



## Shirley H. Williams

March 24, 1938 - November 22, 2022

Shirley Ann Williams passed peacefully into the arms of God while in the loving company of her family on November 22, 2022 at the age of 84.

Shirley was born at home in Wallace, Indiana on March 24, 1938, to Alsina Pearl and Irel Ernest Howard. A few short weeks after her birth, Shirley's father passed away and she was raised, along with her brother Robert (Bob), by their mother. The family settled in Speedway, IN, where they weathered through hard times, war, and loss, bolstered by their faith and love. All of this influenced Shirley to become the strong, devout, and incredible woman she was.

Shirley graduated from Speedway High School just three weeks after she married the love of her life, Earl Nile Williams on May 5, 1956, and they were happily married for 52 years. Shirley and Earl had three children, Christie Elaine, Diana Dawn (D.D.) and Kent Howard. Shirley and Earl had 4 grandchildren, (Ryan, Amie, Anastasia & Chance) and a great grandchild (Brooks) (with one more on the way). Her contribution of time, love and knowledge in raising her 4 amazing grandchildren was priceless. A bit of her lives on in each of them.

The family enjoyed boating every weekend with their family and friends. They also enjoyed traveling with their dear and lifelong friends, Dick and Judy

Mendenhall.

Shirley was led to rededicate her life to Jesus Christ on March 15, 1968 after an ailing D.D. recovered, with much prayer, from rheumatic fever. Shirley was often quoted as saying "How could I not serve Him when He healed my child?" Shirley was a devout woman who never tired of reading scripture and leading her life accordingly. She instilled this love of God into her children and then later her grandchildren. Shirley faithfully served and taught Sunday School at Sunnyside Road Baptist Church for many years. Later she became a devoted member of Cornerstone Baptist Church. Shirley's greatest joy would be knowing of all the people she touched with her love and the love of her Savior, Jesus Christ.

Shirley worked several jobs during her life, her lengthiest association with the Lawrence School District as a bus driver / trainer. She retired after 31 years of service. Shirley went on to work for Camacho Equipment and Janitorial Supply and she retired from there with 10 years of service and lifelong friendships.

Shirley was preceded in death by her father (Irel E. Howard), mother (Alsina Pearl Mathias), brother (Robert Howard), husband (Earl Nile Williams), and daughter (Christie Elaine Bowers). She is survived by her daughter, Diana D. Bernitt (Douglas), her son, Kent Howard Williams (Susan Glass), son-in-law Kim Theodore Bowers, and four grandchildren; Ryan Douglas Bernitt, Amie DiAnn Skarman (Dan Skarman), Anastasia Nicole Williams, Chance Howard Williams and one great grandchild, Brooks Theodore Bowers

Visitation will be at the Cornerstone Baptist Church on Monday, November 28, 2022 from 10:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. It will be followed immediately by a service honoring her at 11:00 am. A Private burial will be held later the same day.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Cornerstone Baptist Academy, St Jude Children's Hospital or Tunnels to Towers Foundation.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV **28**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Cornerstone Baptist Church  
10701 E. 56th Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46235

## Funeral Service

NOV **28**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Cornerstone Baptist Church  
10701 E. 56th Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46235

# Tribute Wall



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Shirley H. Williams.* ”



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November 28, 2022 at 08:01 AM



“ *Linda. purchased the Heavenly Heights Bouquet for the family of Shirley H. Williams.* ”



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**Linda.** - November 26, 2022 at 11:31 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Shirley H. Williams.* ”



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November 26, 2022 at 08:49 AM

SC

“ I’d like to share how Shirley came to be such a wonderful friend to Jesse and I and our whole family. Our secretary was leaving and she said she’d found the perfect replacement. They had been friends for years and had driven school bus together. So Mrs Williams comes in for an interview. I liked her immediately. She said she wasn’t real computer savvy but was willing to learn. I thought “that’s terrific. I’m not so great either so we’ll muddle through together “. Lol. She only wanted part time, 8-2 Monday through Friday. Perfect. Then she said she did have one request. Could she leave early on Wednesdays, about noon or so. Now I’m thinking, she hasn’t even started and she’s asking for time off (I say this with a smile). Then she said, “I have card club on Wednesdays and we meet early in the afternoon”. I said absolutely that’s ok. I grew up with a deck of cards in my hand so taking off for a card game was truly a legitimate reason to leave early. ❤️ We laughed about that many times over the years.

She worked for us for 10 years, though I hesitate to call it work. We had such a good time together. We never felt like Shirley was an employee. She was a warm and easy person to be with. I got to work with my BFF every day. That’s young people’s way of saying “best friends forever”. She was truly mine.

I could share a million stories of her thoughtfulness, humor, integrity, compassion, and loyalty. I’ve no doubt countless others have similar stories.

The most important thing she shared with us was her faith in God. She wasn’t preachy; she simply lived her faith and beliefs. Many times she would tell me about a sermon from her church that particularly spoke to her. Or an event that was going on. Or a nugget of wisdom the minister had shared.

Many years ago she invited our family to a service that was honoring veterans. Jesse and I and our adult kids went. It was so thoughtful and touching. We didn’t go again though she made sure we knew we were welcome to. Fast forward 6 months ago. We’d been feeling the tug to get closer to God. To know Him. We believed in Him but had not taken action to really know Him. Anyway, I called Shirley and asked her what time church and Sunday school was.

*Dead silence. Then “really?” I broke out laughing. “Yes Mrs Williams. Really”. She later told Jesse she’d been praying for us to come to church for 10 years. We bring the grandkids, too. I think some folks may sometimes wonder if they’ve made a difference in anyone’s life. My friend Shirley never had to ask that question.*

*She’s left us with so many life lessons to emulate. I’ll miss my friend so so much. But I know where she is now and also know for sure that one day I’ll see her again.*

*Big hugs to her family. And thank you for sharing her with all of us.*

**Shirley Camacho** - November 25, 2022 at 02:55 PM



*That is absolutely beautiful! Shirley, in all her humility, would have been in tears as I was reading this. I don't cry for Shirley. She is rejoicing in Heaven! I cry for the rest of us who are missing her already.*

**Adrienne Marshall** - November 25, 2022 at 09:30 PM

SC

*You're so right. ❤️❤️❤️*

**Shirley Camacho** - November 26, 2022 at 05:46 PM



**Adrienne Marshall** - November 27, 2022 at 02:51 PM



“Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Shirley H. Williams.



November 25, 2022 at 11:45 AM

JD

“ Sherry and I have remained close even after moving 350 miles to the Pittsburgh area four years ago. We stayed with Shirley several times when visiting in Indy and she visited us in PA. Just this summer we met Shirley along with Judy & Dick in Lancaster and saw the play “David”. As sisters and brothers in Christ we shared concerns and praises and her loss is very significant. Jim & Sherry Dykes

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**Jim Dykes** - November 24, 2022 at 12:02 PM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Shirley H. Williams.



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November 23, 2022 at 11:33 PM

AM

“ For nearly 30 years, my husband and I, along with our next door neighbors, Jim and Sherry Dykes, exchanged Christmas presents with Earl and Shirley Williams who lived across the street. We were much more than neighbors. We were friends and brothers and sisters in Christ. It's quite a rarely to live in the same house that long, but even more so to be such long time friends. Shirley and Earl were both such great Godly examples. We will miss you so much! Love you both!



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**Adrienne Marshall** - November 23, 2022 at 08:54 PM