



## Willa June Pilcher

November 27, 1948 - July 21, 2023

Willa June Neal Pilcher, 74, of Huntsville, Texas passed away with family by her side. on July 20, 2023.

Willa, the eldest of six children, was born in Enid, Oklahoma on November 27, 1948, to Virginia Lenore Grant and Foster Lyle Neal. She was a typical kid in the 50's and 60's - she loved spending lots of time outdoors, playing cards, board games and working jigsaw puzzles. She loved dancing to the "bubble gum" songs of her teen years. And one year in junior high school, she enjoyed being part of the radio program that broadcasted locally.

Willa received her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Criminology and Corrections from Sam Houston State University and worked as a parole officer at the Wynne unit. She trained many people in the corrections profession, a definite plus for those succeeding her. Those she trained would say "I have been Pilcherized," a high compliment meaning they had been thoroughly, properly, and expertly trained. Her red-pen edits on reports were legendary. She exemplified and demanded accuracy and excellence. The world of parole and corrections is better for Willa having been a part of it.

Service to her country was also important to her. Willa served in the Navy Reserve and for decades she worked as an elections clerk in many districts. Willa married Dr. Wayland D. Pilcher in 1971 and they moved to Huntsville where he was employed by the Sam Houston State University Criminal Justice Department. The Pilchers enjoyed traveling, watching movies, discussing books, and sharing a good glass of wine with friends. She was also

a beloved founding member of Huntsville's "The Business Meeting" group. Willa was an important member of the close-knit group that has helped each other through ups and downs.

When Wayland passed away in 1994, he helped other people's lives through organ donation volunteer efforts. Willa was so moved by that experience that she became involved with the National Donor Family Council on a national level. She edited the donor family booklet for bereaved spouses and traveled to Washington D.C. and Australia to represent the organization. Locally, she made herself available to donation organizations and transplant centers. She also spoke to children at local schools about donor awareness issues. Even after her husband's death, she remained a supporter of the Criminal Justice Center and every year presented the scholarship that was created in Dr. Pilcher's name.

Willa still had a lot of love and life to share. In 2000 she met Louis F. Falco, and for almost twenty years they enjoyed their secluded home on a pond with several beloved pets. They enjoyed cooking, gardening, eating good meals, watching movies, and of course, traveling. In their later years, Willa's brother Barry moved into the home and became a great help to them. After Louis passed away, Willa was grateful for his presence.

Willa always had her passport at the ready in case a friend or relative needed a traveling companion. From South America, to Alaska, from Iceland, England, and Australia, she enjoyed seeing new places and meeting new people.

Willa was a steadfast and loyal friend. If you needed help or advice, you could count on her for wise counsel, always truthful and straight-on! She was also a lot of fun and added enthusiasm and wit to any gathering of friends. We will remember her for the richness she added to our lives.

Willa J Pilcher is survived by her stepchildren: Von (Melissa) Pilcher of Corpus Christi, TX, and Valerie (Jimmy) Chandler of Wimberley, TX. Her step grandchildren include Erin (Ryan) Wunderlich of Salado, TX and Austin Chandler of Wimberley, TX.

Her surviving siblings are Sheryl McCann of Keyport, NJ; Gwen Trimble of Vicksburg, MS; Mark Neal of Charlottesville, VA; Karen Sample (Robert Locklin) of Clovis, CA; and Barry Neal of Huntsville, TX.

Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. on August 5th, 2023, at the Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home, 1700 Normal Park Dr., Huntsville, TX.

In remembrance of Willa's life, the family suggests that a charitable donation be made to The United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS). <https://unos.org/give/>.

Memorial condolences to the family may be made at [www.shmfh.com](http://www.shmfh.com).

You may view the service on live stream, starting 10 minutes before the service time, at the following link: <https://client.tribucast.com/tcid/529771232>

# Previous Events

## Funeral Service

AUG 5. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home - Huntsville  
1700 Normal Park Dr  
Huntsville

## Graveside Service

AUG 5. 11:30 AM - 12:00 PM.

Adickes addition of Oakwood Cemetery

# Tribute Wall



“ *Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Willa June Pilcher*



Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home - August 03, 2023 at 09:29 AM

CS

“ *Aunt Willa, Thank you for the beautiful hand made gifts you made for our wedding and the beautiful blankets you hand made for our children. We will always cherish them and think of you when we see them. We will always remember your laughter and how much fun you were to be around. Love you forever*

*-Chris & Elizabeth Sanple*



Christopher Sample - August 05, 2023 at 10:49 AM

KS

“ Going to miss you sister,



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**Karen Sample** - August 04, 2023 at 06:47 PM

GE

“ Gwen E. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Willa June Pilcher.

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**Gwen E.** - August 04, 2023 at 03:19 PM

GT

“ Gwen Trimble purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of Willa June Pilcher.



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**Gwen Trimble** - August 04, 2023 at 03:19 PM



“ Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Willa June Pilcher.



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August 04, 2023 at 02:25 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Willa June Pilcher.

August 04, 2023 at 02:25 PM



“ Often when I think of lovely times with Willa I remember our trip to Nicaragua many years ago. Here's a photo of some dancers at a show we went to!



Winn Lambert-Meek - August 02, 2023 at 09:34 PM



“ Joseph S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Willa June Pilcher.

Joseph S. - August 02, 2023 at 02:08 PM



“ My condolences to Willa's family. Willa & I worked together @ TDCJ and I was a student of Dr. Wayland Pilcher before that. I will always remember both of them fondly!! My favorite quote of her's, "Where there's a Willa, there's a Wayland." May they now rest in peace together!!

Cay Cannon Nash - August 01, 2023 at 10:49 AM

AL

“ Willa will be so missed...she has been a very important part of our widow/ers groups over the years. For me beginning in 1998. I will miss her kindness and witty sense of humor. ♡

Amy Lewis - August 01, 2023 at 08:05 AM

PM

Willa, I will always remember your amazing advice ♡

You were honestly like my second Mom.

Much love rest in peace.

Pamela Moak

Pamela Kay Moak - August 02, 2023 at 04:45 AM

MH

“ M. Hyvl lit a candle in memory of Willa June Pilcher



M. Hyvl - July 31, 2023 at 06:03 PM

MN

“ Mark N. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Willa June Pilcher.

Mark N. - July 31, 2023 at 11:58 AM

VV

“ Von and Valerie purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Willa June Pilcher.



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**Von and Valerie** - July 31, 2023 at 11:53 AM

VV

“ Von and Valerie planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Willa June Pilcher.

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**Von and Valerie** - July 31, 2023 at 11:53 AM