



# Willard Lee Armstrong

JUN 17, 1959 - OCT 11, 2024



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# Willard Lee Armstrong

JUN 17, 1959 - OCT 11, 2024

**W**illard Lee Armstrong, age 65, of Moravia, passed away Friday, October 11, 2024 at his home surrounded by his wife, children, and 2 loving grandchildren. Willard was born on June 17, 1959 in Centerville, Iowa, the son of John Henry Armstrong and Anna Laura (Couchman) Armstrong.

After graduating from high school, he joined the United States Navy, he continued his education in college for a period of time after he served his country faithfully and was honorably discharged on August 10th, 1977. On July 27th, 1990, he was united in marriage to Barbara (Chapman) Armstrong.

Willard worked for several years in the Moravia community. He drove school bus for Centerville schools, which led him to be the Transportation Director in Moravia schools until retirement. Moreover, he was with the Mystic Fire Department as a Firefighter 1, for 10 years starting in 1992, before beginning at Centerville Department for Firefighter 2 in 2002.

He began later on as a 1st responder and an E.M.T. with the Moravia Fire and Rescue, and ended his career with over 30 years as a firefighter and was Assistant Fire Chief for his last remaining years. In his free time, he enjoyed fishing with his family, working on new projects, and taking his family on camping trips.

He enjoyed spending time with his granddaughters and kids. Holidays were always made special and spent with close family. His favorite dish to make was corn casserole. If he wasn't home, you could find him close to the fire station, or doing an activity with his kids outside the house.

He enjoyed picking on his kids, nieces, nephews, and grandkids to make them smile and laugh. He enjoyed his new york vanilla ice cream, and loved even more to share it with his youngest granddaughter when she came to visit. He would rock his kids to sleep in his recliner, for as long as they wanted, no matter their age.



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He was always there whenever possible, whether it was a school program, a music activity, reading nights, etc. Popcorn, MandMs, and a coke were his go to movie night snacks with his daughter Cadance. He also would never admit it, but he secretly enjoyed the marvel movies, even if he was always found snoring in the theaters at the end of it.

He enjoyed playing Bingo when there were jamborees, festivals, or at Old Settlers in Corydon. He would always dress up for halloween, his favorite being his Doctor costume from when his youngest Ben was born, he thought it was pretty clever.

Early school mornings when it was only his daughter, he would get her up to go to school to change stop signs, get the buses turned on and running, and go "deer hunting" which consisted of driving the morning roads looking for deer to spot in the ditches or fields. Later on, it became mornings of watching the news and crossing our fingers for an ice or snow day because that delay meant all the family got to get up and have breakfast together.

His sons would dogpile him in their underwear until they were all out of energy, whether it lasted 30 minutes or hours, his wife and daughter never thought it fair, but Willard always won. He had a good soul, and had a big heart for his family. He was a great husband, dad, papa, and brother.

Left to honor Willard's memory are his wife, Barb Armstrong; his sisters, Mary Taylor and Wanda Armstrong; his children, Cadance Armstrong (Jonathan Kamerick), Parker Armstrong, Thomas Armstrong, Daniel Armstrong, and Ben Armstrong; three granddaughters, Jessica Snow, Aurora Comegys, and the youngest, Susan Swenson; as well as several extended family members, including step-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

Willard was preceded in death by his parents, John and Anna Armstrong; and his siblings, Pat, Phyllis, Maxine, and Johnny. Visitation will take place Thursday, October 17, 2024 at Thomas Funeral Home in Centerville with the family greeting friends from 5-7PM.

Funeral services for Willard will be held at 11AM, Friday, October 18, 2024 at Thomas Funeral Home in Centerville with Stuart Vander Vegle officiating. Cremation will follow the service, and a private family burial will take place at a later date. Memorials may be made to the Armstrong Family, to be determined at a later date, and may be mailed to Thomas Funeral Home, ATTN: Armstrong Family, 501 North 18th Street, Centerville, Iowa 52544.



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Condolences may be shared online at [www.thomasfh.com](http://www.thomasfh.com) or  
[www.facebook.com/thomasfuneralhome](https://www.facebook.com/thomasfuneralhome)



# Tribute Wall

**Willard Lee Armstrong**

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**Thomas** lit a candle in honor of Willard.

Willard was my Dad. He loved everyone so very much. I love him and miss him every day. He was the best dad and I couldn't ask for a better one. He was a great dad and friend. I love you and miss you so much.

November 19 at 9:13 AM



**Thomas Funeral Home** posted:

October 21 at 6:24 PM



**Thomas Funeral Home** shared an album called **Obituary Wall**.

October 13 at 5:38 PM



**Daniel Armstrong** posted:

We miss you so much from wife to sons & daughter.

January 15 at 7:00 PM



**Kayla Young Montgomery** posted:

RIP Willard. Prayers for his family and friends.

October 18 at 7:00 PM



**Tyler Shipman** lit a candle in honor of Willard.

Everytime that I was at my aunt pat and Mary's house I would get to see aunt barb and Uncle Willard for lunch and it was get to see him every time that I was there I will miss you and love you so much uncle Willard

October 16 at 7:00 PM





## Tribute Wall

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KA

**Kathy Allen** posted:

I somehow knew him when I did Girl Scouts many years ago. I always enjoyed visiting with him.  
Prayers for the family

October 16 at 7:00 PM

SK

**Sheila Kirby** posted:

Sending prayers of comfort.

