

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Hillite, Earl Martine Senator Hillite,
Earl M. — Represented Polk County, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 30 Oct 1946 Union, Iowa

2. Marriage (s) date place
Martha Oldson 1969 Earle Grove, Iowa

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business He was a partner in the law firm of Jones, Hillite, Mayer
and Hibbard in Des Moines, Iowa; member of Iowa and Polk County Bar
Associations

B. Civic responsibilities 4-H; Des Moines Civic Music Association;

C. Profession Attorney; teacher

4. Church membership Congregational

5. Sessions served 64th General Assembly 1971-1972 House of Representatives

6. Public Offices 65th, 66th, 67th General Assemblies 1973-1974, 1975-1976, 1977-1978-
Senate 1979

A. Local Polk County assistant attorney general; deputy
attorney general

B. State _____

C. National _____

7. Death 11 Jul 1990 Des Moines Iowa; Louis Berger Center, Union, Iowa

8. Children Emily; Anne

9. Names of parents Levi Mahlow and Anna Lee (Martine) Hillite

10. Education He was a graduate of Union and High School in 1964.

11. Degrees Iowa State University, Ames Iowa BA, 1968
Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa - law degree 1974

12. Other applicable information Democrat

- He taught American Government at Hoover High School in Des Moines, but found his niche in Iowa state government.
- He resigned from the legislature in 1979.
- He and his wife Peter divorced.
- He was preceded in death by his mother.

Sources Log For Legislation Entries

Applicability

Source	Non Applicable	Applicable	Information obtained
-	Obituary -	The Des Moines Register,	Des Moines Iowa, Thurs. July 12, 1990, p. 11, col. 3-5 and p. 34, col. 1-2
-	Iowa Official Register	1979-1980,	p. 87
-	Familysearch.org	(accessed 19 June 2009)	
-	rootsweb.com	(accessed 19 June 2009)	
-	Obituary -	The Marshalltown Republican,	Marshalltown Iowa July 13, 1990, p. 3, col. 1



Randy Schooley, who works for Forrest and Associate Masonry of Des Moines, works at the top of the scaffold he's helping erect in front of the west face of the Statehouse. When finished, the scaffold will tower 130 feet above the ground. It is part of the refurbishing of the Statehouse.

Buried Memories

After entering therapy in 1988, the buried memories came back to him.

"The emotional problems were so severe that I didn't even recognize the fact that it had happened," Perrin said in an interview. "Even initially, when the therapist worked with me and the recollection came, there was so much fear and so much denial and so much guilt."

...CANTONIO TO PERRIN states: "Maybe I seem like the bad ogre in your life at this time. I am sorry about that. I did and do care for the welfare of you and of your family. I love you all very much, even if I was not always able to show it in an appropriate way."

The letter, which was in response

PRIEST

Please turn to Page 4M

4-year AIDS battle conquers lawyer Willits

By CYNTHIA HUBERT

Register Staff Writer

Earl Willits, a Des Moines lawyer and former state legislator, died Wednesday night of AIDS.

Willits, who served more recently as an assistant attorney general, spent the past few months preparing for death, coming to terms with it, telling his loved ones goodbye.



EARL WILLITS
(1978 Photo)

"He tried to be very forthright," said the Rev. James Gilliom, pastor of Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ in Des Moines.

"He let everyone know he had fought the fight, and the fight was over," said Gilliom, a friend and spiritual adviser to Willits.

Willits, father of two teen-age girls, was 43 years old when he died at Mercy Hospital Medical Center in Des Moines.

Although AIDS ravaged his body, leaving him

frail, weak and partially blind in his final weeks, his mind remained sharp, friends said. He planned his own funeral and memorial service, right down to the hymns to be played.

At the service, scheduled for 11 a.m. Saturday at Plymouth Congregational, Gilliom will talk about homosexuality, AIDS and how Willits struggled physically and emotionally as a public figure fighting a disease with a terrible stigma.

