



Otis Neal Williams

June 5, 1934 - June 8, 2025

Otis Neal Williams, known affectionately as "Sonny" to family & friends and "Papa" to his beloved grandchildren, left this world on June 8, 2025, at the age of 91, in the peaceful surroundings of his home in Citra, Florida. Born on June 5, 1934, in Big Spring, Texas, Sonny was a man whose robust laughter and boundless energy were the hallmarks of his vibrant spirit.

Sonny's early life in Texas laid the foundation for a diverse career path that showcased his many talents and unwavering work ethic. He learned the craft of an electrician through diligent on-the-job training, skills he would carry with him throughout his life. Sonny also served his community with honor as a Sheriff Deputy for over a decade, a testament to his dedication to public service and the well-being of others.

Embodying the spirit of the American West, Sonny was a true cowboy at heart. His love for rodeo was evident to all who knew him, with roping being a particular passion. Even as he moved through different phases of his life, the rodeo arena always called him back, and he answered with the same enthusiasm time and time again.

Sonny's interests were as vast as the Texas plains he once called home. He was a man who never shied away from hard work, whether it was driving cattle, breaking horses, or engaging in the intricate art of metalwork. Building

houses and tree cutting were more than just tasks to Sonny; they were expressions of his enduring strength and creativity. He was a man who could fix anything, a trait that earned him the reputation of being incredibly handy.

Music was another of Sonny's great loves. He played the guitar and violin with the same passion he brought to every endeavor, and his voice carried the soulful strains of country music, deeply influenced by the legendary Hank Williams. Locals often enjoyed his performances at the Market of Marion, where he shared his musical gifts with his community.

Though his later years saw him unable to partake in some of his favorite activities like fishing, Sonny's love for college sports, especially the Florida Gators, remained a constant source of enjoyment. His competitive spirit and love for the game kept him cheering with as much gusto as any young fan.

Sonny leaves behind a legacy through his children, Theresa Koester and Rodney Williams; his beloved grandchildren, Jeffery & Faith Williams and Nicole Dougherty; and his great-grandchildren, Irissa and Raiden Williams. He also leaves behind his brother Bud, as well as numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and cherished friends, including Dick and Holly Beard and Jimmie Watkins, who became like family to him over the years.

Described as funny, spirited, and the epitome of stubborn reliability, Sonny will be remembered for the laughter that followed his humorous tales and the warm, guiding light he provided to those around him. His was a life lived with gusto, a life that touched countless others, and a life that will be deeply missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing this remarkable man. Sonny's story is one of a life well-lived and well-loved, and his memory will be cherished forever.