



Willie "Mr. Willie" Rowls Jr.

February 17, 1941 - February 6, 2025

ROWLS, JR., Mr. Willie "Mr. Willie" - age 83, passed away Thursday, February 6, 2025 in Pontiac, Michigan. Family hour 10:00AM Saturday, February 15, 2025 from the Chapel of Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home, 268 North Perry Street, with funeral commencing immediately at 11:00AM. Pastor David Thompson, officiating. Interment Perry Mount Park Cemetery, 878 North Perry Street. Friends and pallbearers will assemble 10:00AM at the funeral home Saturday. Mr. Rowls will lie in state in the Chapel of Lawrence E. Moon Funeral between the hours of 12:00PM - 4:00PM Friday. There will be no public viewing.

Mr. Rowls leaves to cherish his memory: fiancée, Betty Wright; his children, Darryl (Kim) Rowls, Willie Rowls, III and Sonya (David) Sawyer; grandchildren; Darryl Rowls, Jr., Asia Rowls, Vartrel Rowls, and Tyler Sawyer; sister, Carnella Taylor; and a host of other relatives and friends.

Mr. Rowls was preceded in death by his parents, Willie Rowls, Sr. and Lillie Jamison; and 11 siblings.

Cemetery Details

Perry Mount Park Cemetery

878 N. Perry St.
Pontiac, MI

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **14**. 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home Pontiac
268 North Perry Street
Pontiac, MI 48342
(248) 758-1913
lemoonfhpontiac@gmail.com
<https://www.lawrenceemoonfuneralhomepontiac.com>

Family Hour

FEB **15**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

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Funeral Service

FEB **15**. 11:00 AM (ET)

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Tribute Wall



“ *Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Willie "Mr. Willie" Rowls Jr.*



Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home - February 15, 2025 at 10:41 AM

HM

Our hero and Community, colleagues have completed history on earth, thank God' for allowing our paths to cross. We can meet him sitting on the right side of our father JN heaven. Lease joy, no more suffering. Thank you God!!

H. Bjll Maxey - February 27, 2025 at 05:10 PM

GP

“ *God bless you Mr. Willie, as you will always be in the hearts and minds of all those you touched throughout your wonderful life. Although you have gone to be with our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ, your legacy will live on for generations.*



Gus Pantelides - August 28, 2025 at 11:25 AM

LS

“ Latonya Seay lit a candle in memory of Willie "Mr. Willie" Rowls Jr.



Latonya Seay - March 05, 2025 at 03:54 PM

YB

“ To The Rowls Family my continued Prayers for Comfort, Peace and Strength during this challenging journey GOD BLESS 🙏❤️💪



Yalonda Burnett - February 16, 2025 at 05:01 PM

PB

“ Pauline Baylor lit a candle in memory of Willie "Mr. Willie" Rowls Jr.



Pauline Baylor - February 15, 2025 at 01:45 PM

PR

“ Pauline Baylor Rasheed lit a candle in memory of Willie "Mr. Willie" Rowls Jr.



Pauline Baylor Rasheed - February 15, 2025 at 01:43 PM

KS

“ Kenneth Seay, Sr lit a candle in memory of Willie "Mr. Willie" Rowls Jr.



Kenneth Seay, Sr - February 15, 2025 at 10:04 AM

KH

“ Rest in heaven big Willie. Man not to long ago we in the shop chopping it up and teasing Rick Mahorn who came in playing games and we both told him chill out cause your back won't hold up and we were dying laughing. Never thought it be my last time seeing you. Rest well my friend

Kevin Henderson - February 15, 2025 at 09:06 AM

PS

“ What a fine gentleman and gentle man!!. Friend and barber to the Smith family, Oscar, Evan and Paula. We celebrate the life of this wonderful man!!

Paula L Smith - February 15, 2025 at 08:37 AM

ES

“ EVAN SMITH lit a candle in memory of Willie "Mr. Willie" Rowls Jr.



EVAN SMITH - February 15, 2025 at 08:12 AM

PS

“ Paula L Smith lit a candle in memory of Willie "Mr. Willie" Rowls Jr.



Paula L Smith - February 15, 2025 at 08:11 AM

RS

“ To the Rawls Family, so very sorry for ur loss. My Dad made sure he got to ur shop every two weeks for his hair cut. He said nobody else could cut his hair right but Willie's barbershop. Continue to RIP.



Rev. Tony & Sylvia Simpson - February 14, 2025 at 09:16 AM

KL

“ Rip Uncle Willie Give my granny your Sister Ruthie Mae a Kiss and hug for me



Klevetra Bell Lumpkin - February 13, 2025 at 11:41 PM

EW

“ Earlene Wilson lit a candle in memory of Willie "Mr. Willie" Rowls Jr.



