



## Willie Adams Paretti

April 25, 1949 - April 9, 2019

Willamena Adams Paretti passed away on Tuesday, April 9, 2019 in New Orleans, LA. She was born on April 25, 1949 in Pineville, LA to the late John Lloyd Adams and Victorine Cactus Brossette Adams.

Willie was the beloved wife of the late Craig Anthony Paretti, Sr. She was the loving mother of Craig A. Paretti, Jr. (Melissa) and Stacey P. Rase (Mike). Willie was the proud grandmother of Shelby, Hadley, Larry and Landry Rase, and C.J., Mary, and Trent Paretti. She was the sister of Sheila Adams Berry, the late John Lloyd Adams, Jr., and Reginald Trent Adams. Willie will be especially missed by her long-time partner, Don Petitpain.

Willie Paretti was a visionary and a humble servant who dedicated her life to serving the community through organizations making an impact in St. Tammany Parish. She served as the Chair of the Board of Trustees at Lakeview Regional Medical Center for 35 years, was on the Local Emergency Preparedness Commission Executive Committee, the STARC Advisory Board, the Children's Advocacy Center and Hope House Advisory Board. Additionally, she was an active board member of the St. Tammany Commission on Cultural Affairs, Causeway Police Charitable Foundation, Habitat for Humanity and the Southeastern Louisiana University Development Foundation.

Ms. Paretti was presented the St. Tammany West Chamber's 2013 Community Leadership Award for her selfless dedication to improving the quality of life in our community. Engaged in active service assisting both children and young adults, Ms. Paretti was instrumental in the creation of Hope House, the Children's Advocacy Center sanctuary for abused children, earning her the Hope House Children's' Advocacy Award; and HOYST (Homeless Outreach for Youth in St. Tammany), which provides shelter and transitional housing, as well as supportive services that lead to self-sufficiency and stable living conditions. Ms. Paretti was also bestowed with the Angel Among Us Award and the YMCA Hero Award. Sophisticated Women Magazine honored her for her philanthropic endeavors in 2012.

Ms. Paretti has served on a number of other local community boards, including the Northshore Community Foundation, the St. Tammany Chamber of Commerce, the St. Tammany Association for Retarded Citizens, the Alliance for Good Government Executive Committee, and the Maritime Museum, at which she also served as Chairman of the Madisonville Wooden Boat Festival.

A resident of St. Tammany Parish for 40 years, Ms. Paretti was a member of Christ Episcopal Church, and was a small business owner. She was a sustaining member of the Greater Covington Junior League and a Charter Officer of the Krewe of Eve. She proudly raised two children in St. Tammany Parish, affording her the opportunity to serve on school PTA Boards for nine years, coach soccer, and direct high school dance teams.

Relatives and friends are invited to the Funeral Service at Christ Episcopal Church, 120 S. New Hampshire St., Covington, LA 70433, Covington, LA 70433 on Monday, April 15, 2019 at 3:00 PM with visitation from 12:00 Noon until service time. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Northshore Community Foundation, 807 N. Columbia St. Covington, LA 70433. Interment will be held privately at Pinecrest Memorial Gardens, Covington, LA. Please Share a Memory on the Tribute Wall at [www.ejfieldingfh.com](http://www.ejfieldingfh.com).

# Cemetery

---

## **Pinecrest Memorial Gardens & Crematory**

2280 W 21st Ave  
Covington, LA, 70433

# Events

---

**APR Visitation 12:00PM - 03:00PM**

**15**

---

Christ Episcopal Church  
120 S. New Hampshire Street, Covington, LA,  
US, 70433

**APR Funeral Services 03:00PM**

**15**

---

Christ Episcopal Church  
120 S. New Hampshire Street, Covington, LA,  
US, 70433

# Comments

---

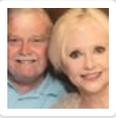


“ Jennifer Leiva lit a candle in memory of Willie Adams Paretti



Jennifer Leiva - April 18 at 09:38 PM

---

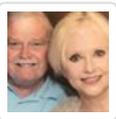


“ Gale Durham lit a candle in memory of Willie Adams Paretti



Gale Durham - April 17 at 11:02 AM

---



“ I first met Willie when we moved to the Mandeville area when I was 33 and Willie was 32. Mandeville was just starting to take off. At that time Mandeville only had a small, L shaped shopping center and a Mc Donalds. It was a tighter community back then and more people knew one another.

I met Willie at an elementary PTA meeting. I thought we immediately became "fast friends". Then, I realized that Willie was fast friends with everyone she met. She made everyone feel special with her charming, adorable and loving manner.

Everyone wanted to get to know Willie better, including me.

