



Gloria Willcox

September 16, 1933 - May 14, 2021

Gloria Thomas Willcox, born Gloria Eusebia Thomas on September 16th, 1933 in New Orleans, Louisiana, passed away on Friday, May 14th of this year after a long struggle with the aftereffects of a radical duodenal cancer surgery. Gloria was a longtime resident of Tampa and St. Petersburg, Florida, and she is probably best remembered as the creator of the Feeling Wheel, a visual tool she created in 1982 to help couples in therapy identify and express their feelings. She modeled this instrument, to a certain extent, on the Wheel of Emotions created a few years earlier by Dr. Robert Plutchik. Her version, however, was the first of its kind to be created for specific use in marriage and family therapy sessions, and currently remains widely in use in many settings today.

She met her life-long husband, Herbert Willcox, at Stetson University in 1952, where she became a member of Zeta Tau Alpha National Sorority. They were married in December of 1954, and she completed her undergraduate degree in Religious Education at Stetson shortly thereafter. She went on to Counseling and Psychology at Tennessee Technological University, where she received her master's in 1968. In 1977 she began her counseling career as a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist at St. Luke's United Methodist Church, where she would serve as a Christian Counselor for thirty-two years. She received her doctorate in Counseling Psychology from International University in 1982 and became the Executive Director of the Network of Christian Counselors in 1996. She published her best-selling book *Feelings: Converting Negatives to Positives* in 2002 with the assistance of Olive Young. In 2009, she authored and published *The Rhythms of Grace*, a work that also served as the curriculum for a class in Developmental Psychology that she taught that year at St. Petersburg Theological Seminary. In addition to teaching, she also mentored many students. In her later years, she published several more works that included the devotional book *The Rainbow Connection*, which she co-authored with her sister Phyllis Edwards.

She enjoyed games, puzzles, competing and winning, playing basketball, Qigong, shells, sunsets, walks on the beach and hikes in the mountains, as well as swimming. Her favorite emotion was joy, and her favorite noun was "Glory". She loved to sing, and found the most fulfillment in being in ministry. She stayed in ministry to those fortunate enough to know her all the way through to her final days.

She will be long remembered as a brilliant psychologist, a loving mother and grandmother, an effective public speaker and community leader, and a highly motivated and motivating person fascinated with life, love, laughter, and nature. She has now “gone on to Glory” and we look forward to seeing her again soon.

Gloria is survived by her sister – Phyllis Gwendolyn Edwards (husband John Hardy Edwards) in Sapphire Valley, North Carolina and much-loved family: daughter – Feral Yvonne Willcox in Chiang Mai, Thailand; son – Douglas Ralph Willcox in St. Petersburg, Florida; son – David Eugene Willcox (wife Pamela Sue Willcox) in Conifer, Colorado; granddaughter – Kelsey Laura Graywill in London, Great Britain; and grandson – Christopher Scott Willcox in Conifer, Colorado.

Funeral service will be held at 11:00am at St. Luke United Methodist Church, 4444 5th Ave. North, St. Petersburg Florida 33713 with burial to follow in Memorial Park Cemetery.

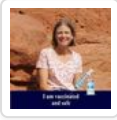
Cemetery

Memorial Park Cemetery
5750 49th Street North
St. Petersburg, FL, 33709

Events

JUN	Funeral Service	11:00AM
7	<hr/>	
	St. Lukes United Methodist Church	
	4444 5th Ave North, St. Petersburg, FL, US	

Comments



“ Yes, Dr Willcox created the feeling wheel. I still own her book, which provides a deeper look into feelings. She explored and reveals them as "negatives" and "positives." She had a large amount of wisdom and empathy. - Julie Sauers Ringenberg

Julie Ringenberg - July 11 at 12:43 PM



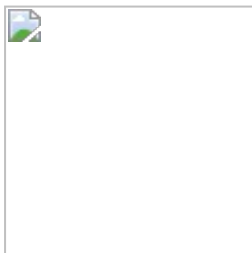
“ In the 1970's while living in Tampa, Gloria and Herb along with Ellie and Ozzie Pawelkop taught Bible and life skills at Bayshore Baptist Church to our college aged class. During this time we had retreats at Chinsegut Hill and Boca Grande along with many activities. At any time we, college aged students, were welcomed into their home. Herb, Gloria, Ellie and Ozzie poured their heart and soul into our class. Their time and commitment to our lives is greatly appreciated and each of us have very fond memories of those times. May God richly bless the Willcox family and provide them with sweet memories which overpower their grief.

Mark & Carolyn Boghich

Mark & Carolyn Boghich - June 05 at 09:42 PM



“ 3 files added to the album Gloria Willcox Family photos



Pamela Willcox - June 02 at 03:12 PM



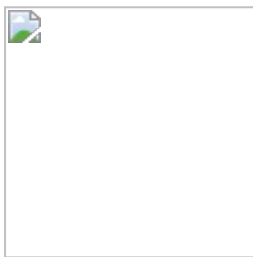
“ 6 files added to the album Gloria Willcox Family photos



PAmelia Willcox - June 02 at 03:09 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Gloria Willcox Family photos



PAmelia Willcox - June 02 at 03:05 PM



“ David Willcox is following this tribute.

David Willcox - June 02 at 01:15 PM



“ My sympathy goes out to the family and friends of Gloria, who I had the pleasure of meeting on several occasions at the church. We were both in the helping profession and I believe she was the creator of "The Feeling Wheel," an awesome therapeutic tool that I still use today with my patients. I will remember her as a credit to our profession.

Linda-Lu Misa, LCSW

Linda-Lu - May 24 at 05:37 PM