



Mrs. Willean Ford Hicks

July 23, 1946 - May 2, 2025

Willean Ford Hicks was born in Madison, Arkansas on July 23, 1946, as the first-born child to Otha Ford and Georgia Rivers Ford. During her lifetime, she inherited a rich legacy of faith, family, character, music, leadership, and philanthropy. Willean was a loving mother, a cherished and devoted grandmother, an incredible great and great-great grandmother, a beloved sister, a doting aunt, and a dedicated friend.

Willean's spiritual upbringing began at the Rising Sun Missionary Baptist Church in Forrest City under the pastorate of Reverend H. R. Hunt, where she accepted Christ as her Savior and was baptized at an early age. During her childhood years, Willean's vocal talents were exceptional and evident, and her affinity for music was nurtured and later developed. As a teenager who wholeheartedly embraced church, her leadership skills became visible as she assumed the responsibility of directing the Rising Sun Youth and Adult Choirs. During her membership at Rising Sun, Willean served and sang in the choir under the late Rev. H. R. Hunt, the late Rev. Armstead Slayton, and Rev. John Strong, Jr. In the early 2000s, Willean would join the Riverside M. B. Church under the pastorate of the late Rev. Marland Brown and the current pastorate of Rev. Terrence Burgess. At Riverside, Willean's anointed singing and melodious voice would be heard on Sunday mornings as she sang in the choir and praised God in songs. Her gift for music was influenced by so many artists and subsequently led her to affiliate with musical groups such as The Chosen Ones, the YBA Community Choir, and the Forrest City Gospel Four.

Willean's time at Lincoln High School marked a pivotal chapter in her life, where she was introduced to new perspectives and transformative ideas. Under the guidance of Ms. Charlene Warren, the school's music Instructor, Willean developed a lifelong mentorship that deepened her love for singing. She came to see her vocal talent not only as a gift but also as a form of worship and a means of connecting others to the Savior. With this sense of purpose, she committed herself to refining her musical abilities. Along-side music, Willean's enthusiasm for basketball flourished, sparking thoughtful conversations about the sport's legends and their impact on the Golden State Warriors. A proud member of Lincoln High School's Class of 1965, she maintained a deep loyalty to her alma mater and

her identity as a Lincoln Tiger.

Willean's life was a testament to her perseverance, faith, and enthusiasm as she lived life to the fullest. Her professional journey spanned multiple organizations, including General Industries (GI), Reltoc Manufacturing Company, and the home health industry, culminating in a well-deserved retirement. In addition, she dedicated herself to notable philanthropic service to Kids for the Future, Saint Francis County Food Pantry, Ronald McDonald House, and various musical performances. She received accolades from various organizations and was crowned Ms. Rhythm of Gospel 2015 in Birmingham, Alabama. She had a devout passion for gardening, fishing, and crocheting. Willean embodied a unique blend of dignity, elegance, courage, faith, and strength, earning her a lasting and celebratory reputation as a pillar of the community. Her legacy will be defined by her kindness, poise, sense of humor, and steadfast commitment to her Christian faith.

On Friday, May 2, 2025, at CHI St. Vincent North in Sherwood, AR, Willean peacefully transitioned to her eternal home. She was reunited with her parents: Otha Ford and Georgia Rivers Ford; her sisters: Carolyn Rivers and Otha Mae Ford; and her daughter: Sharon Charisse Tabron.

Her memory will be forever cherished by her loving children: Paul (Sundrell) Tabron of Houston, Texas; Rodney Tabron of Forrest City, Arkansas, Peggy (Leonard) Swift of Marion, Arkansas, and Torrey (Candice) Norman of Forrest City, Arkansas. She also leaves behind a legacy of love through her grandchildren: Erica Harris of Little Rock, Arkansas, Adam Blake Taylor of Atlanta, Georgia, Arielle Kirkwood of Houston, Texas, Kameron Tabron of Jonesboro, Arkansas, Sydnee Swift of Dallas, Texas, Nicholas Swift of Tulsa, Oklahoma, Kafeli Pace, Sharon Norman, Vivian Norman, Jael Norman, and Torrey Norman, Jr., all of Forrest City, Arkansas. She was further blessed with eleven great-grandchildren and one great-great grandchild. Willean is also survived by her devoted sisters: Alice Faye Ford of Forrest City, Arkansas, Peggy Seals of Little Rock, Arkansas, and Linda Hare of Marion, Arkansas, as well as survived by her brother: Willie Ford. She shared a special bond with her godchildren: Eliax "Tony" (Yjuania "Jeanette") Jenkins of Forrest City, Arkansas and Sandra (Percy) Atwater of Marion, Arkansas. Her legacy will live on through a host of favorite nieces, adored nephews, other beloved relatives, and dear friends.

