



William "Jay" Willoughby

March 16, 1955 - July 1, 2023

William Jay Willoughby, 68, of Tallahassee, went home to be with Jesus in the early morning of July 1st, surrounded by his loving family. He is survived by his love of 47 years, Charlene Willoughby.

A Celebration of Life will be held at Thomasville Road Baptist Church on Saturday, July 8th at 10:30am. The family will receive friends on Friday, July 7th, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Bevis Funeral Home on John Knox Road.

Jay was born in Tallahassee to Bill and Dorothy "Dot" Willoughby, and followed 3 years later by his younger brother Ken. The family lived in Panama City Beach, then Louisville, KY, before returning to settle in Tallahassee, where Jay met the love of his life, Charlene. They were married in 1975, and built a happy loving home where they raised their 2 children, Josh and Jennie.

Jay attended Leon High School, where he played percussion and oboe in the Leon High Band. After high school, he attended Florida State University, where he graduated with a degree in Mathematics. After graduating, he began working in the Computing Center at FSU, which began a 46-year career working in computing and information technology at FSU.

Jay was a member of Thomasville Road Baptist Church, where he played a very active role in the Music Ministry from an early age. Starting with the youth

choir Tomorrow's Hope in high school, he was a member of many musical groups at TRBC, including serving as founder and director of the Master's Men.

Jay loved his family, his work, FSU football, and most importantly his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He will be terribly missed by so many, including his loving wife, Charlene; his son, Joshua Willoughby, of Tallahassee; his daughter, Jennifer Willoughby, of Nashville; his brother, Stephen Kent "Ken", of Tallahassee; his brother- and sister-in-law Larry and Diane Griffith, of Tallahassee; nephew Dr. Randall Griffith (Jenny) of Birmingham; niece Rev. Katie Mattox (John) of Atlanta; great nieces and nephews; and so many other family and friends.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to MD Anderson Cancer Center, or the Worship Ministry Tech Fund at Thomasville Road Baptist Church.

Jared Padgett of Bevis Funeral Home is assisting the family with their arrangements. (850-385-2193 or www.bevisfh.com)

Cemetery Details

MeadowWood Memorial Park

700 Timberlane Rd.
Tallahassee, FL 32312

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 7. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Bevis Funeral Home & Crematory
200 John Knox Rd
Tallahassee, FL 32303
(850) 385-2193

Funeral Service

JUL 8. 10:30 AM (ET)

Thomasville Road Baptist Church
3131 Thomasville Road
Tallahassee, FL 32308

Tribute Wall

JP

“ I was privileged to know Jay and his family for the 25 years that I lived in Tallahassee and a member of Thomasville Road Baptist Church. I knew him to be a role model for faithful living. I have a mental video of his passing into a glorious place in eternity. I'll look forward to seeing him again.

Jeff pace - August 08, 2023 at 11:45 AM

ER

“ Charlene, I was so sorry to hear of Jay's passing. I am praying that the Lord will continue to give you, Josh, and Jennie peace and comfort as you embrace the new norm of life without Jay's physical presence. Life now will definitely be different, but the Love and Joy of the Lord will never leave you. Continue to trust His word and lean on Jesus for your much-needed strength.

*Much Love
Evangeline*

Evangeline Rentz - July 20, 2023 at 05:00 PM

DR

“ Dear Charlene and Family,

I worked with Jay at FSU. I was honored to serve with him for a time on the CROC committee. Some committees can be a challenge but Jay always had a smile and a joke and made the time pleasant and informative. He was also always willing to teach and to learn. He took time from his tasks every year to visit my class to sit and talk with the Learning Assistants about their experiences in classes at FSU and ways he might make things better for students. He ALWAYS followed through on any promises he made to them. Students in the upper level of Fisher Hall who watch the lectures on the display monitors have the LAs and Jay to thank for them. I count myself lucky to have been a part of his circle for short time and I'm the better for it. I send lots of love and light your way. I'll keep you in prayer.

Dr. Sophia Rahming - July 20, 2023 at 01:10 PM

GN

“ Dear Charlene and Family,

We are so sorry to learn about the loss of your dear one Jay. He made a tremendous impact on all of us who knew him. He was loved by all of us. His Music Ministry was a great blessing. Although, he will be greatly missed, he is now resting in the arms of Jesus. He lived a life that was a true testimony of his Faith. We will continue to remember the family in prayer. May God grant you strength, peace and His unconditional love.

