



## Mr. Juwan Lovell Willis Sr.

July 16, 1973 - January 2, 2024

WILLIS, Mr. Juwan Lovell Sr. - Age 50, passed away Tuesday, January 2, 2024, at his residence. Family hour 10:00 AM Saturday, January 13, 2024, from the Chapel of Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home, 906 W. Flint Park Blvd., with funeral service commencing at 11:00 AM Min Kenneth Willis, officiating. Family and friends will assemble at the funeral home 10:00 AM Saturday. Mr. Willis will lie in state in the Chapel of Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home and may be viewed from 12:00 PM - 6:00 PM Friday. Juwan Lovell Willis Sr. was born on July 16, 1973, in Flint, Michigan. He was a caring son, attentive husband, tenderhearted brother, devoted father, passionate teacher and more.

Juwan was known for his vibrant spirit and his unique way of expressing love through assigning nicknames and creating connections that transcended the ordinary. As an inspiring educator, he dedicated his life to shaping young minds, leaving an enduring legacy in the hearts of his students.

Juwan will be remembered for his thought-provoking and funny phrases (such as “because it’s Tuesday”) which fostered many opportunities for the development of character and unmatched critical thinking skills in his students.

Juwan was an accomplished automotive instructor with many awards and accolades. He was an ambitious and innovative leader at Oakland Schools Technical Campus Northeast (OSTC-NE) in Pontiac, Michigan. He had a goal to build the best high school automotive program in the country.

Juwan was a member of the Michigan Education Association, and in 2022, he was named the Byrl Shoemaker Instructor of the Year by the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence Education Foundation. In 2023, he was named a \$100,000 Grand Prize Winner of the Harbor Freight Tools for Schools 2023 Prize for Teaching Excellence.

Juwan's passion for teaching was only surpassed by his deep love for his family. He was a sweet, loving, and thoughtful father. He will be missed for the way he would answer his children's phone calls with a loving "hello my baby." An amazing biological father of six, and father figure to many more, he navigated parenthood with a blend of unwavering dedication and the occasional touch of stubbornness, creating a home filled with love and life lessons.

Juwan's mind was a treasure trove of uniqueness, offering perspectives that illuminated the world around him. His creativity and distinct thinking enriched the lives of those fortunate enough to share in his journey. He leaves behind a tapestry of memories, each woven with his laughter, wisdom, and the warmth of his affectionate nicknames.

Juwan was a man cherished for his love, dedication, and the extraordinary imprint he left on the hearts of all who knew him.

Juwan was also cherished for his tenacity, and extraordinary imprint. He left an indelible mark on all the lives he touched. May his memory be a source of comfort and inspiration for all of us.

Juwan Lovell Willis Sr. is survived by: loving wife, Terrica Willis; 3 daughters, Deija Willis, Devin Willis, and Jordan Willis; 3 sons, Juwan Willis Jr., Tahj Willis, and Tyler Willis; bonus sons, Ezell "EJ" Jones, Elija Jones, Devin Bailey and Kenyon Knight; bonus daughter, Breana "Bre" Washington; 4 sisters, T'nishia (Daveontay) Jones-Burley, Sonya (George) Mhosira, Marceile "Ceile" Mitchell, and Dr. Essie Murphy; brothers, Emmanuel Jones, and Dederick Aldridge; mother, Nancy Pearl Willis-Jones; father, Freddie (Risa) Hutson; mother-in-law, Sandra Aldridge; "Uncle Daddy" Hosie (Cheryl) Willis; father-in-law, Floyd Purnell; two "adopted" granddaughters, Brooklyn and Nia

Washington; “adopted” grandson, Jayce Washington; special cousins, Francisco Willis, Charles Willis, Dara Spencer and Jessica Miller; best friend, Dominique Ward; bonus brothers, Antonio (Regina) Acuna, Mark Waite and Ted (Susan) Delator; a host of beloved aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, students, friends, and chosen family.

Juwan was preceded in death by his brothers, Benjamin Jones and Freddie Hutson II; a host of grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins.

