



Willis B Bowling Jr

October 28, 1957 - March 5, 2026

Willis Bowling Jr., affectionately known as “Bo” or “Big Will,” passed away peacefully on March 5, 2026, surrounded by the love of his family who were by his side every step of the way. He leaves behind a legacy of strength, humor, and love for family and community.

Willis was born on October 28, 1957, in Detroit, Michigan, to the late Willis Bowling Sr. and Rosie Lee Bowling (Jenkins). At a very young age, he moved with his family to St. Louis, Missouri, where he was raised in University City. It was there that Willis developed his love for basketball, proudly playing for University City High School, where he graduated in 1975.

Following graduation, Willis later made his way to Delaware, where he built a long and dedicated career with Daimler Chrysler. Through hard work and commitment, he faithfully served the company for over 30 years before retiring, earning the respect of coworkers and friends alike.

Willis was a funny, straightforward, no-nonsense kind of man whose presence could fill a room. Known for his sharp wit and natural humor, he had a way of making people laugh no matter where they came from or who they were.

He enjoyed watching sports and had a deep love for the game of basketball. One of his greatest joys was teaching his son the game and supporting him

throughout his entire basketball career. Willis was a proud and dedicated father who never missed a single game, always showing up to cheer, support, and guide from the sidelines.

Willis cherished time spent with friends, especially during their weekly games of Bid Whiz, where stories, laughter, and friendly competition were always guaranteed.

Outside of cards, he found great joy standing in front of a grill, barbecuing for family and friends. That was his happy place — surrounded by the people he loved, good food, and plenty of laughter.

He was deeply loved by many and will be remembered for his authenticity, his humor, and the wisdom he passed down to those closest to him.

Willis leaves to cherish his memory his devoted ex-wife and friend, Shirelle Bowling of New Castle, Delaware, who stood by him with love and care during his time of illness; his only brother, Carey Bowling of St. Louis, Missouri; his two children, Kirra Bowling and Absalom “Buck” Bowling, both of New Castle, Delaware; and his two beloved grandchildren, Ricardo Lewis Jr. and Salèi Bowling, who brought him great pride and joy. He also leaves behind a host of extended family members and many friends who will forever hold his memory close to their hearts.

Willis “Bo” Bowling Jr. lived life his own way — with strength, humor, and authenticity. Though he will be deeply missed, the love, laughter, and lessons he shared will continue to live on in the lives of those he leaves behind.

Submitted With Love,
The Family

Previous Events

Viewing

MAR **20**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Gore Funeral Home
1910 Lancaster Ave
Wilmington, DE 19805
(302) 274-2960

Celebration of Life

MAR **20**. 1:00 PM (ET)

Gore Funeral Home
1910 Lancaster Ave
Wilmington, DE 19805
(302) 274-2960

Tribute Wall

BW

“ *Barbara Williams sent a virtual gift in memory of Willis B Bowling Jr*



Barbara Williams - April 01 at 09:29 PM

DW

“ *To the Bowling family your cousin Dorothy Mae, I haven't seen Bobo 38 years ago. He will be truly missed. God bless the family in time of bereavement. We will keep the family in all our prayers.*

Dorothy Williams - March 25 at 06:38 PM

BW

“ *Barbara W. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Willis B Bowling Jr.*

Barbara W. - March 16 at 04:34 PM

BW

“ *Barbara Williams lit a candle in memory of Willis B Bowling Jr*



Barbara Williams - March 16 at 04:20 PM

BW

“ *Condolences to the Family. We love you. Praying for you. I know God will you through this process. God is able. Bo was my cousin we loved each other. Neal they visited our Down south every year growing up together .much love.*

Barbara Williams - March 16 at 04:18 PM

KS

“ *Kastine Saunders lit a candle in memory of Willis B Bowling Jr*



Kastine Saunders - March 16 at 02:36 PM

KS

“ *Kastine Saunders lit a candle in memory of Willis B Bowling Jr*



Kastine Saunders - March 16 at 01:31 PM

KS

“ *Willis Family*

Deepest sympathy and prayer for the passing of Bo. He was a good person full of love and compassion. We pray for the family during this time of bereavement.

Money and Kassie Saunders

Kastine Saunders - March 16 at 01:30 PM

GH

“ *Our staff will continue to keep your family in our prayers. We thank you for allowing us to serve your family*

Gore Funeral Home



Gore Funeral Home - March 14 at 12:36 PM

LD

*MY DEEPEST SYMPATHY AND CONDOLENCES TO YOU
SHERRELLE IN LOSS OF A LOVED ONE LOVE U*

Levin A Deshields - March 16 at 10:08 AM