



Ms. Willa Jeanette McKennies

September 13, 1943 - November 29, 2022

Willa McKennies went home to be with the Lord on Tuesday November 29, 2022.

Willa McKennies was born in Fannin Mississippi on September 11, 1943, to Will and Willie (Thompson) Gaines. Willa leaves to cherish and is survived by her two loving daughters, Phyllis D. McKennies and Allison (Regina) Benton-Wallace. Two grandchildren Damorian D. Benton and Dominique D. Crowe and one "special son", Joe D. Spicer.

Willa was preceded in death by her siblings, Earleen (LV) Branch, Willie Joe (Dora) Gaines, Robert (Irene) Gaines, Charles Lee Gaines, Dorothy Lee Gaines, Milton (Luther) Gaines Sr., Vertisteen Thompson, Curtis Gaines, Sr., John Jim Earl) Gaines, Eddie Lee (Annie). Willa leaves a host of nieces and nephews, cousins, and a very special "granddaughter" Tareka (Cheriyout) Jones.

Most people will remember Willa as a loving daughter, loving sister, a loving and kind mother, loving aunt, and an amazing grandmother. But what is just as significant, was her zeal, passion, and desire to be of service to other's by serving the Lord. Willa touched many lives as a minister for Christ.

Willa committed her life to serving the Lord in 1980. In 1984 she was called to

ministry under the mentorship of Bishop James Bellamy at the Silver's Memorial United Holy Church of America where she obtained her missionary license. Later that year Willa joined an intercessory prayer group. In 1988 Willa began her prison ministry and became a Chaplin in Springfield, Ohio for the Clark County Jail. In addition, her outreach ministry also included praying for the infirmed, the sick and shut-in, and those that fell victim to substance and alcohol addiction. Willa also prepared food boxes for distribution to those in need and always was willing share what she had with others.

Whether it was a through a hot, home cooked meal or prayer over your life, each of us have a special memory of how she impacted each of our lives. Her kindness and generosity will be sorely missed and the void hard to fill because of her absence. May you rest in peace Willa, you are with your parents, and all your brothers and sister. Well done my faithful servant, well done.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

DEC 9. 11:00 AM (CT)

"Lovie" Dean Memorial Chapel
745 Hwy 468
Brandon, MS 39042

Tribute Wall



“ *Dean Memorial Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Ms. Willa Jeanette McKennies*



Dean Memorial Funeral Home - December 09, 2022 at 01:10 PM

RT

“ *She was a very sweet lady. Praying for the family.* 🙏



Reverend Leah Taylor-Spann - December 14, 2022 at 01:15 AM

BM

“ *Barbara Magee sent a virtual gift in memory of Willa McKennies*



Barbara Magee - December 08, 2022 at 07:54 PM

LW

“ *Lateadra Wallace lit a candle in memory of Willa McKennies*



Lateadra Wallace - December 07, 2022 at 05:20 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Ms. Willa Jeanette McKennies.*



December 07, 2022 at 11:29 AM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ms. Willa Jeanette McKennies.*



December 06, 2022 at 12:03 PM

AN

“ *Angeleta lit a candle in memory of Willa McKennies*



Angeleta - December 04, 2022 at 10:44 AM

EA

“ Eddie Ainsworth sent a virtual gift in memory of Willa McKennies



Eddie Ainsworth - December 03, 2022 at 08:25 PM

LW

“ Lisa Wallace lit a candle in memory of Willa McKennies



Lisa Wallace - December 01, 2022 at 09:08 PM

AN

“ Angeleta lit a candle in memory of Willa McKennies



Angeleta - December 01, 2022 at 08:36 PM