Cemetery Details

Forrest Park Cemetery

2605 South Washington Street
Forrest City , AR 72335

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 9. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Riverside M.B. Church
628 SFC 419
Widener , AR 72394

Farwell Musical Tribute

MAY 9. 7:30 PM (CT)

New Rising Sun Missionary Baptist Church
1938 W Broadway Ave.
Forrest City , AR 72335

Service

MAY 10. 11:00 AM (CT)

Greater Mount Moriah Missionary Baptist Church
4986 Highway 1 North
Caldwell , AR 72322

It has been requested that all participants in the Willean Ford Hicks Celebration Choir wear all black attire with a hint of purple.

Repast

MAY 10. 2:30 PM (CT)

The Grand Venue
2615 South Washington Street
Forrest City , AR 72335

Tribute Wall

LW

“ Lee Williams sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Wilean Ford Hicks



Lee Williams - June 08, 2025 at 08:01 PM

SP

“ Shurelle Parchman lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Wilean Ford Hicks



Shurelle Parchman - May 22, 2025 at 11:22 AM

PH

“ Pecola Hooks lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Wilean Ford Hicks



Pecola Hooks - May 15, 2025 at 06:13 PM



“ Eddie Hodges lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Wilean Ford Hicks



Eddie Hodges - May 11, 2025 at 07:37 PM

DR

“ Donyan Rogers lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Wilean Ford Hicks



Donyan Rogers - May 10, 2025 at 11:59 PM

RW

“ Far and the entire Ford Hicks family, please accept my/our sincere heartfelt condolences. We the class of 1968 pray strength and peace during this time of sorrow...Reva Hancock-Wiley and class of "68

Reva J Wiley - May 10, 2025 at 05:23 PM

RW

Fae

Reva J Wiley - May 10, 2025 at 05:23 PM

CC

“ Christine Chism lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Wilean Ford Hicks



Christine Chism - May 10, 2025 at 08:09 AM

BC

“ Sending my condolences to the family. Wilean was such a beautiful lady with a beautiful spirit. She will truly be missed!



Bert Cassell - May 09, 2025 at 08:23 PM

JJ

“ Jo Ann Jones lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Wilean Ford Hicks



Jo Ann Jones - May 09, 2025 at 08:00 PM

BW

“ God Bless her Family and Friends .She was a solder in the Lord.She had a beautiful smile .Wilean love helping people take your sweet rest you will be miss by many.



Betty walker - May 09, 2025 at 06:29 PM

TT

“ I am sorry for your loss. Aunt Willean will truly misses. Love to hear aunt sang.



tasha and terry - May 09, 2025 at 04:44 PM

TO

“ Toni lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Willean Ford Hicks



Toni - May 09, 2025 at 03:59 PM

DB

“ Dorothy Blanchett Bell lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Willean Ford Hicks



Dorothy Blanchett Bell - May 09, 2025 at 12:31 PM

BF

“ Burgess Family lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Willean Ford Hicks



Burgess Family - May 09, 2025 at 12:27 PM

PA

“ Pi Chi Omega Chapter Alpha Kappa Alpha purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mrs. Willean Ford Hicks.



Pi Chi Omega Chapter Alpha Kappa Alpha - May 09, 2025 at 11:21 AM

JS

“ Jeanette Spearmon sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Willean Ford Hicks



Jeanette Spearmon - May 09, 2025 at 10:05 AM

LJ

“ Linda Johnson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Willean Ford Hicks



Linda Johnson - May 08, 2025 at 07:15 PM

SU

“ Stephanie Ugbaja lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Willean Ford Hicks



Stephanie Ugbaja - May 08, 2025 at 01:46 AM

FF

“ From; Bernard Brittenum and family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mrs. Willean Ford Hicks.



From; Bernard Brittenum and family - May 07, 2025 at 09:23 PM

FF

“ From; Bernard Brittenum and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mrs. Willean Ford Hicks.

From; Bernard Brittenum and family - May 07, 2025 at 09:23 PM

PF

“ Patricia F. purchased the Sacred Garden Spray for the family of Mrs. Willean Ford Hicks.



Patricia F. - May 07, 2025 at 04:42 PM

PF

“ Patricia F. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mrs. Willean Ford Hicks.

Patricia F. - May 07, 2025 at 04:42 PM

IM

“ Irene Moore sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Willean Ford Hicks



Irene moore - May 07, 2025 at 02:55 PM

RB

“ Rachel Bernal purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Mrs. Willean Ford Hicks.



Rachel Bernal - May 07, 2025 at 10:53 AM

LC

“ Love Always, Trenna Cottrell purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Mrs. Willean Ford Hicks.



