



## Will Steele

July 20, 2010

William (Will) Joseph Steele, 84, former Chief Deputy of the Coconino County Sheriff's Department, passed away July 20, 2010 at his home in Cornville with his family at his side. Will was born on Aug. 23, 1925 at one of the Babbitt family cottages in Flagstaff, Arizona. His father William Christy Steele, and his mother, Minnie L. Farley, moved to Sedona just prior to Will's birth, although Will's grandparents had originally settled in Sedona in 1905, where his family farmed for a living. A graduate of Flagstaff High School, Will served in the U.S. Navy during WWII. During Will's military duty, his father became the first deputy sheriff of Sedona. Upon William Christy Steele's death in 1951, and at the behest of Sedona residents, former Coconino County Sheriff Perry Francis gave Will the position. In 1970, Will became Chief Deputy under Coconino County Sheriff Joe Richards and served with distinction in that position until his retirement in 1982. Survivors include his wife 60 years, Dorothy Louise Birch, his three sons, William Britt (Marlene) of Alpine, Texas; Kelly Joseph (Wanda), of Scottsdale, Arizona; and Wade Christy (Sandra) of Nampa, Idaho; six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his brother, Raymond James Steele of Prescott, Arizona. A memorial service will be held at 10 a.m. Tuesday, July 27 at the Mountain View United Methodist Church, 901 S. 12th St., Cottonwood. Former Sheriff Joe Richards will give the eulogy. Donations in Will Steele's memory can be made to the American Cancer Society, Yavapai County Division. Please call 800-227-2345.

To plant Memorial Trees in memory of Will Steele, please [click here](#) to visit our Sympathy Store.

# Tribute Wall

WS

“ *I Love You Mom*

William Britt Steele - June 20, 2022 at 02:46 PM

MK

“ *Will, I hope you are dancing in heaven. I know you and John are catching up on all the Cornville happenings. Dorothy and sons, may God cradle you in his arms as you cope with your loss. Much Love, Meg*

Meg Kovacovich - June 20, 2022 at 02:46 PM

BF

“ *Dorothy, I was so sad to hear of Wills passing. My thoughts and prayers are with you and the boys. Take care and know that GOD is right by you. Love ya*

Barbra Derrick Fish - June 20, 2022 at 02:46 PM

BT

“ *Grandma and Family, I wish Alyssa and I could be there to share in the Memorial service, but please know that our hearts are with you. Sincerely, Brett*

Brett and Alyssa Trebil - June 20, 2022 at 02:46 PM

C(

“ SORRY TO HEAR OF WILL'S PASSING HE WILL BE REMEMBER FOR HIS WARM WONDERFUL SMILE AND GREAT SENSE OF HUMOR. OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS ARE WITH DOROTHY AND HER FAMILY. WE SEND OUR LOVE CHERIE AND DENNIS HANZLICEK KENDALL GITCHELL PHOENIX, ARIZONA

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**Cherie Dennis (Ferebee)Hanzlicek** - June 20, 2022 at 02:46 PM

RB

“ Dorothy, we can't tell you how saddened we were to hear about Will's passing. We just thought the world of him and will miss him so much. I just saw him a few months ago when I went to oncology for my cancer check up. We had a nice little visit. Such a great guy, he was. May God give you the strength to get through these next few days. You and your family are in our prayers, for sure. We love you lots, Rusty & Bev Black

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**Rusty & Bev Black** - June 20, 2022 at 02:46 PM

JG

“ Dorothy, Barbara and I want you to know how much we loved Will. I know I caused him much grief as a teenager growing up in Sedona, but due to his compassion and caring, I made it to adulthood! Will was one of a kind, a truly great person. I never heard anyone say anything bad about him, and that is something that very few can claim about ourselves. May God be with you and your family during this difficult time.

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**Jim and Barbara Gilbert** - June 20, 2022 at 02:46 PM

JP

“ Sister Dear, Sorry for the passing of Will, he meant a lot to me and our entire family he watched over this family and he still will watch from above. As Jim Gilbert said I never heard anyone say anything bad about him and he never said anything bad about others he was always there to serve. See you in a couple of days your brother.

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**JACK & BRENDA PAGE** - June 20, 2022 at 02:46 PM

RK

“ Dear Aunt Dorothy & Family, Hold tight the memories for comfort, lean on your family and friends for strength, and always remember how much you are cared about. We have lost a great Man our Uncle Will. He will always have a special place in our hearts. With Love, Christopher, Robin, Wesley, Tasha, Desiree

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**Robin Page Kollar** - June 20, 2022 at 02:46 PM

ML

“ Mr. Steel, as I knew him, was truly a wonderful person and the world is a better place for him having been here. We will all miss him. My thoughts and prayers go out to Mrs. Steel and Kelly, Wade & Britt.

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**Mike Lynch** - June 20, 2022 at 02:46 PM

PR

“ I missed this in the paper. So, my condolences come along late in time. I have many fond memories of our days of friendship in Sedona. I'm truly sorry to hear of Mr. Steele's passing. I wish God's comfort for all of you.

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**Paul Reed** - June 20, 2022 at 02:46 PM