Our friendship did grow through volunteering at the school, as Stacey was 1 year older than Wendy, my oldest, and Craig and Christina, my middle daughter, were the same age. Willie's first and foremost responsibility was to her children. At the beginning of one elementary school year, I remember going to the principal's office to complain about the growing pains of the school and how it was affecting some of the students including Christina. Willie bounced into the office to join our conversation with the same complaints affecting Craig. We both were tigers for our children and the very next day, our concerns for Craig and Christina were taken care of. I admired Willie's firmness when it came to getting the best for her children.

Willie joined the ever growing Petroleum Wives Club, as an associate member, and joined the committee which involved the charity style show. This show was so much fun as we loved dressing to the nines in those days. Doing it for a worthy cause was

even better. We all loved working with Willie as her spirit was amazing! She loved all things charity!

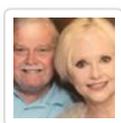
Then in highschool, Willie started a danceteam called the Starlettes. Wendy and Christina loved this team and Willie. This lady was great at everything she did! Willie was gracious, kind and an inspiration for her danceteam girls.

Willie asked me to help with the dancers performing at the Superbowl half time show. Willie and I were running over the Superdome field and I had Kimberly, my youngest (then 5), in tow. Some official looking man came over and asked, " what is this child doing on the field?". Willie said," leave my baby alone! She is here with me! " The man said," yes mam" and that was that! When Willie spoke, people listened! I chuckled.

Willie was an advocate, not just for her friend's children, but for all children.

My feelings were seldom hurt, but one day they were. I went to Willie's home for some comforting words. Willie and I talked for an hour and she offered food and her time for comfort. It worked and I left feeling great. Willie always had time for a friend. Willie loved St. Tammany Parish and contributed to it's growth with her organizational skills and participation. Somehow, she found the time to devote herself to her children and also do the needed volunteer work that only Willie could accomplish! I remarried and moved away but I kept up with Willie through Stacey's post and her's on Facebook. I remember thinking how tragic it was for their family when Craig, Willie's husband, left this world too soon. I had the same feeling reading about Willie's passing. I bet she is still looking for work to done in Heaven. Ha Knowing Willie, she wants Craig and Stacey to be as happy as possible, even with her leaving. That would be Willie. It was such a joy to have shared, even a little time, with this special friend. RIP Willie. We all love you.

**Gale Durham** - April 17 at 10:57 AM



“ When Willie and I met I was Gale " Susan" Burton

**Gale** - April 17 at 12:10 PM



“ Willie has been a fixture in the community as long as we can remember, always caring for her community. She will be missed. God Bless her and the family she leaves behind.

Al and Diane Kramer

**diane D Kramer** - April 16 at 08:41 AM



“ St. Tammany has lost another icon and my family and I have lost a very dear friend in the passing of Willie. Our thoughts and prayers are with Stacy and Craig, her grandchildren, and Don. Willie was a true friend, always wanting to help any good cause and she spent her life helping many, many causes. The word "No" was never in her vocabulary. She will be missed greatly by all of us who knew and loved her.

She was truly a very special lady!

Bill Dobson and Family

Bill Dobson and Family - April 15 at 01:20 PM

---



“ Here was a Willie! When comes such another? Willie was one of a kind. How could God fill one person with such strength, dignity, toughness, generosity, joy of life, grace, and love? I'll cherish happy memories of Willie, and I challenge us all to live up to the example she set – work hard, give to others, and love life! To Don and her entire family, I offer my heartfelt condolences and my prayers.  
Jacques Guillot

Jacques Guillot MD - April 14 at 09:27 PM

---



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Willie Adams Paretti.



April 14 at 06:27 PM

---



“ Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Willie Adams Paretti.



April 14 at 06:26 PM

---



“ Willie was a lovely lady. She never knew a stranger, and treated everyone she knew as a much missed friend whenever you saw her. She respected those she worked with, and that respect translated into a genuine courtesy and kindness. She will be missed by all who knew her. God Bless and comfort her family.  
Sincerely,  
Edward L Cain  
Commercial Painting Company, retired



“ Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Willie Adams Paretti.



April 13 at 08:12 PM

---



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Willie Adams Paretti.



April 12 at 03:06 PM

---



“ Love, Ted & Michelle Pender purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Willie Adams Paretti.



Love, Ted & Michelle Pender - April 12 at 02:17 PM

---



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Willie Adams Paretti.



April 12 at 01:17 PM



“ As a founding member of the Children's Advocacy Center I can attest to the selflessness and dedication by Willie to the CAC. She was not only an active president, more importantly she was a wonderful human being filled with love for all. She was clearly 1 in a million. We will all miss her as she embarks on a journey. Curt keay

**Curt Keay** - April 12 at 10:35 AM

---



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Willie Adams Paretti.



April 12 at 10:04 AM

---



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Willie Adams Paretti.



April 11 at 06:57 PM

---



“ Guiding Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of Willie Adams Paretti.



April 11 at 04:39 PM

---



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Willie Adams Paretti.