*George and Retha Nero
Hephzibah, GA*



George and Retha Nero - July 08, 2023 at 09:33 PM

SM

*Dear Charlene and family,
I was so sad to learn of Jay's death. It was way too soon for him to leave this earth. My heart aches for your loss. My prayers for you as you go through the grief in the next months. Love, Sara Martin*

Sara Martin - July 10, 2023 at 09:14 AM

WF

“*Jay was the most amazing supporter of the College of Music at FSU. He has been a treasured partner and advisor to me in numerous projects over the years, and never hesitated to help when I needed it. His foresight and persistence created one of the most often used student recital spaces at the college. His vision for a dilapidated lecture hall on the second floor of the Longmire building transformed the space into a first-class music recital hall that quickly became the most-requested space for music student recitals and a variety of music special events. I will miss his generous spirit, his supportive nature, and his creative can-do approach.*

William Fredrickson - July 08, 2023 at 08:21 AM

BF

“*Jay most definitely heard the words “Well Done” from Our Lord on July 1st. He used the musical gifts God gave him in service of the Lord he loved. Many lives were touched and hearts prepared to hear the Word of God through his and his family's gift of music. He now joins the heavenly chorus to welcome each of us in Christ when our call comes. Kathy and my prayers go out to his family and the TRBC family he so faithfully served.*

Bruce Ferris - July 08, 2023 at 06:20 AM

DC

“ My condolences to the family, “Jay” was my supervisor and he was a great man! That chuckle he had can make anyone smile. We lost a good man who gave over half his working years at FSU. WE WILL MISS YOU JAY! I am still pinching myself cause it’s hard to grasp. GOD gained an angel...rest in peace my brother!□□



Dr. Charlene Crump

Dr. Charlene Crump - July 07, 2023 at 02:22 PM

SB

“ I've not seen Jay in many a year, but I have very fond memories of our times together as part of the TRBC family back in the day. We shared a lot of sports, music, pizza over those years. Heartfelt condolences and love to Charlene and all of the family. Jay was a quality man with a sweet and caring spirit, one of the good guys. RIP, Jay.
Steve Blackwell

Steve Blackwell - July 06, 2023 at 06:45 PM

CS

“ My husband and I will always have fond memories of meetings in Jay’s “neat and tidy” office! He was a pleasure to get to know and he truly made us feel like a real friendship had been formed. Knowing that he is out of pain and that he is with his Lord and Savior is a real comfort. Our deepest sympathies go to Charlotte, his family and their many friends.
Sincerely, Cathy and Jim Smiley

Cathy Smiley - July 06, 2023 at 02:49 PM

WM

Dear Charlene and family, I know you will be surprised to hear from me but I am still on this side. I am so sorry about Jays passing I saw it on Facebook this morning. There is a great reunion between Randy and Jay. I know your sadness. I pray for God to Bless you and hold you in his loving arms. Willie Miller (Randy's Mom.)

Willie Miller - July 10, 2023 at 02:16 PM



“ *Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of William "Jay" Willoughby.*



July 06, 2023 at 11:48 AM

JS

“ *I will always remember Jay as an integral part of making some of my projects a success at FSU. It was not easy in some cases but he always got what needed to be done in such a gracious way. I am so sad for his family but I will say his memory will always make me smile. Such a good guy Joanna Southerland*

Joanna Southerland - July 05, 2023 at 06:26 PM



“ *Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of William "Jay" Willoughby.*



July 05, 2023 at 12:43 PM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of William "Jay" Willoughby.



July 05, 2023 at 10:43 AM



“ I am deeply saddened yet also comforted in knowing that Jay is in heaven with his family and friends who have passed before him. Jay is one of the greatest guys I have ever known. His dedication to FSU and the community of students, staff, and faculty was unwavering. He was a mentor to many and a friend to many more. I will never forget Jay. I and others will need him to look over us as we continue his work at FSU.

Ken Johnson - July 05, 2023 at 10:30 AM



“ Jay had a special talent for touching the lives of everyone who knew him. Whether it was assisting people across FSU, providing wise guidance to friends, or simply listening with empathy, Jay was consistently there for others. His influence on those who worked with him, or those who had the privilege of knowing him, will remain visible for years to come.

Jonathan F - July 05, 2023 at 09:40 AM



“ Jay was so committed to the worship ministry of our church, never missing his responsibility to be faithful even during these past hard years with cancer. I will remember him as a committed Christian, loving to Charlene, and a caring father.

Brenda Beigle - July 04, 2023 at 04:07 PM