# Previous Events

## Public Viewing

JAN **12**. 12:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home Chapel, Flint  
906 W. Flint Park Blvd.  
Flint, MI 48505  
(810) 789-MOON (6666)  
lemoonfhflint@gmail.com  
<http://www.lawrenceemoonfuneralhome.com>

## Family hour

JAN **13**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home Chapel, Flint  
906 W. Flint Park Blvd.  
Flint, MI 48505  
(810) 789-MOON (6666)  
lemoonfhflint@gmail.com  
<http://www.lawrenceemoonfuneralhome.com>

## Service

JAN **13**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home Chapel, Flint  
906 W. Flint Park Blvd.  
Flint, MI 48505  
(810) 789-MOON (6666)  
lemoonfhflint@gmail.com  
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# Tribute Wall



“ *Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Mr. Juwan Lovell Willis Sr.*



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**Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home** - January 13, 2024 at 09:11 AM

DA

*I am sorry for my absent for funeral,,he was truly a great person That I was glad ❤️ to have known 😭 I will truly miss him and may God bless you all*

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**Deborah McNeal Asante** - January 13, 2024 at 07:08 PM



“ *He made sure to teach very relevant not only life lessons but also life skills to his family and that spread through others his family met. His family will be in my prayer, expressing sympathy and deepest condolences*

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**Amari Imani** - January 14, 2024 at 03:53 PM

JH

“ We send our love, prayers and condolences to our cousins Deja and Devin and the entire Willis family.

May God comfort your hearts and give you peace as you reflect on the memories of your dad.

He was well loved and well spoken of and left a beautiful and lasting legacy of all the lives he impacted.

God bless you

We love you all

Your Cousins

James and Carolyn



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**James and Carolyn Hudson** - January 13, 2024 at 04:50 PM

LL

“ Lisa Lang lit a candle in memory of Mr. Juwan Lovell Willis Sr.



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**Lisa Lang** - January 13, 2024 at 01:29 PM

TS

“ I want to start by extending my deepest condolences to the Willis family. I had the honor of being accepted as a chosen family member by Mr. Willis as Devin's best friend. As much as I am saddened for the family and my best friend for their sudden loss, I am comforted by the thought that he is resting at the right side of the father and now looking over his loved ones as an ancestor. We will continue to walk in his spirit and revere his legacy. A beautiful man with so much love to give, a superman to those who were fortunate to know him, rest in power now and forever more, Mr. Juwan Lovell Willis Sr.

Love,  
Tatyana (aka Teetee)

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**Tatyana Smith** - January 13, 2024 at 01:09 PM

AW

“ As much time as I spent in his home, Mr. Willis was like another father to me. He, and the whole family, looked out for me, and fed me as if I were one of their own. I am truly saddened by this loss, but I know he is home with our Lord. I send my prayers and love during this tough time. He will be missed.



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**Alida Wilson** - January 13, 2024 at 11:28 AM

YF

“ We send our deepest sympathy and prayers to our cousins Deja and Devin and the entire Willis family. We love you all.



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**Your Cardwell Family** - January 13, 2024 at 11:01 AM



“ *"God Has You" 21" Sonnet Chime was purchased for the family of Mr. Juwan Lovell Willis Sr..*



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January 12, 2024 at 10:39 PM



“ *My deepest condolences to the family and extended family of Mr. Juwan Willis. I had the great opportunity to partner up with Juwan and sponsor his students over many years. He was a great man and truly embraced his role to mentor young impressionable students. Although this was sometimes very hard, Juwan felt it was his privilege and responsibility to be an influential model to all his students for their careers and life.*

*He will be truly missed by us all. David Duncan Serra Rochester Hills*

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**David Duncan** - January 12, 2024 at 02:47 PM



“ *Juwan would provide any support that he could to anyone. I often have the students at OSTC NE work on my cars for repairs. Juwan would let me borrow his car for the day so I could get to my office location, and then we would switch back at the end of the day. He cared deeply for his family, his students, and the colleagues that he worked with. He will be missed greatly.*

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**Ben Morin** - January 12, 2024 at 01:40 PM

JH

“ MY CONDOLENCES TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY..



jill harris - January 12, 2024 at 08:49 AM



“ Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Juwan Lovell Willis Sr..



January 12, 2024 at 08:47 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Juwan Lovell Willis Sr..



January 12, 2024 at 12:30 AM

NM

“ Nocy, Jammie & Mildred planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Juwan Lovell Willis Sr..