Earlene Wilson - February 13, 2025 at 06:16 PM

GF

“ Uncle Willie, YOU will be truly missed.
Awesome, Righteous Man of God He was.
Very Humbled and Laid Back. Always
Pleasant and had the Biggest Smile.
De'Marcus, Regina & Montrell



Glasper & Lanehart Family - February 13, 2025 at 12:24 PM

TT

“ Darryl, Kim, and family, I am so sorry for your
loss. In this difficult time, may peace and love
surround you. Tammy Thomas



Tammy Thomas - February 13, 2025 at 12:19 PM

TC

“ Tamica Clark lit a candle in memory of Willie
"Mr. Willie" Rowls Jr.



Tamica Clark - February 12, 2025 at 07:18 PM

LT

“ Lula Trice lit a candle in memory of Willie "Mr.
Willie" Rowls Jr.



Lula Trice - February 12, 2025 at 02:54 PM

AJ

“ *Alesia James lit a candle in memory of Willie "Mr. Willie" Rowls Jr.*



Alesia James - February 12, 2025 at 02:32 PM

VW

“ *Mr. Willie Rowls Jr. The Phenomenal, Remarkable, Extremely Extraordinary, Incredible, Just Impossible To Replace, To Believe!, That's The Kind Of Man Mr Willie Was! (It Will Take A Whole Life Time To Do So) Mr. Willie Was Kinder Spirited Gentlemen!, Mr. Rowls Displayed Raising Kings And Queens In The Young People He Often Mentor!., No Village Was Left Out Or Behind!, Mr. Willie Touch The Continuous Community Near And Far Faithfully!, Mr. Willie Have A Big Place To Fill In Community!, I'm Going To Mr. Willie Phenomenal Present!, How As A Youngsters My Son Was Mentor While Receiving A Hair Cut Before Being Placed In The Care Of (Darnell Jones, Dion Johnson, David Thompson, Of Course China Bradley!., The Village!, Mr. Willie Your Present Will Truly Missed But Never, I Mean Never Forgotten!, Rest On Mr. Willie, Rest Easy In Our Heavenly Father Arms And Continuous Care!, I'll See You On The Other Side! Much Love Veola Wright Your Earthly Spiritual Friend!!*



Veola Wright - February 12, 2025 at 01:04 PM

EW

*Mr. Willie Jr.
You will be miss.
Earlene, Mike (MJ), and Shonda.*

Earlene Wilson - February 13, 2025 at 06:14 PM

AH

“ RIP.....



Adele Hopkins - February 12, 2025 at 12:51 PM

RW

“ Robin White lit a candle in memory of Willie
"Mr. Willie" Rowls Jr.



Robin White - February 12, 2025 at 09:11 AM

CJ

“ Thank you Lord for giving me the opportunity to have met Willie.
You will be missed.

Connie Joyner - February 12, 2025 at 08:53 AM

BT

“ My condolences to my family. Sorry for your loss. Know that Gods
got your back. Keep the faith. Praying for the family.

Bobbie Turner - February 11, 2025 at 09:17 PM

BT

“ *Bobbie Turner lit a candle in memory of Willie "Mr. Willie" Rowls Jr.*



Bobbie Turner - February 11, 2025 at 09:13 PM

JC

“ *Mr. Willie Rawls Mr. Willie touched so many lives a true professional. you felt like a celebrity. every time every time, three generations of business expert at his craft, big smile, funny and serious about life and business learned a lot about some of everything special to so many people my guy. My deepest condolences to his family and friends. Blood and family live candle.*



James Clark - February 11, 2025 at 02:13 PM

MS

“ *Willie is the last of the good guys I have known since the 60's. Always fun to be around; always respectful; always a gentleman. I remember him planting trees; and having the best lawn on Tasmania. He took pride in his home and his business. Some of the best conversations I had in life was with him. Condolences to his family, friends, customers and colleagues.. He will definitely be missed. Ms. Alma Shelton*

Ms. Alma Shelton - February 11, 2025 at 02:12 PM

PL

My prayers and sympathies to the Goals Family

Pastor Jerry Love - February 13, 2025 at 09:44 PM

PA

“ Patricia Anderson lit a candle in memory of Willie "Mr. Willie" Rowls Jr.



PPatricia Anderson - February 11, 2025 at 11:26 AM

PA

R.I.P my friend.

PPatricia Anderson - February 11, 2025 at 11:27 AM

HB

“ Helen Butler sent a virtual gift in memory of Willie "Mr. Willie" Rowls Jr.



Helen Butler - February 11, 2025 at 10:39 AM

JW

“ Darryl I continue to pray for you and your family. You were blessed with a great father and you represent him well! God bless you and God bless his soul 🙏❤️

Janice Welch-Rhodes - February 11, 2025 at 06:09 AM

GS

“ Condolences to the Rowls family.