"Earl faced a difficult situation with courage and sensitivity as all of us who knew him would have anticipated and greatly appreciate," his former wife, Martha Willits, a member of the Polk County Board of Supervisors, said Wednesday evening.

The Willitses were divorced in 1987. A year earlier, a blood test showed that Earl Willits had been exposed to the virus that causes AIDS. It was then that he confided with friends and family members about his homosexuality.

Although he knew AIDS would eventually take his life, Willits refused to bow to it, friends said. He traveled across the country to participate in research on various experimental drugs, attempting to boost his immune system and battle the illnesses that bombarded his body.

"At times, he did not know whether he was getting a real drug or a placebo," said Gilliom. "But even if his own life was not to be prolonged, he wanted to do what he could to help others in the future."

Willits resolved to live his final years to the fullest. He climbed mountains, spent as much time as he could with friends and took a vacation cruise to the Caribbean with his daughters.

In recent months, AIDS sapped his strength and left him bedridden. When it became clear that

WILLITS

Please turn to Page 3M



Prize-winning 'wild cards' lost in shuffle

TERRY FARRIS/The Register

decided on a will e and s an to the March Jane The fina by the State Legi- sions collection compiled by volunteers and staff of the State Historical Society of Iowa Library, Des Moines, Iowa. e fina IGHF re 3M

very strong sense of justice and an especially sensitive awareness of the rights of the powerless."

Although many knew about his gay lifestyle and his illness, Willits declined to be interviewed about his struggle with AIDS. He said he feared that public disclosure would harm his daughters.

"Earl really went many extra miles to live up to society's expectations of him," said former Polk Coun-

“He was a very solid, spiritual person — not in a melodramatic or flashy way, but he had a very deep spirituality.”

—the Rev. James Gilliom
pastor of a Des Moines church

ty Attorney Dan Johnston, who once practiced law with Willits and now lives in New York City. "His relationship with Martha and the girls were the most important things in his life for most of his life.

"He was very strong, very heroic about his sickness. And that was consistent with efforts he made to try and live up to the expectations of society for a boy who grows up in small-town Iowa."

Born in Marshalltown, Willits was a 4-H member and graduated from Union-Whitten High School. He earned an undergraduate degree at Iowa State University in 1968 and a law degree from Drake University in 1974.

He taught American government at Hoover High School in Des Moines, but he found his niche in state government.

At Home in Legislature

At the age of 24, he won a seat in the Iowa House of Representatives, a liberal Democrat in a Legislature controlled by Republicans. A year later, in 1972, he was elected to the state Senate and later served as an assistant majority leader.

"He was one of those people who seemed at home from the day he

During his time in the Legislature, Willits raised concerns about the Iowa Commission for the Blind, resulting in the resignation of the director and sparking state and federal investigations. He led an unsuccessful campaign for school reorganization, criticized the cost of restoring Terrace Hill, helped force the mansion open to the public and criticized schools that hire teachers based on coaching ability.

In 1979, Willits resigned from the Senate to work for Miller.

Fraud in Agriculture

His first appointment was to the office's farm division, which Miller created to battle fraud in the farming industry and handle other issues related to agriculture. In its first six months, the division recovered nearly \$200,000 for Iowa farmers.

In 1982, Willits was appointed Miller's top assistant, and later he became deputy attorney general for administration.

"Earl was a most trusted adviser to me," said Miller. "He was a public servant in the deepest sense of the term. He worked for the good of people, he worked extremely hard and he was exceedingly effective."

Said Bill Roach, administrator of Miller's office:

"Earl's work as a legislator and in the attorney general's office reflected a strong belief in serving the public, particularly Iowa farmers. It was Earl who conceived the idea of a Beginning Farmer Loan Program, for example. I think that the young farmers who benefit from that program are better off today because of Earl's insight and hard work.

"Another part of Earl's legacy is the respect and friendship of those who worked with him. His intelligence, humor and friendship will be missed in this office and throughout the rest of state government.

"One of the last comments I heard from Earl was about his work as a public servant and lawyer: 'I always tried to be fair,' he said. And that's true, he did."