Nocy, Jammie & Mildred - January 12, 2024 at 12:30 AM

KR

“ *Kermit & Genell (Crain) Reeves lit a candle in memory of Mr. Juwan Lovell Willis Sr.*



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**Kermit & Genell (Crain) Reeves** - January 10, 2024 at 05:29 PM

SR

“ *Sharon Reeves lit a candle in memory of Mr. Juwan Lovell Willis Sr.*



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**Sharon Reeves** - January 10, 2024 at 11:34 AM

KW

“ *I had the wonderful opportunity to work with Juwan on writing a grant which would honor graduating high school students from throughout Oakland County. These students earned a starter tool kit. Sometimes Juwan would personally deliver the tool kits directly to the students' homes...even when they weren't his students. He loved what he did and I enjoyed working with him because he cared. I pray that his family finds peace during this difficult time.*

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**Kathy Williams** - January 09, 2024 at 02:03 PM

MP

“ Juwan was a great teacher and great friend. I remember how often he would help with my cars or trucks and even though I knew very little about cars at the time, he would stay hours after school to help me work on them and was patient enough to teach me some of the basics. He will be sorely missed. Prayers to his family and friends during this difficult time.

Mike Priest - January 09, 2024 at 10:57 AM

DW

“ Wow...it's so hard to believe that Juwan is no longer here. He was an exceptional human being. His love for teaching, his family, and students were always clearly evident when I would talk with him. I felt privileged to have had the opportunity to speak and honor him at his 2023 HFTFS national award-winning ceremony. He made all of us at Oakland Schools proud.

*I will truly miss the deep conversations we would have about the challenges that we both were able to overcome in life and in our careers. He was a very gifted instructor whose contributions to educational community will be extremely missed. I pray that God help his family, students, and all the rest of us that loved him.*

*-Demetrius Wilson*

Demetrus Wilson - January 09, 2024 at 10:42 AM

SF

“ Sharon Fleming lit a candle in memory of Mr. Juwan Lovell Willis Sr.



Sharon Fleming - January 09, 2024 at 10:35 AM

RS

“ I spent 6 years working with him No other teacher I've met has had the vision, compassion, and drive to make the world and those in it as good as he did. I will miss the long chats and wisdom he shared.

Robert Shank - January 09, 2024 at 10:23 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. Juwan Lovell Willis Sr..



January 09, 2024 at 09:26 AM

PW

“ Patricia Woodley lit a candle in memory of Mr. Juwan Lovell Willis Sr.



Patricia Woodley - January 09, 2024 at 09:22 AM

RM

“ Rev Phyllis McCree lit a candle in memory of Mr. Juwan Lovell Willis Sr.



Rev Phyllis McCree - January 09, 2024 at 07:16 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. Juwan Lovell Willis Sr..*



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January 08, 2024 at 01:49 PM



“ *Barb K. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Juwan Willis.*

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**Barb K.** - January 08, 2024 at 01:49 PM



“ *I worked with Juwan at GM TAC, great guy always tried to help all the techs that called in. Are team would look forward to his wife's Banna bread pudding that he would bring in. Great teammate! My sincere condolences to the Willis family.*

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**Chris Esch** - January 08, 2024 at 11:34 AM



“ *Terry Akers lit a candle in memory of Mr. Juwan Lovell Willis Sr.*



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**terry akers** - January 07, 2024 at 08:27 PM

TA

“ My deepest, heartfelt sympathies, go out to the family over the years with OSTC getting to know and working with Juwan was a great pleasure. He was always upbeat and kind. and he always brought love and passion for the automotive industry and his students. he will be greatly missed.

terry akers - January 07, 2024 at 08:21 PM

 Robin Kent

“ Such an incredible loss for his family and students. Juwan was a truly inspirational and wonderful man, with the kindest heart. My thoughts are with his family and hope they find peace in his passing.

Robin Kent - January 07, 2024 at 09:48 AM

FM

“ Juwan Willis was such a genuinely, kind person. A true example of a passionate teacher. I am thankful to have seen him at Skills USA in Atlanta doing what he loved -- coaching and competing. My condolences to the Willis family. And, to his students at OSTC-NE, make him proud by continuing his automotive legacy. See you at Nationals. God Bless.