April 11 at 03:01 PM

---



“ John Simon & staff of GulfSouth Hospital Medicine purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Willie Adams Paretti.



John Simon & staff of GulfSouth Hospital Medicine - April 11 at 02:33 PM

---



“ MY BEAUTIFUL PRECIOUS FOREVER FRIEND... MY FRIENDSHIP W YOU WILL BE CHERISHED FOREVER..YOU'VE LEFT US WAY TOO SOON BUT YOU WILL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN.. YOU WERE LOVED BY SO MANY N TOUCHED SO MANY HEARTS N LIVES... YOUR MEMORY WILL LIVE ON FOREVER.. R.I.P. MY BEAUTIFUL FRIEND .. YOUR NOW A BEAUTIFUL ANGEL ..FLY FREE OF PAIN N IN THE ARMS OF YOUR FOREVER SWEETHEART... “ YOU PRECIOUS CRAIG “...I LOVE YOU ALWAYS N FOREVER n I'LL SEE YOU ON THE OTHER SIDE WHEN OUR GOD IS READY... I LOVE YOU ... n I'll MISS YOU ...Sue.

Sue IMBRAGUGLIO - April 10 at 10:14 PM

---



“ I was in her wedding and she was in mine..wearing a cast on her leg from a skiing accident ...but that didn't let it stop her. We both married guys named Craig!! We were best friends in junior high school! I was one year younger but hung out with all of her friends and she watched over me like a mother hen! I am the only person that she would let cut her hair! That is so funny because I had never cut anybody's hair before I cut hers but she insisted that I was the only one that she would let touch her hair! LOL. I just had a long conversation with her there weeks ago. I needed advice on where to have a baby shower! We laughed. And caught up on Family news. She Insisted we go to lunch the next week and promised to get back to me with a date. Never heard back and last week started to call her but got sidetracked. Found out she was in the hospital. I love you my dear friend, Willie Paretti and know you are

with Jesus and your beloved Craig. I am sure you are walking the streets of Gold Organizing everything and everybody, and keeping them all in step!! My deepest Sympathies to Stacey Paretti Rase and Craig , Love you both!! Always, "Aunt" Chiqui

**Chiqui Collier** - April 10 at 09:42 PM



“ Don, my thoughts and prayers are with you also. You are a very special gentleman and was such a wonderful companion and loving caretaker throughout these last years. As her friend, I am so grateful for all the love and kindness you gave to Willie and to all her friends and family. I pray that our Almighty and Merciful God will wrap you in HIS arms and give you peace at this hour of sorrow. I will always remember how you were so kind, gracious and friendly towards me whenever you saw me. May God Richly Bless You! Chiqui Collier

**Chiqui** - April 10 at 09:51 PM

---



“ Jonathan & Alisha Kennedy lit a candle in memory of Willie Adams Paretti



**Jonathan & Alisha Kennedy** - April 10 at 09:25 PM

---



“ St. Tammany Parish is a better place to live thanks to Willie! Your endless hours as a community servant have inspired many emerging leaders. My heart goes out to your family but we know you have been reunited in heaven with your husband and family who have welcomed you with loving arms.

**Andrea Bernard** - April 10 at 07:04 PM

---



“ Donna Jenkins lit a candle in memory of Willie Adams Paretti



**Donna Jenkins** - April 10 at 06:59 PM



“ I will miss Willie dearly. She welcomed me some 20 years ago and when she was your friend, you knew it. I will miss her love, friendship and community leadership. I was blessed to have her in my life.

**Patti Elish** - April 10 at 06:46 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Willie Adams Paretti.



April 10 at 06:13 PM



“ I will always be grateful to Willie for starting Starlettes dance team and giving my daughter such wonderful memories and lifelong friends. My deepest sympathy to Stacy and Craig. Your mother was a wonderful woman who truly blessed the lives of those who knew her.  
Joy Matkowski

**Joy Matkoski** - April 10 at 06:00 PM



“ What did you get from Willie Paretti when she was around you? Her smile, her wise cracks, her personal interest and, above all, her efforts to make everything better! We will miss her! With affection, Shay Lorenz

**Sharon Lorenz** - April 10 at 05:28 PM



“ Willie was one of a kind - and always a mother, first. I'm honored to have called her my friend.

**Elizabeth Williams** - April 10 at 04:56 PM



“ We laughed, cried and had the best time of our lives. My acquaintance with Wilma is her ex aunt. Willie used to spend summers with us and we would go to False River, skii and have great times together. Sheyla, I am so sorry for your loss of not only Wilma, but Reggie, John Lloyd,sr and Vickie. I still love you and think of you often. To Wilma's

children, grandchildren, and friends, I am so sorry for your loss. May God comfort you all at this time.

**Rosemary Adams Ward** - April 11 at 06:55 PM