Survivors include his daughters, Emily and Anne; his father, Levi Willits of Union; two brothers, Don of Belle Plaine and Ray of Union; and a sister, Nancy Woodward, of Nairobi, Kenya. Willits asked that contributions be made the American Foundation for AIDS Research in New York.

Church.

Surviving are his wife, daughters, Jane Wyatt and ka, both of Des Moines; and Henry of Silsbee, Texas.

Friends may call at home from 7 to 9 p.m. Funeral contributions may be sent to Hospice of Central Iowa Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Association.

DEADLINES & D

These announcements are accurate to our knowledge. However, the events is subject to change.

Ryko Manufacturing's summer conference will be today through Merle Hay Holiday Inn.

Parents: Le see probe

WRIGHT

Continued from Page 1

results. Who wouldn't?" I am upset over the order made over it. I honestly there's no sexism and racism school."

Parents were unsure of charges until they went filing at the district office,

The parents didn't dispute statements Williams said but they felt Williams took comments out of context, Wil

In one remark, Wilson concerned about a lack of models at Wright, she said. Instance, she had called to ask about two black men been looking into Wright she said.

"She said because I called 'black gentlemen,' I was the first," Wilson said.

Sanxter said Williams an expression she used during meeting.

"I had called her a 'fly in the ointment,' my point being to the problem, not everyone. Sanxter, the mother of student. "She took great offense at this and believed that was a sexist statement."

Obituaries..

Earl Willits, 43

UNION — Memorial services for Earl Willits, 43, Des Moines lawyer and former state legislator, formerly of Union, who died Wednesday, July 11 of AIDS at Mercy Hospital Medical Center, Des Moines, will be 11 a.m. Saturday at Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ, Des Moines.

Private family burial will be at a later date at the Bangor Cemetery.

The body was cremated. There will be no visitation and friends may call at the Biersborn Funeral Home for more information. Memorials may be directed to the Bangor Liberty Friends Church.

He was born Oct. 30, 1946 in Union to Levi and Anna Lea Martin Willits. He graduated from Union High School and then from Iowa State University in 1968 and a law degree from Drake University in 1974.

He taught school at Hoover High School in Des Moines. He also served in the Iowa House of Representatives and was an assistant attorney general.

He married Martha Oldson and they were later divorced.

He was a member of the Plymouth Congregational Church.

Survivors include two daughters, Emily and Anne, both of Des Moines; his father, Levi Willits, Union; two brothers, Donald, Belle Plaine, and Ray, Union; a sister, Nancy Woodward, Nairobi, Kenya.

He was preceded in death by his mother.

Margaret DeWitt, 75

UNION — Services for Margaret DeWitt, 75, Union, who died Wednesday, July 11 at Marshalltown Medical & Surgical Center, will be Saturday at 1 p.m. at the Biersborn Funeral Home. The Rev. Dean Messerly will officiate.

Gladys Gardner,

GRUNDY CENTER — Memorial services for Gladys Gardner, 85, will be Wednesday, July 11, at Albia Hospital, Waterloo, 10 a.m. Saturday at the Englund Funeral Home in Grundy Center. The service will be in Rose Hill Cemetery.

Friends may call until 9 a.m. Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. A memorial fund has been established.

She was born March 1, 1904 in Union to Henry and LaVina Cles. She was educated in Grundy Center and graduated from high school in Troy.

On April 24, 1924, she married Gardner in Missouri. They moved to Grundy Center where she was employed at the J.C. Penn Western Dressing.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Roy, in 1965, and one brother.

She is survived by a brother, Milton.