Felicia Moore - January 06, 2024 at 12:24 PM



“ Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Juwan Lovell Willis Sr..



January 05, 2024 at 10:43 PM

MQ

“ Offering my deepest condolences to the Willis family. As others have shared, Juwan was so very passionate about his role as an Automotive Instructor and life skills guide to his students. My love and prayers are extended to all who are grieving this sudden tragedy.

Michelle Quarton - January 04, 2024 at 04:47 PM



“ Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Juwan Lovell Willis Sr..



January 04, 2024 at 01:31 PM

MS

“ Mr. Willis taught me so much, not just about automotive, but about life itself, being a better person and inspiring not just me but so many people in the school and community. We all will miss him dearly and we will keep him and his family close to our hearts

Milan Spaosksi - January 04, 2024 at 01:46 AM

SM

“ Juwan was a devoted teacher. We will all miss him very much! - Joel and Sarah Massarello

sarah Massarello - January 03, 2024 at 06:45 PM

SN

“ Sending my prayers and love to the entire Willis family ❤️🙏



Sandy Neal - January 03, 2024 at 05:57 PM

JA

“ Jayce lit a candle in memory of Mr. Juwan Lovell Willis Sr.



Jayce - January 03, 2024 at 05:53 PM

AK

“ I didn't have Mr. Willis as my teacher, but I was in the collision classroom next to his. He was always very kind to me and even showed me some useful Automotive skills, even helping me 6 years after I graduated. Thank you for everything you've done. You've impacted so many peoples lives. May your soul rest in peace.



Alexandria K. - January 02, 2024 at 11:12 PM



Sending our heart-felt condolences to the family, friends, co-workers and students. Thank you for being a great leader, I couldn't have asked for a better mentor for my son at OTSC.

Mr. Willis, will be missed but never forgotten.

Mrs. Conley

V - January 03, 2024 at 05:51 PM

TB

*Terry Lynn Love*

**Terry Boone-Love** - January 06, 2024 at 07:39 PM

TB

*He was a great and caring In FATHER and Instructor.*

**Terry Boone-Love** - January 06, 2024 at 07:41 PM



“ *Juwan was a wonderful example of what a teacher should be. He will be missed every day. Prayers to family and loved ones.*  
*Tracey*

**Tracey Heath** - January 02, 2024 at 10:54 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Juwan Lovell Willis Sr..*



January 02, 2024 at 10:14 PM

SR

“ *Mr. Willis was a very knowledgeable instructor who loved what he did. He worked hard to build relationships with his students and set them up for success. We are so saddened for this loss. Our prayers are with his family.*

**Sheria Robinson-Lane** - January 02, 2024 at 10:05 PM

BR

“ *Mr. Willis was more than a teacher, he was my mentor and more like family than anything else. He’s helped me so much and he was the person i could call and who would be there for me, which he has done more times to count. He always told my i was more like his daughter. He took me on as family. And i love him. Mr. Willis has encouraged me to be the best i can and has taught me lessons nobody else could have before. He’ll forever be a guardian angel.* ”

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**Brooke Rennert** - January 02, 2024 at 10:02 PM



“ *My son Hunter loved Mr. Willis. He has had him as a teacher and mentor for the last year and a half. Praying for all his loved ones.* ”



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**Rose Belt-Krantz** - January 02, 2024 at 07:42 PM

JH

“ *I just heard the news. Our family is so saddened for all of you and our hearts go out to you. He was my son's OTSC Automotive teacher. I had a conference with Juwan a few weeks ago and we were laughing and joking. My son and I ran into him at Sam's Club during Christmas break. You are all in our hearts and prayers at this difficult time.* ”

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**Jill Hemmen** - January 02, 2024 at 07:12 PM

PW

“ *Juwan was always there for family and friends. We work together, he has helped me both at work and in my personal life I will miss our Dailey conversations Fly high Prayers to his beautiful wife and family* ”

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**pamela welch** - January 02, 2024 at 06:14 PM

PW

“ *Pamela Welch lit a candle in memory of Mr. Juwan Lovell Willis Sr.*



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**pamela welch** - January 02, 2024 at 06:11 PM