

# Noemi Mara Willis

*August 28, 1945 ~ September 28, 2025*

Noemi Mara Willis passed away on September 28, 2025, along with her best friend and husband, James Willis, in a tragic plane crash in Tomball, Texas.

Mara was born to Vincente and Lilana Esquivel in Del Rio, Texas, on August 28, 1945. She attended San Felipe High School in Del Rio and graduated in 1964. After moving to Salt Lake City, Mara continued her education and earned an associate's degree in marketing from Salt Lake Community College.

Mara had three children during her first marriage. A lifelong learner, she was endlessly curious about the world around her. Following the passing of her son in December 2023, she became deeply interested in religion and the afterlife. Her stop in Tomball, Texas, that fateful weekend was to attend a speaking engagement related to those interests.

Mara left a lasting impression on everyone she met, forming lifelong friendships wherever she went. She believed in spreading kindness, always looking for ways to help others, learn new things, and share her knowledge. She was an incredible wife, mother, friend, and grandmother—devoted to her family above all else. Her grandchildren were her greatest joy, and she cherished every moment spent gardening, adventuring, and learning with them.

Mara is preceded in death by her parents, grandparents, son, and other beloved family members. She is survived by her son, daughter, beautiful grandchildren, and numerous extended family members. She will also be deeply missed by the many friends, neighbors, and acquaintances who were fortunate to know her.

Her one true love, best friend, and inseparable companion will be laid to rest beside her.

Services for Jim and Mara Willis

Viewing - 10/20 6-8 pm

Funeral - 10/21 10:00 am

Location - 10860 S 3200 W, South Jordan, Utah

Graveside - 10/21 12:00 pm

Larkin Sunset Gardens Cemetery, 1950 E 10600 S, Sandy, Utah

To watch the funeral services live via zoom please click the blue "Watch Services" tab at the top of the obituary.