Gladys M Smith - February 10, 2025 at 05:25 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Willie "Mr. Willie" Rowls Jr..*



February 10, 2025 at 02:47 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Willie "Mr. Willie" Rowls Jr..

February 10, 2025 at 02:47 PM



“ *Willie Jr. may your soul be a peace. Good ma and person. The best barber in the world. He was best using that straight razor. My son Bernard called him "Daddy" and that who just make him laugh. I love you, Willie Jr!
Condolences and prayers for your family and many friends.*

*Sue (Susie) Williams
Montgomery, AL*

Janie S Williams Williams - February 10, 2025 at 12:54 PM

TD

“ A Tribute to Mr. Willie Rowls Jr.

There are men who cut hair, and then there are barbers—real barbers—who build something greater than a business. They build a legacy. Willie "Mr. Willie" Rowls Jr. was that kind of man. He was more than a barber; he was a pillar, a mentor, I knew him as a storyteller, and a guardian of tradition. His shop at 545 E Pike St. wasn't just a place for a fresh cut—it was a place where people gathered, where wisdom was shared, and where the next generation learned the value of hard work, respect, and pride.

Mr. Willie had a way of making everyone feel welcome. He opened his doors to me, allowing me to share knowledge on Black History, Privacy, and Security, Know Your Rights, and even giving me the space to play Jazz Guitar. Despite the size of the barber shop, my brother and I once performed a full guitar jazz performance there for customers. That speaks volumes about the kind of man Mr. Willie was—one who believed in the power of education, the importance of history, and the healing power of music. He understood that a barber shop is more than a service; it's a sanctuary for the community.

His laughter, his presence, and his commitment to the people of Pontiac will be missed, but his impact will never fade. The memories made in that shop, the lessons taught in that chair, and the bonds formed in that space will carry on.

Rest well, Mr. Willie. You were and remains a legend in every sense of the word.

My deepest condolences to his family and friends.

Warm Regards,

Dr. Terrance E. Dillard

Terrance Dillard - February 10, 2025 at 09:26 AM

GP

Very well stated Dr. Dillard. Mr. Willie Rowls Jr. was indeed an amazing gentleman. His barber shop is where I spent almost 30 years as a child and adult, as the location at 545 E. Pike Street, was my father's grocery store (Paul's Market) from 1934 until 1967. I grew up working in the store and living in the apartment above with our family. The building had a lot of love in it and what a blessing it was, that a man like Mr. Willie would continue that love. Every summer, I would make it a point to stop by the barber shop, visit with Mr. Willie and reminisce about the good old days. I was heartbroken to hear of his passing and still think of him daily. Although he is now with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, his legacy will live on for generations. Gus Pantelides, Clearwater Beach, FL

Gus Pantelides - August 28, 2025 at 11:19 AM

DJ

“*My deepest & sincere condolences to the entire family! Words can not express what 'ALL' that Mr. Willie meant to me!! As may people know.. From the classrooms to the boardrooms, from the basketball courts to the football fields, from churches to the courtrooms, and beyond.. Mr. Willie is a Legend, an Icon, and is now sitting in God's HOF!! Peaceful Journey, job well done Mr. Wille!! You'll be Greatly missed!!*



Dion A. Johnson - February 10, 2025 at 07:29 AM

JC

Mr Willie Rowls touched so many life's! A true professional you felt like a celebrity with the service you got every time. Three generations of business .Expert at his craft, big smile , funny and serious about life and business learned a lot about some of everything special to so many people my Guy ☐☐🙏❤️ Blood and Family.

James Clark - February 11, 2025 at 01:24 PM

GP

Dear Lawrence Moon Funeral Home Director,

This is my third attempt writing a memory upon the passing of my great friend and master barber Mr. Willie Rowls, Jr. whose funeral was held at your facility on February 15, 2025. It was a wonderful service.

Unfortunately, this is my third attempt to have my memory of Mr. Rowls posted on your website. This will be my third and final time and I'm hopeful that this time it will be posted. I have not been advised I did anything wrong on the first two memories I submitted. If you are able to accept this request, please post what follows on your website.

I honor you, Mr. Willie Rowls, Jr., for being a great friend and my master barber for over 35 years. I miss you already. Rest in peace my good brother and I pray we meet again in Heaven one day. Love and respect you very much!!

Your friend,

Gordon F. May, PhD

Gordon F. May, PhD - February 28, 2025 at 03:20 PM

KA

“ *To Darryl Rowls Sr. and Family, we send our condolences and prayers to you and your family. May God send you all peace and comfort during this difficult time and, the days ahead.*



Pastor Terry and Karel Adams-Grand Rapids, MI.

Karel Adams - February 09, 2025 at 05:59 PM

BR

“ Beverly Rollins lit a candle in memory of Willie "Mr. Willie" Rowls Jr.



