on. Take care of yourself Velma. With Love
Pat Collins Dodd*

Pat Collins Dodd - November 16, 2013 at 08:32 PM

CF

“ *We will always remember the trips and good times at the lake. Our children talk about those trips. Jim will never be forgotten in all our hearts.*

The Clifford Fink Family

clifford fink - November 14, 2013 at 11:38 AM