



# Mr. Willard Gene Harrell

JUL 18, 1940 - MAY 21, 2020



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# Mr. Willard Gene Harrell

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**W**illard Harrell, Bogalusa native, resident artist extraordinaire, passed from Covid-19 on Thursday May 21, 2020, at Resthaven Nursing Home. His enduring legacy is as a chronicler in paintings of historical Bogalusa, Washington Parish and other Louisiana landmarks. Some of his most famous drawings and watercolors are of local homes, old Bogalusa downtown, the Zellco Calendar series, Delos Nobles and others. Bogalusa's Indian history and Centennial year are best remembered in posters he created. One of his favorite subjects was Mile Branch Settlement and the people who represented its history. He enjoyed the Franklinton Fair and telling about the history of Bogalusa and the surrounding communities. Many may remember seeing and buying his work at The Free Fair and his showings. Willard was a wealth of knowledge of Bogalusa history and with his passing we have lost a link to our local past. He was a well-known substitute teacher at Bogalusa High School. He enjoyed sharing his talent and hard work teaching art at the YMCA. He received numerous awards for his talent. A graduate of University of Southern Mississippi and avid LSU fan he enjoyed sports.

He is survived by his brother Richard (Duke) Harrell , sister-in-law, Faye, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Our family is thankful and appreciative of the nurses, doctors and aides who work at Resthaven and Our Lady of Angels whose selfless dedication and love provided care and comfort during his last days.

A private family graveside service will be held. Arrangements entrusted to Brown McGehee Funeral Home, Bogalusa, LA.




# Events

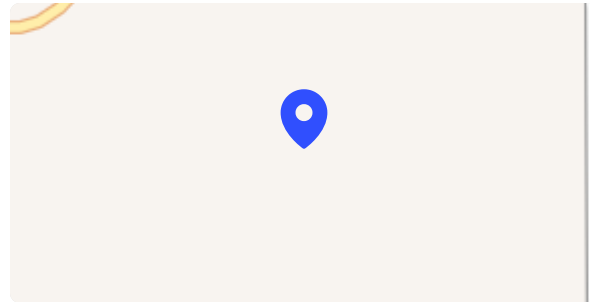
**Mr. Willard Gene Harrell**

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## Graveside Service

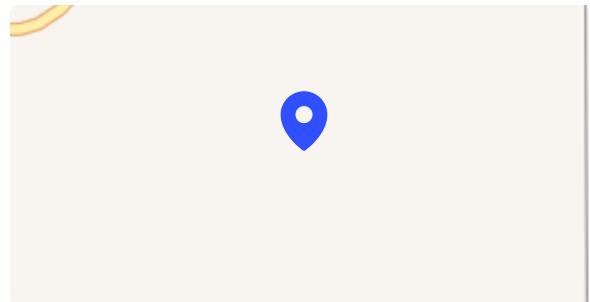
 **Tuesday, May 26, 2020**

 **Ponemah Cemetery**  
LA



## Cemetery Details

 **Ponemah Cemetery**  
LA





## Tribute Wall

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MG

**Mary Gill Brumfield Grove** lit a candle in honor of Harrell.

Willard was a dear friend of mine. While visiting Bogalusa for school reunion..I visited him in the nursing home,,,He was his witty self under his circumstancesI own 2 of his paintings I cherish.....I will fondly miss him,,,Mary Gill Brumfield Grove



February 5 at 8:00 AM

DT

**Devon Thomas** posted:

I paled around with Willard in the early 1960's. Also served with him in the National Guard. Lots of good memories.

May 25 at 12:48 PM

BL

**Belinda Lively** posted:

Sure did enjoy the conversations had when we would run into each other out and about. He gave Emily my oldest some of advice on a painting she did for the fair and she won best of show. He was a real sweetheart.

May 24 at 3:13 AM

BB

**Bob Ann Breland** posted:

So sad. He was a good artist friend. We shall miss him.

May 23 at 6:39 PM

KJ

**Kim Jordan** posted:

Condolences for the family. I'm very fortunate to have inherited a black/white drawing he did of my parents house. I treasure it to this day. He was a very special man.

May 23 at 1:02 PM

TS

**Tammy Carter Stewart** posted:

Sending my condolences to family and friends.

May 23 at 10:39 AM



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SA

**Sharlene Parker Alexis** posted:

I worked with Willard at a finance company in Bogalusa, he left to open his art gallery. I was his first customer and purchased the painting he did of the Rio depot. I told him one day I would have a Willard Harrell wall and I do with numerous paintings and sketches. He will be missed..!Sharlene Parker Alexis Flagstaff AZ

May 23 at 8:08 AM

MG

**Mary Gill Grove** May 26 at 8:10 PM

WENT TO SCHOOL WITH WILLARD...HAVE 2 OF HIS PAINTINGS,JOKED AROUND WITH HIM,,VISITED HIM AT THE FAIR,,AND BEST OF ALL WE PARTIED TOGETHER,,,, WAS A GREAT ALL AROUND GUY

TB

**Teri And Rick Boneno** May 23 at 1:36 PM

Loved his humor and his art Teri Boneno

SM

**Susan K Magee** posted:

What an extraordinary artist and person! I enjoyed conversations on various topics with him and admired all of his works of art. Duke and Faye and the rest of the family, you have my deepest sympathies and some of my fondest memories. ❤️👤

May 23 at 7:06 AM



## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Harrell by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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