

A Tribute and Farewell to Will Williams

We are here today to say goodbye to Will.
He will leave a void in our hearts that we will never fill.

Will and his shirts in Honolulu, Hawaii, will reside,
Where he can relax in the sun and watch the soothing tide.

From Baptists in the Ozarks of Missouri, Will got his start,
But he soon knew that he had to follow his heart.

All his young life he dreamed and longed
For somewhere he knew he could feel he belonged.

He's a walking contradiction of his past from which he grew.
He is worldly, charming, sophisticated, and country, through and through.

He loves country ballads, and in his heart that music rings
And his cousin Kacey Musgraves like a country angel sings

He began his education a one-room school
And one lesson there he learned and lived was the golden rule.

He later attended a Bible school to become a Baptist pastor.
But at the University of Hawaii he attained an education administration master.

In served the military proudly in the ROTC
As a lieutenant and a platoon leader in Germany

In the Department of Defense for excellence he did strive,
and he won the Military Educator of the Year award in 1995.

7 Habits to Successful People became his topic to provide
Others in their leadership skills to develop and guide.

When he retired, he and Jack started on their bucket list.
And the list was checked off with only a few things missed.

Learning to play bridge was a goal to pursue,
And as they gained experience, worldwide friendships grew.

All over the world people knew Jack and Will,
And through these connections, they sowed seeds of goodwill.

Will has served on many boards for District 6 and ACBL committees,
and he has shaped the direction of the intermediate/novice policies.

Will has given so much of his time and passion to advancing this game,
And his enthusiasm and friendliness has brought him worldwide bridge fame.

Will's and Jack's decorum in bridge was a well-known reality,
And in 2004 Will and Jack received the RBA trophy for congeniality.

Will is known for his genuine warmth and friendships he causes to bloom.
Jack told me he would sit and marvel as he watched Will work the room.

Will's leadership and influence has found him serving on many boards
Of most everything he has pursued, and he has won countless awards.

His goals through life have met with his unwavering insistence
That along the way he would always try to make a real difference.

Will carries with him the loving memory of partner in life, Jack,
And he continues to fulfill their mutual goal to the world: to give back.

He and Jack were philosophical about life and recognized that time went fast,
So they vowed to each other that they'd live every day as if it was their last.

In the Richmond bridge community Willard Williams has been a light ray,
And we are so very lucky to have met him along his way.

Even though Honolulu will now be Will's new home,
He will certainly never quench his endless thirst to roam.

We know his wandering spirit will call him far and near
And take him all over the world, and maybe sometimes back here.

*Linda MacCleave
October 11, 2019*