



Gerald Willis

August 31, 2012

Gerald "Jerry" Willis, 86, of Hot Springs died on Friday, August 31, 2012 at home. He was born July 26, 1926 to the late Maude Tipps Willis and William Willis in Springfield, Illinois. Jerry was a U.S. Army veteran of WWII receiving a Bronze Battle Star and a Good Conduct Medal. After serving his country, Jerry went to work for the Springfield, Illinois Police Department where he served for 26 years, retiring as a detective sergeant having received numerous commendations to include several of the prestigious "William Herndon Awards" for the most distinguished acts performed by a plain clothes officer. He was a member of the V.F.W. Post 2278; the Hot Springs Showman's Association and a life member of the Illinois Police Benevolent Association. He was predeceased by his parents and his wife, Hilde Willis.

Survivors include his son and daughter-in-law, Mark and Suzanne Willis of Hot Springs; one sister, Daisey Walcher of Springfield, Illinois; three grandchildren, Jon Willis, Adam Willis and Mara Willis.

Graveside services will be 10:00 AM Friday at Crestview Memorial Park with Military Honors by VFW Post #2278.

Tribute Wall

PS

“ *Mark & family, I just found out about your dad's passing. I worked with Jerry in the Detective Bureau at the SPD until he retired. I was the secretary there when Bill DeMarco and Don Young were the Deputy Chiefs. Jerry was very special to me when we worked together. Always looking out for this young mother of three. who didn't have two nickels to rub together! He was a wonderful friend. He used to stop by the old station (before it moved to Monroe Street) and say "hi" to his old buddies. Harry & I even stopped for a drink with him at his beloved V.F.W. once when we were travelling down to Louisiana. He was truly a good friend. I will keep him and your family in my thoughts and prayers.*

Patty Stoutamyer - September 16, 2012 at 05:59 PM

CS

“ *To all the Willis family, you are always in my thoughts and more so now than ever. I know your faith and strength will sustain you. Always my best to you.*

Chris Stuffle - September 10, 2012 at 12:11 PM

WS

“ *Sarge, I'm sorry to hear about your dad. If you need anything, all you have to do is call.*

Wendy Stearns - September 10, 2012 at 12:02 PM

MW

“ *Well dad, you finally got to meet "ole Joe upstairs" didn't you ? I'll see ya again, when I'm called home. Rest in Peace, you earned it :-)*

Mark G Willis - September 10, 2012 at 11:48 AM