



Joy Knox Willis

JULY 4, 1962 - JUNE 4, 2026



Just For Today

Oh, God, give me grace for this day.
not for a life, nor for next week,
nor for tomorrow, just for this day.
Direct my thoughts and bless them.

Direct my work and bless it.

Direct the things I say
and give them blessing, too.

Direct and bless everything
that I think and speak and do,
so that for this one day,
just this one day,

I have the gift of grace
that comes from your presence.

Oh God, for this day, just this one day,
let me live generously, kindly,
in a state of grace and goodness
that denies my many imperfections
and makes me more like You.

Joy Knox Willis, 63, of Beaufort, North Carolina, passed away at her home on Thursday, June 4, 2026.

Joy was born on July 4, 1962, in Corpus Christi, Texas, to the late Marvin Paul Knox and Nancy Irene Whitehurst Knox. She graduated from East Carteret High School, where she proudly served as a majorette in the band and remained a devoted supporter of her fellow band alumni throughout her life. Deeply rooted in her Beaufort community, Joy loved participating in local parades and proudly represented the town she cherished.

Joy was truly one of a kind. With her dry sense of humor and quick wit, she could make those around her laugh with ease. Her vibrant personality, infectious smile, and fun-loving spirit made her the life of the party wherever she went. If you knew Joy, you knew that purple was her favorite color. So much so that she proudly painted her front porch purple. She had a deep appreciation for flowers, possessing an impressive knowledge of countless varieties.

Joy loved music and enjoyed singing karaoke, dancing, and sharing fun times with friends and family. Joy also had a special compassion for animals and treasured the time she spent walking and caring for her beloved dogs. Joy loved to travel, explore new places, and meet new people. In recent years, she especially enjoyed her adventures and time spent with her dear friend, Don.

More than anything, Joy was a gentle, loving, and unique soul with a kind heart and a remarkable ability to see the good in everyone she met. Her compassion knew no bounds, and the love she freely gave to others was one of her most cherished qualities. Whether helping an elderly neighbor, offering a listening ear, or lending a hand to someone in need, Joy always put others before herself. Her warmth and generosity touched countless lives and left a lasting impression on all who knew her.

Joy was a member of Ann Street United Methodist Church and also attended St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Above all else, she cherished her family. She was a faithful and loving caregiver to her father during his final days, a role she embraced with unwavering dedication and love.

Above all else, Joy cherished her family. Nothing brought her greater happiness than being a grandmother. Her grandchildren were the light of her life, and she treasured every moment spent with them.

Those remaining to cherish her memory are her sons, Jeremy Turnage and wife Ellen of Newport, NC and Adam Willis and wife Christian of Beaufort, NC; stepdaughter, Toni Marie Willis; grandchildren, Alex Grayson Turnage and Ellie Grace Willis; step-grandchildren, Jordan, Junuh, and Alyssa; and beloved friend, Don Dudley.

In addition to her parents, Joy was preceded in death by her husband, Daniel "Danny" Allen Willis and brother, Tommy Knox.

As an expression of sympathy, memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Pl., Memphis, TN 38105 or to the East Carteret Marching Band, 3263 Hwy. 70 East, Beaufort, NC 28516.

ARRANGEMENTS BY MUNDEN FUNERAL HOME, MOREHEAD CITY, NC

Joy Knox Willis

July 4, 1962 – June 4, 2026



Celebration of Life Service

12 p.m., Wednesday, June 10, 2026
Munden Funeral Home, Morehead City, NC

Order of Service

The Gift and Wonder of Joy Knox Willis: A Video Montage

Opening Anthem

All that the Father gives me will come to me
and the one who comes to me I will not cast out
He who raised up Jesus from the dead
will also give life to our mortal bodies,
by his Spirit that dwells within us
Therefore my heart is glad, and my spirit rejoices
my flesh also shall rest in hope.
You will show me the path of life;
And in your presence is the fullness of joy,
and at your right hand there is pleasure for evermore.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, whose mercies cannot be numbered: Accept our prayers on behalf of your daughter Joy and grant her an entrance into the land of light and joy, in the fellowship of your saints; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

Psalm 90

Just for Today

Anonymous

Gospel Reading

John 14:1-6

Amazing Grace

New Britain

Reflections

Don Dudley

Share Your Moments of Joy

You are invited to use the notecard which will be provided to offer a memory of Joy. You may share what she meant to you or offer a word about how her presence made a difference in your life or maybe what you hope for her in heaven. Speak from the heart just as she did without reservation! They will be collected and form a book for her family.

The Lord's Prayer

Said in unison

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Prayers

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. **Amen.**

Almighty God, Father of mercies and giver of all comfort: Deal graciously, we pray with all those who mourn for Joy, remembering especially her sons Adam and Jeremy and their families, that casting every care on you, they may know the consolation of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Blessing

Beloved by the grace of God you were brought into this world. By the love of God you have been sustained until this very moment and by the power of the Holy Spirit you are being redeemed day by day until eternity. And the blessing of God Almighty the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be upon you and sustain you now and always.

How Great Thou Art

Traditional Folk Tune

Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Participants

Celebrant
Pianist
Soloist

The Rev. Tambria E. Lee
Mary Withington
Ryan Baysden

Amazing Grace

- 1 Amazing grace! how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found, was blind but now I see.
- 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!
- 3 The Lord has promised good to me, his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.
- 4 Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come;
'tis grace that brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
- 5 When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

Amazing grace! how sweet the sound, #671 from The Hymnal 1982 — Words: John Newton (1725-1807), alt.; st. 5, from A Collection of Sacred Ballads, 1790; compiled by Richard Broadus and Andrew Broadus. Music: New Britain, from Virginia Harmony 1831; adapt. att. Edwin Othello Excell (1851-1921); harm. Austin Cole Lovelace (b. 1919). Harmonization Copyright © 1974 by Abingdon Press.

How Great Thou Art

- 1 O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds thy hands have made,
I see the stars I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed.
*Refrain: Then sings my soul, my Savior, God, to Thee;
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!*
- 2 When through the woods and forest glades I wander
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze.
Refrain
- 3 And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
Send him to die, I scarce can take it in,
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin.
Refrain
- 4 When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,
And there proclaim, my God how great thou art.
Refrain

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*Her light
lives on in
every heart
she touched.*



Forever in our hearts



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