

Willie Eston Norton was born on July 17, 1921, to Joseph and Sarah (Hair) Norton near Red Springs, North Carolina. He grew up in Raeford, NC on a cotton farm with four brothers and one sister. On September 16, 1940, Willie entered active duty in the Seventh Army of the United States during World War II. Willie's time in the service was one of harrowing adventure and bravery. During the 117th Infantry's battle of Mortain in France, he was taken as a POW by the Germans on August 7, 1944 through 1945, where he managed to escape, was recaptured, and escaped again by making his way through Poland and Greece, before being repatriated on March 23, 1945. Willie felt the duty to serve his country again during the Korean War. After retiring on March 31, 1961 from over 20 years of active service, Willie held a variety of jobs including working on a shrimp boat, dredge fishing, driving oil truck, and cutting trees from powerlines. In the 1960s, Willie met Yvonne Duenser while the two lived in the same neighborhood in Supply, NC. When Yvonne moved back to her native Chicago, Willie followed and pursued her until the two were married on June 13, 1966. Together the couple had a son, William, in 1970. In 1971, Willie and his family moved to Minnesota, before deciding to return to North Carolina after one year. Willie enjoyed gardening, digging up old tree stumps, and driving around on his side-by-side amidst the North Carolina terrain. He was a hard worker that will be missed dearly by his family.

On Friday, December 14, 2018, at the age of 97, Willie passed away at the St. Cloud VA Center. He is preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Joseph, Gilbert, Lacey, and Junior Norton, and sister, Ruby Norton.

Willie is survived by wife, Yvonne; sons, Richard (Laurie) and William Norton; daughter, Donna (Randy) Mathis, and grandchildren: Kalena, Aubrienne, Taylor, Richard Jr., Mathew, and Eric.

In Loving Memory



Willie E. Norton

1921~ 2018

I'm Free

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free
I'm following the path God laid for me.
I took His hand when I heard Him call
I turned my back and left it all.
I could not stay another day
to laugh, to love, to work or play.
Tasks undone must stay that way.

I found that peace at close of day.
If my parting has left a void
then fill it with remembered joy.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,
Ah, yes, these things I too will miss.

Be not burdened with times of sorrow
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.
My life's been full; I've savored much,
good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.

Perhaps my time seemed all too brief,
don't lengthen it now with undue grief.
Lift up your hearts and peace to thee
God wanted me now; He set me free.

In Memory of

Willie Eston Norton

July 17, 1921



December 14, 2018

Funeral Service

Anderson Funeral Home
Alexandria, Minnesota
Friday, December 21, 2018
1 PM

Officiant

Pastor Darryl Knappen

Musical Selections

“The Old Rugged Cross”
“Beyond the Sunset”
“God Be With You ‘Til We Meet Again”

*The family invites you to a time of fellowship, sharing
of memories, and good food following the service, at
Cornerstone Church.*