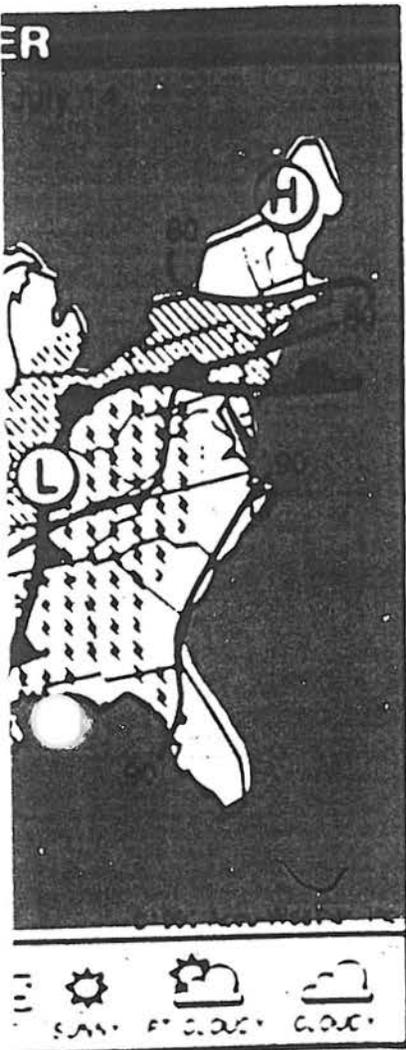
Helen Lemker, 87

Services for Helen Lemker, formerly of Haverhill, who died Wednesday, July 11, were held Thursday morning at Immaculate Conception Church in Haverhill. Burial was in the church cemetery.

Bearers were Arnold Dennis Lemker, Donna Moore, Richard Datars, Dan Data and Ed Moore.

Lois Damman, 67

Services for Lois V. Damman, 67, rural Melbourne, who died Wednesday, July 9 at her home, will be at 2 p.m. Saturday afternoon at St. John United Methodist Church, Melbourne. Burial



AP LaserGraphic

Forecast for Saturday indicates thunderstorms in the east.

London	93	72	.92	ody
London	109	73		ody
London	78	64	.05	ody
Lake City	101	68		ody
Antonio	98	73	.02	ody
Diego	83	70		ody
Francisco	73	57		ody
Juan, P.R.	88	77		ody
La Fe	83	m		ody
Le Marie	74	47		cl
Le Marie	87	55		cl
Le Marie	91	70	.02	ody
Le Marie	73	47		cl
Le Marie	98	61	.04	cl
Le Marie	67	54	.04	ody
Le Marie	91	74		rn
Le Marie	71	57	.14	ody
Le Marie	102	78	.11	ody
Le Marie	87	61		ody
Le Marie	88	68		ody
Le Marie	80	59		cl
Le Marie	61	57	1.23	ody
Le Marie	81	60	1.08	ody

Individual Record

Earl Martin Willits Compact Disc #3
Sex: M

Pedigree

Event(s)

Birth: 30 Oct 1946
Death: 11 Jul 1990
Des Moines, Iowa
Burial: 14 Jul 1990
Bangor Cemetery

Parents

Father: [Levi Mahlon Willits](#) Disc #3
Mother: [Anna Lea Martin](#) Disc #3

Marriage(s)

Spouse:
Marriage:

Personal Information

Occupation:
Attorney

Notes and Sources

Notes: Available on CD-ROM Disc# 3
Sources: None

Submitter

Jay T. Randall (---)
1404 Eaton St., Dunlap IA 51529-1500, Email:

Submission Search: [267762-062999200829](#)

URL:

CD-ROM: Pedigree Resource File - Compact Disc #3

CD-ROM Features: Pedigree View, Family View, Individual View, Reports, Downloadable GEDCOM files, Notes and Sources.

[Order Pedigree Resource File CD-ROMS](#)

About FamilySearch Pedigree Resource File

The Pedigree Resource File is a new lineage linked database of records available on compact disc containing family history records submitted by individuals through FamilySearch Internet Genealogy Service. Family information is organized in family groups and pedigrees and includes submitted notes and sources. Many charts and reports can be printed from this data. Each disc contains about 1.1 million names. With the publication of every five discs, a master index for those discs will be published and packaged with that set of discs. With the publication of every 25 discs, a master index for those discs will also be published and packaged with that volume of discs. Discs may be purchased as sets or volumes.

Please Note