Love Always, Trenna Cottrell - May 06, 2025 at 10:14 PM

LH

“ Lovie Hardrick sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Willean Ford Hicks



Lovie Hardrick - May 06, 2025 at 02:11 PM

DB

“ Dorothy Bell lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Willean Ford Hicks



Dorothy Bell - May 06, 2025 at 01:02 PM

ST

“ Willean family and friends, heartfelt condolences to you at this most bereavement. Praying for you for strength, comfort and peace today and the days ahead 🙏



Shirley Williams Thorn - May 06, 2025 at 11:45 AM

GW

“ Guy Watson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Willean Ford Hicks



Guy Watson - May 06, 2025 at 11:24 AM

GW

“ Guy Watson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Willean Ford Hicks



Guy Watson - May 06, 2025 at 11:24 AM

KR

“ My sweet lady is what I called her. One of my sweetest patients at the pain center. ❤️ She never left the doctor's office without giving me a hug and some days she just didn't know how that would make my day better. Always so sweet to me. I will carry all of the kind and encouraging words that she has given me in the days ahead. I will miss her dearly. Take your rest my sweet lady. Forever in my heart ❤️

Kiara Robinson - May 06, 2025 at 11:13 AM

MG

“ Marva Garrett lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Willean Ford Hicks



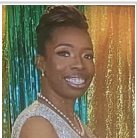
Marva Garrett - May 06, 2025 at 09:53 AM

BJ

“ Bobbie Jones lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Willean Ford Hicks



Bobbie Jones - May 06, 2025 at 12:10 AM



“ A great neighbor whom I love dearly, she took me fishing for the first and last time, I will miss calling you Miss Jefferson and talking about your sassy looks hair nails lashes OMG I could write a book about you praying 🙏 for strength and healing for your family



Kristi Wynne - May 05, 2025 at 09:52 PM

MS

“ Mrs Cheryl Stewart lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Willean Ford Hicks



Mrs Cheryl Stewart - May 05, 2025 at 08:21 PM

AC

“ *My heartfelt condolences to the family! May the peace of God comfort and strengthen you during this time and in the days ahead.*



Anita Clark - May 05, 2025 at 06:25 PM

DF

“ *Debra Hargraves Ford sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Willean Ford Hicks*



Debra Hargraves Ford - May 05, 2025 at 05:54 PM

AB

“ *Angela Barton lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Willean Ford Hicks*



Angela Barton - May 05, 2025 at 05:35 PM

BD

“ *Sending my deepest condolences, prayers and love to the Hicks/Ford family.*



Barbara Debose - May 05, 2025 at 05:25 PM

CC

“ *To the Ford family, I want to extend my deepest condolences on your loss. May God give the family strength, and guidance during this homegoing.*



*The Class of 87
Christopher Chatters*

Christopher Chatters - May 05, 2025 at 05:20 PM

TC

“ Tresha Curne-Webster lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Willean Ford Hicks



Tresha Curne-Webster - May 05, 2025 at 05:01 PM

RW

To the Hicks/Ford family the Woodfork family sends uts deepest condolences. Sis.Hicks will always be in our hearts she always had a encouraging word for me an my family everytime we meet.God doesn't make mistakes I know she's Now singing in the Heavenly choir she pushed so many in the potential to be the men an women of God .Riverside hold on God has shown us all his power an presents everything she opened her mouth. She will forever be in our Gkd bless.

Rev. Lakisha an Patrick woodfork - May 06, 2025 at 08:00 AM

BB

“ Sincere condolences to the Hicks and Ford family. We all are going to miss that beautiful voice and beautiful soul. Ms Willean was one in a million. Parying for all.



Brenda Ann Brown - May 05, 2025 at 04:35 PM

D'

“ D'Mari sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Willean Ford Hicks



D'Mari - May 05, 2025 at 04:29 PM

D'

“ D'Mari lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Willean Ford Hicks



D'Mari - May 05, 2025 at 04:28 PM

SR

“ Shekita Carter Rogers lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Willean Ford Hicks



Shekita Carter Rogers - May 05, 2025 at 04:04 PM

TT

“ The family of Ben and Gloria Tubbs planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mrs. Willean Ford Hicks.

The family of Ben and Gloria Tubbs - May 05, 2025 at 03:28 PM

TT

“ The family of Ben and Gloria Tubbs purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mrs. Willean Ford Hicks.



The family of Ben and Gloria Tubbs - May 05, 2025 at 03:28 PM

LA

“ L A lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Willean Ford Hicks



L A - May 05, 2025 at 02:38 PM

DM

“ A word of comfort and of hope, that in your deepest sorrow, you will find new strength and peace of mind and courage for tomorrow.” Please know that you are in our prayers.



Sending condolences to the family of Willean Ford Hicks on behalf of The Lincoln High School - Maroon & Gold National Alumni Association, Inc. (MGNAAI), Forrest City, Arkansas. Willean was a member of the Lincoln High School Class of 1965.”

*Delores Farr Morelon
President, MGNAAI*

Delores Morelon - MGNAAI - May 05, 2025 at 01:45 PM

BS

To The family of Willean Hicks, May God almighty continue blessing each of you during this difficult journey without your love one ❤️

Barbara Ann Smith - May 05, 2025 at 08:06 PM