



## Willard Leo Van Buren Sr.

February 3, 1935 - October 26, 2024

Willard Leo Van Buren, Sr. was born February 3, 1935, in Verdigre, Nebraska to Ralph Lloyd and Gertrude Jane (Benedict) Van Buren. Willie grew up around O'Neill and Spencer, Nebraska and as a young man he raced demolition and stock cars.

Willie made his home in Valley, Nebraska and more recently lived near Ashland, Nebraska. He was blessed with 6 children in his life: Cyndy, Willie, Jr., Tim, Bev, Roger, and Wendy.

Willie was a hard worker, and he will be remembered as a strong, determined, and stubborn man. He liked listening to country music and watching old Westerns. He helped build the Fort Randall Dam in South Dakota, drove a truck for Buckle's Trucking, and worked for SMS as a diesel mechanic. He then started his own trucking company, V & P Diesel, and later owned Willie's Bar in Valley. He could often be found fishing, camping, or air boating, and was known to firmly say, "I'll tell you one thing..." (with a finger tapping the table).

Willie passed away at Methodist Hospital in Omaha, Nebraska on Saturday, October 26, 2024, at the age of 89 years, 8 months, and 23 days. He was preceded in death by his parents Ralph and Gertrude, and siblings Marvella, Ralph, Jr., Ervin, and Don. Willie is survived by his children: Cyndy (Mike) Ellermeier, Willard, Jr. (Babbett) Van Buren, Timothy, Sr. (Vicki) Van Buren, Beverly Stepusin, Roger (Robin) Van Buren, and Wendy (James) Jeffrey, 20 grandchildren, 43 great grandchildren and one great great grandchild, his twin

sister Wilma Buckles, and special friend Shirlee White.

Services will be held at Hollst Lawn Cemetery, rural Yutan, on Friday, November 1, 2024 at 11 AM. Following the service, there will be a lunch served at the Yutan Country Club. Visitation will be held on Thursday, Oct. 31 at Reichmuth Funeral Home in Elkhorn from 5-7 PM. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Parkinson's Foundation.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT **31**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Reichmuth Funeral Home - Elkhorn  
21901 West Maple Road P.O. Box 67  
Elkhorn, NE 68022

# Tribute Wall



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Willard Leo Van Buren Sr..

October 31, 2024 at 04:08 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Willard Leo Van Buren Sr..



October 31, 2024 at 04:08 PM



“ Darin and Karen Carlson planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Willard Leo Van Buren Sr..

**Darin and Karen Carlson** - October 31, 2024 at 01:19 PM



“ Darin and Karen Carlson purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Willard Leo Van Buren Sr..



**Darin and Karen Carlson** - October 31, 2024 at 01:19 PM

CS

“ Charlie and Helen Sake , Donna Sake purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Willard Leo Van Buren Sr..



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**Charlie and Helen Sake , Donna Sake** - October 31, 2024 at 10:41 AM

KO

“ Willie was like another dad to me and my brother ,he was a very caring and loving man he was a very hard worker,my dad worked for Willie ,he was a wonderful man rip will and take care of everyone up there like you always have ..love you kimmer ,you will be missed..

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**Kim ott** - October 31, 2024 at 07:28 AM

HG

“ When my Uncle Willie came to visit brother Don and family in O'Neill, he would always pull into town in style, driving his Lincoln Continental and wearing a cowboy hat! I remember hearing him say "I was headed west. I had to wear the hat to fit in!" The best memory was a Christmas Eve. He came to visit proudly sporting a "crusher" hat, which of course lead to everyone getting to order one for ourselves! And of course Wendy and I putting way too much perfume on, only for him to say " Lay off the Poo Foo Juice girls!!"

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**Heidi (Van Buren) Gnat** - October 29, 2024 at 08:50 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Willard Leo Van Buren Sr..

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October 29, 2024 at 04:54 PM



“ *Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Willard Leo Van Buren Sr..*



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October 29, 2024 at 04:54 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Willard Leo Van Buren Sr..*



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October 29, 2024 at 02:17 PM



“ *Serene Reflections Bouquet was purchased for the family of Willard Leo Van Buren Sr..*



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October 29, 2024 at 10:55 AM



“ *French Construction, LLC planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Willard Leo Van Buren Sr..*

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**French Construction, LLC** - October 29, 2024 at 09:50 AM

FL

“ *French Construction, LLC purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Willard Leo Van Buren Sr..*



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**French Construction, LLC** - October 29, 2024 at 09:50 AM