



## Mrs. Willie Belle Bell

April 8, 1918 - December 9, 2019

Ms. Willie Belle Bell, age 101 years old, of Tallahassee, Florida, died on December 9, 2019. Willie Bell was the oldest of eight children of John and Nora Adams of Glendale, Florida and was born in Walton County.

In 1935, she attended Florida State College for Women in Tallahassee and majored in Home Economics. In 1938, she married Darius Wilborn Bell, Sr., of Glendale, Florida. If our nation gave accommodations for spouses during World War II, then Willie Bell would be one of many courageous women who cared for children, families and communities while their husbands served in war.

As one of those brave women she cared for three young children, a garden, a cow and chickens; she helped her parents and his parents; and she had a part time job. Still she exchanged daily letters with Darius to extend love and hope during those difficult times.

She was an accomplished seamstress who began sewing for interior designers in 1946. This eventually led to her love for quilting. She shared that love with many by donating quilts to Big Bend Hospice, sewing blankets for premature babies and teaching others how to quilt. She attended Faith Presbyterian Church in Tallahassee, Florida.

Willie Bell is preceded in death by her husband of 54 years, Darius Wilborn Bell, Sr.; her brothers, Elwood Adams, Dewitt Adams and John L. Adams; her sisters, Vera Mae Obrien, Dorothy Mooney, Coreen Brackins and Jewel Parker; her sons-in-law, Willi Gutsch, Daniel Griswald; her daughter-in-law, Elizabeth Jane Bell; and her great-grandson, Andrew Morrow.

Willie Bell is survived by five daughters, Willie Lou Gutsch (Jim Pratt partner), Mary Frances Carter (James), Susan Marie Griswald of Tallahassee, Lillian Ann Wise (Jack) of Glen Carbon, Illinois and Lisa Bell Highsmith (Greg) of Libertyville, Illinois; one son, D.W. Bell Jr. (Ann) of Tallahassee; four sisters-in-law, Pauline Adams, Coreen Adams, Mildred Rodgers and Doris Bell; 16 grandchildren, 27 great-grandchildren, 6 great-great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

Willie Bell was a Christian all her life and she believed in staying busy, thinking positive, speaking kind to others, and staying physically active. She was a kind and generous person who was always there for her family and friends. She will be dearly missed and will live forever in the hearts of all who love her.

Memorial services will be held at Abbey Funeral Home and Tallahassee Memory Gardens, 4037 North Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida, 32303 on December 26, 2019 at 2 pm Eastern. The family will receive friends immediately following the service. In lieu of flowers please consider a donation to Big Bend Hospice of Tallahassee, Florida at [www.bigbendhospice.org](http://www.bigbendhospice.org). Interment will be held at a later date.

The Bell family extends our heartfelt gratitude to Willie Bell's devoted caregivers and everyone from Big Bend Hospice who helped her on her journey home to Jesus. Online condolences may be expressed at [www.abbeyfh.com](http://www.abbeyfh.com).



# Previous Events

## Service

DEC **26**. 2:00 PM (ET)

Abbey Funeral Home  
4037 North Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32303  
(850) 562-1518  
[abbeyfh@comcast.net](mailto:abbeyfh@comcast.net)

# Tribute Wall

RH

“ I was fortunate enough to be a neighbor of Willie's for 5 years. She was always a joy to visit and I learned many secrets of flower gardening from her. I loved her quilts for Hospice and was pleased to donate old flour sacks for her use in making more. These were very special to me as they were given to me by my mother-in-law who had saved them over the years for someone to make good use of them. I knew that Willie would do just that. I very pleased that I had the chance to know her.  
*Renee Herring*

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**Renee R. Herring** - December 25, 2019 at 03:36 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Mrs. Willie Belle Bell.



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December 24, 2019 at 06:30 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Mrs. Willie Belle Bell.



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December 23, 2019 at 10:31 PM

MM

“ *Martha Sircy Mitchell lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Willie Belle Bell*



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**Martha Sircy Mitchell** - December 22, 2019 at 08:36 PM

DG

“ *Aunt Willie was my mother’s older sister. My mother absolutely adored Aunt Willie more than anyone else on the planet! Aunt Willie was the first to attend college and raised 6 of the most beautiful children in the world. I was always amazed by Aunt Willie’s calm, gracious demeanor and her beautiful homes which were filled by gorgeous handcrafted items and surrounded by beautiful gardens. She was amazing! Love to all my cousins. I have sent a donation to Big Bend Hospice per your wishes, and remember how she suggested I plant a tomato amongst the flowers!*

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**Debi Ghesquiere** - December 22, 2019 at 11:50 AM



“ *Rose Remembrance was purchased for the family of Mrs. Willie Belle Bell.*



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December 16, 2019 at 09:36 AM

NT

“ It was an honor to have known Miss Willie and her wonderful, caring family. We will miss them all at the Villas. Thank you Miss Willie for all you have taught me.

*Nancy Titcher*

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**Nancy Titcher** - December 15, 2019 at 08:31 PM

KW

“ Kristen Weeks lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Willie Belle Bell



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**Kristen Weeks** - December 14, 2019 at 09:53 AM

KW

“ I will miss you, great-grandma. Your smile and humor was something to be treasured.



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**Kristen Weeks** - December 14, 2019 at 09:52 AM



“ 126 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



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**Abbey Funeral Home and Tallahassee Memory Gardens** - December 12, 2019 at 11:59 AM



“ 0 file added to the tribute wall

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**Abbey Funeral Home and Tallahassee Memory Gardens** - December 12, 2019 at 11:24 AM