



Coyle Willis

September 20, 2014

Willis, Coyle Herbert Willis, Major USMC (retired) , born on June 4, 1927 in Camden, NJ. He passed away peacefully on September 20, 2014 in Butte, MT at the age of 87. Herb is preceded in death by his father Coyle Hamilton Willis and mother Rose Ella (Stevens) Willis. Herb is survived by his children Stephen F. (Luzia) Willis of Billings, MT., Michael C. Willis of Butte, MT. and James B. (Linda) Willis of Moorestown, NJ. Grandsons Stephen Jr., Bryce , Wade, Daniel, and Quinn and his Cousin Wanda (Bock) Cerone of Audubon, NJ. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1944 and served in World War II. In 1950 he was selected as a Naval Aviation Cadet, earned his wings in 1951, and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps. He served in the Korean War and flew numerous fighter aircraft while serving on several aircraft carriers. He retired from the Marine Corps in 1965 with the rank of Major.

Herb entered the education field and earned his Bachelors and Masters Degrees in Elementary Education from Glassboro State College in NJ. Throughout that time he held numerous teaching and administration positions in Moorestown, NJ.

Herb retired in 1982 and moved to Butte, MT. He loved Montana and the outdoors. His hobbies included skiing (became a ski instructor), hunting, fly fishing and working out. His joy was his grandsons, traveling coast-to-coast to

be at any event. He was known for his pleasant disposition and willingness to help others.

Herb Willis was a great father and grandfather and will be dearly missed by family and friends. He is with God and is probably doing some fly fishing or bird hunting right now. To Dad and Grand pop we say "Semper Fidelis" Major Willis.

Mass of Christian burial 10:30 am Tues. Sept. 30th , 2014 at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, 42 W. Main St. Moorestown, NJ . Visitation Monday eve 6- 8 PM at the Lewis Funeral Home, 78 E. Main St. Moorestown, NJ Interment Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Arneytown, NJ. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to The Marine Corps League. Southeast Montana Detachment #724c/o Mike Lawson, 525 Garden Street
Butte, Montana 59701

Cemetery Details

Brigadier General William C. Doyle veterans Memorial Cemetery

350 Providence Line Rd
Wrightstown, NJ 08562
<http://www.state.nj.us/military/veterans/doyle.html>

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP **29**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Lewis Funeral Home
78 E Main St
Moorestown, NJ 08057
(856) 235-0009
lewisfh@msn.com
<https://www.lewisfuneralhomemoorestown.com>

Mass of Christian Burial

SEP **30**. 10:30 AM (ET)

Our Lady of Good Counsel
42 West Main Street
Moorestown, NJ 08057
(856) 235-0181
<http://www.olgcnj.org>

Tribute Wall



“ *Coyle Willis*

October 09, 2023 at 03:30 AM



“ *Coyle Willis*

November 08, 2022 at 08:26 PM



“ *America the Beautiful was purchased for the family of Coyle Willis.*



September 24, 2014 at 07:12 AM

BO

“Major Coyle Herbert Willis, United States Marine Corps (Retired) will find the Gates of Heaven are guarded by his kind. He stands tall in my mind and heart as fine an example of a Patriot, a Warrior, a man of faith, and a self-made man. Even before I became friends with his sons, I already respected, liked and admired Mr. Willis. As the Vice-Principal of the Moorestown Middle School, he had the unfortunate occasion of having to deal with my shenanigans. On one instance my mother had to come to the Middle School’s front offices to meet with school officials. It did not go very well and someone said some very unkind things to her and treated her indecorously. . Mr Willis however, treated my mother with the dignity and respect that a war widow left with six children, deserved. His kindness and deportment was exemplary. It was evident that he knew and understood the difficulties our family endured. This was at a sad time In our nation’s past when its sons were chastised, taunted and vilified for performing their duty. Widows and their families were left isolated and spurned. It was as if the dead, mangled and left behind of the Vietnam War were reparation for our nation’s sins in South-East Asia. My older brother tells the story of Mr. Willis arriving at our Moorestown home on Valley View Terrace on a weekend night to return one of my siblings who had been in danger, to safety. Mr. Willis and my mother spoke quietly in the kitchen, and soft sobs of concern could be heard from my mother. My brother tells me that as Mr. Willis left our home, he turned to close our front door and his face was damp with tears. He felt our family’s pain. Such was the heart of this fine man. An Officer of Marines, a true gentleman, a loving father, a concerned and dutiful educator. I can truly say that I am a better man for having known him. Brendan O’Connor

brendan O'Connor - September 23, 2014 at 07:39 PM

JB

I have such wonderful memories of growing up with my brothers, Steve, Michael and Jimmy. All the times in their house and how we all experienced Mr. Willis' love, guidance and sometimes scorn. We were sometimes quite a challenge for the Major like the time I got my first tattoo, trying to "read" the oriental rug, the famous Red Carpet Lounge activities and so much more. He was such a class act and a man with dignity, honor and courage. He was such an example to us of how we should all live our lives. It was an absolute honor to have known him and the 3 great young men that he raised. I wish his family peace and pray that God will ease their pain as the Major enters the Kingdom of Heaven.

With a heavy heart, John Burke, Bel Air, Md.

John Burke - September 25, 2014 at 02:11 PM