Beverly Rollins - February 09, 2025 at 05:41 PM

GM

“ Genella McCurn lit a candle in memory of Willie "Mr. Willie" Rowls Jr.



Genella McCurn - February 09, 2025 at 05:33 PM

LC

“ May God bless the family and the many friends of Willie Rowls, Jr. Willie has cut my hair ever since he's been in the city of Pontiac from Franklin Road to his home basement to his new shop. The last couple of years I have not lived in Pontiac much and I missed him. From this point on I guess I will still miss him, and all the wisdom I picked up from him. I knew him to be a devoted and kind person. May God bless all him and all that knew and loved him.
L.C. (Sonny) Chatmon

L C Chatmon - February 09, 2025 at 02:03 PM

DH

“ Mr. Wille was a kind man, he always had something nice to say to me whenever I came into his shop. I remember when he used to come to Trinity Missionary Baptist church Pontiac, man he sure could dress from head to toe. He sister May was my sister's mother In law. That was the fund relationship we had. I will miss him and his factuous smile. The Rawls family is in my thoughts and prayers ❤️🙏
Doris Hatchett & Family

Doris Hatchett - February 09, 2025 at 01:56 PM

EJ

“ So sorry to hear of Mr. Willie's passing. Although as a child growing up, my son, Darnell was a long time customer. Mr. Willie was instrumental in giving Darnell a job at his shop when he returned to Michigan. I was truly grateful to him for being a mentor to many of the young barbers. Sending my deepest heartfelt sympathy to the family.

Eunice Jones - February 09, 2025 at 08:23 AM



“ Mr Willie .. gave me a hug every time I walked into the barbershop.. him and my father were friends.. he will be missed Rip



Le Le Douglas - February 09, 2025 at 01:55 AM

GP

“ *Gloria Proby lit a candle in memory of Willie "Mr. Willie" Rowls Jr.*



Gloria Proby - February 08, 2025 at 11:30 PM

BR

“ *Beverly Rogers lit a candle in memory of Willie "Mr. Willie" Rowls Jr.*



Beverly Rogers - February 08, 2025 at 10:15 PM

SM

“ *Love and Prayers for family. Hold on to God's hand for strength.*

Anthony Cooper & Shirley Mason-Cooper



Shirley Mason-Cooper - February 08, 2025 at 08:53 PM

DL

“ *Helen " Barrett" Lee
I'll always cherish my memories of you. My love
and prayers are with the family.*



Deliza Lee - February 08, 2025 at 08:35 PM

OS

“ Odis And Rhonda Sumler sent a virtual gift in memory of Willie "Mr. Willie" Rowls Jr.



Odis and Rhonda Sumler - February 08, 2025 at 06:27 PM

RH

“ Thanks for the haircuts and sharing a lot of great stories and laughter, the mailman Rodney Harper, my prayers and condolences to the family 🙏🙏🙏

Rodney Harper - February 08, 2025 at 05:25 PM

KC

“ Sending my condolences to the Rowls family



Kara Carter - February 08, 2025 at 04:07 PM

ES

May God bless you and your family 💖🙏🙏🙏!

Edward Stevens - February 09, 2025 at 10:20 AM

WP

Willie , you will be truly missed and never forgotten. You always greeted me with a hug and a smile. My sincere prayers for the family . Your job has been done. And a good job well done. Wanda Platt

Wanda Platt - February 14, 2025 at 11:11 AM

PM

I am deeply saddened by the loss of such a wonderful person. Willie was not only an incredible barber but a true friend to so many of us. His talent, kindness, and class were always evident, and his presence will be sorely missed. I feel honored to have known him and to have shared moments of laughter and camaraderie at his Barber Shop.

Please know that my thoughts and prayers are with the family during this incredibly difficult time. Willie leaves behind a legacy of warmth and excellence that will not be forgotten.

*With deepest sympathy,
Paul D McQuirter*

Paul McQuirter - February 15, 2025 at 07:44 AM

GP

Mr. Willie Rowls was a true gentleman and both he and I shared many good times and laughs together over the years. His barber shop was formerly my father's grocery store for 35 years and also where I grew up and our family lived in the apartment upstairs. Every summer when I came back to visit family and friends,

Willie's Barber Shop was my first stop! Not a summer went by that I would miss our get-together, sharing stories and reminiscing about the good old days. He also happily allowed me to take my wife and children to the apartment upstairs, so they could see how I grew up in the 40's, 50's & 60's. Willie will be missed not only by me, but also by his family & loved ones, plus his hundreds of friends. However, his legacy will live on for eternity. "May His Memory Be Forever Eternal"
Gus Pantelides, Clearwater Beach, FL

Gus Pantelides - March 14, 2025 at 02:04 PM