



## Don Willen

August 26, 1934 - April 26, 2023

Donald “Don” Walter Willen, 88, went to be with the Lord, April 26, 2023. A native of Encinitas, California, son of the late Walter and Gertrude Lenore MacDonald Willen, he was a U.S. Army Veteran, a retired hydrologist for the U.S. Department of Interior, and a member of Blessed Trinity Catholic Church. After graduating from UC Berkeley with a master’s degree in Hydrology, he went on to serve as Chief Hydrologist for the U.S. Bureau of Land Management. During his time in Washington, D.C., he was selected as a Congressional Fellow and served as the Natural Resources and environmental staff person for a former U.S. Senator. The Senator recognized his accomplishments by publishing them in the Congressional Record. Upon retirement, he received the U.S. Department of the Interior’s second highest service award, the Meritorious Service Award, for 31 years of distinguished public service.

Surviving are his wife, Judith Marie Land Willen of the home; two daughters, Kelly Eldridge (Jason) of Greer and Kathryn Willoretta (John) of Hamburg, Pennsylvania; two sons, Christopher M. Willen and Timothy D. Willen (Marti) of Knoxville, Tennessee; and five grandchildren, Skylar Hicks, Jacob Willen, Caleb Willen, Lucas Willen, and William Willoretta.

Mr. Willen was predeceased by one daughter, Kristin Willen, a brother, Douglas Willen, and a sister, Jacqueline Willen Dugan.

Funeral services will be held 11:00 a.m. Wednesday, May 3, 2023, at Blessed Trinity Catholic Church conducted by Father José Gabriel Cruz. A private

burial will be held at M.J. "Dolly" Cooper Veterans Cemetery.

The family is at the home.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial donations be made to Epiphany Catholic School, 1905 SW Epiphany Ct., Lake City, FL 32025.

Online condolences may be made at [www.thewoodmortuary.com](http://www.thewoodmortuary.com)

## Cemetery Details

### **M.J. “Dolly” Cooper Veterans Cemetery**

140 Inway Drive  
Anderson, SC 29621

## Previous Events

### **Service**

MAY 3. 11:00 AM (ET)

Blessed Trinity Catholic Church  
901 River Road  
Greer, SC

# Tribute Wall



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Don Willen.*



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May 01, 2023 at 01:24 PM