October 16 at 7:00 PM

ST

**Sara Tait** lit a candle in honor of Willard.



October 15 at 7:00 PM

AP

**Abby Jeremiah Pross** posted:

Prayers go out for his family and friends 🙏

October 15 at 7:00 PM

JK

**Jennifer Swanson Knapp** posted:

So sorry for your loss! Sending prayers for his family and friends!

October 15 at 7:00 PM

JB

**Jason Brockus** posted:

Prayers to his family. He used to be our neighbor & he was really nice.

October 15 at 7:00 PM

TC

**Tommy Carson** posted:

Sorry for the families loss .

October 14 at 7:00 PM



## Tribute Wall

**Willard Lee Armstrong**

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TC

**Todd Craver** posted:

Very nice man. So sorry to hear this Barbara.

October 14 at 7:00 PM

BF

**Brenda Brown Fulton** posted:

Prayers to the family. I went to school with Willard class of 77

October 14 at 7:00 PM

DS

**Diana Salasberry** lit a candle in honor of Willard.

Prayers 🙏 & Condolences 🙏 Sorry For Your Loss ☹️

October 14 at 7:00 PM



AA

**A Memorial Tree Was Planted For Willard Lee Armstrong** posted:

We are deeply sorry for your loss ~ Thomas - Centerville

October 14 at 7:00 PM

JZ

**Jill Pefley Zintz** posted:

He was a very kind man. My kids loved him when he drove their bus. 🙏❤️🙏

October 14 at 7:00 PM

RH

**Rhonda Hedgecock** posted:

So sorry barb! Sending prayers!!!❤️

October 14 at 7:00 PM

DH

**Dan Howington** posted:

So sorry to see this. Prayers for his family and friends. RIP my friend!

October 14 at 7:00 PM



## Tribute Wall

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CB

**Carolyn Bills** posted:

My condolences to Mary,Wanda and family 🌹

October 14 at 7:00 PM

VB

**Vicki Butler** posted:

So sorry for your loss, thinking of you.

October 14 at 7:00 PM

SN

**Sandy Nab** posted:

Sending prayers for the family and friends

October 14 at 7:00 PM

DD

**Deb Drew** posted:

I'm so sorry Barb for your loss.

October 14 at 7:00 PM

JE

**Julie Eckles** posted:

Willard was a very nice man. I always enjoyed visiting with him at Walmart. So sorry for his family's loss.

October 14 at 7:00 PM

TS

**Tonia Sprouse** posted:

I'm so sorry Barb

October 14 at 7:00 PM

SC

**Sascha Clark** posted:

Sorry for your loss. He will always be remembered ☐

October 14 at 7:00 PM



## Tribute Wall

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VP

**Vicki Pace** posted:

Sorry for your loss. I met Willard when I taught at Moravia. ❤️

October 14 at 7:00 PM

MW

**Melinda Warnick** posted:

So very sorry Barb and families, he was so very nice, he will be greatly missed. The families are in my thoughts and prayers.

October 14 at 7:00 PM

WJ

**William Jones** posted:

I had many great times with Willard we would go on road trips, i had the pleasure of going on vacation to Texas with him one year and meet family. we had some very great time at the home of Harry and Joann Peek playing cards and we also had fun fishing with Harry and Joann, Willard was an all-around great guy, and Heaven has another Angel around the throne. God speed my friend fly high.

October 14 at 7:00 PM

FJ

**Frank Rinchiuso Junior** posted:

Military rites i hope as well. Thank you for your YEARS of service Willard.

October 14 at 7:00 PM

SM

**Sherri Morlan** posted:

So sorry for your loss.

October 14 at 7:00 PM

CE

**Christy Cisna Ehrle** posted:

Keeping you all in prayer.

October 14 at 7:00 PM



## Media

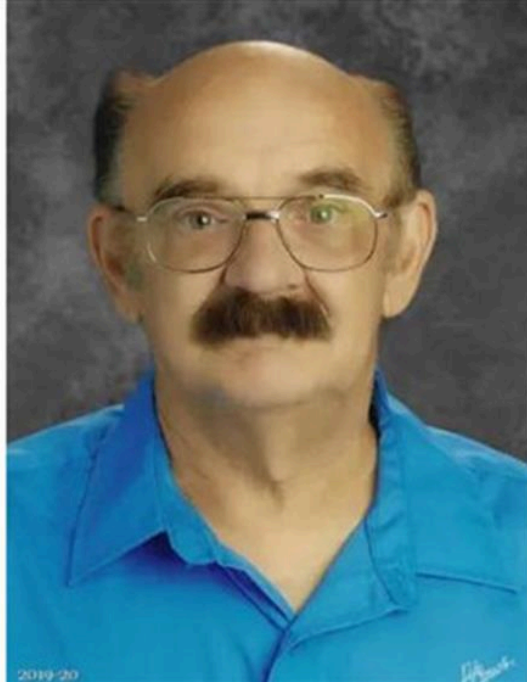
**Willard Lee Armstrong**

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**Thomas Funeral Home** shared a photo to the **Obituary Wall** album.

October 13 at 5:38 PM



We miss you so much from wife to sons & daughter.



## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Willard by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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