



## Willie André Broussard

July 2, 1931 - June 22, 2020

With a heavy heart, we say good-bye to Willie André Broussard, who peacefully passed away on June 22, 2020. For over 45 years, he served as a public servant in Vermilion Parish, with great dedication and compassion as a high school math teacher and administrator for the Village of Maurice.

Born in Maurice, LA on July 2, 1931, he was the 8th child of 10. He was the son of the late Jean Camille Broussard and the former Ada Hebert. He was best known as a high school math teacher. Over the years, many of his students have shared with us and with him how "Mr Willie's" guidance and dedication was instrumental in choosing or advancing their careers. He was always so honored to hear their accolades.

Mr. Willie "Willie B" was widely known for his French song, "Brasse don l'Cush Cush." He wrote it to reflect the times after World War II in South Louisiana where many Acadians migrated to South Texas looking for work. He recorded the original 45 rpm record and it has been re-recorded by numerous artists since then, and is sung at Dwyer's Café each Wednesday morning by a local Cajun language preservation group, la Table Francais. He also wrote and recorded two Christmas songs, "Santa in Bayou Land" and "Put Christ Back into Christmas". For his contributions to the French music culture, he was presented with the Heritage Award by the Cajun French Music Association in 2000 as well as inducted into the Acadian Museum Living Legends Program in 2014.

He led a colorful and varied life. As a youth, he was fortunate enough to work on both of the Hadacol caravans, where he operated the sound truck announcing to the crowds the soon-to-arrive miracle of the Hadacol elixir. The caravan traveled the entire country, thus affording him the opportunity to meet many of the great singers and actors of that era. He performed with the Abbey Players in Abbeville. He worked as a French-speaking disc jockey on KROF radio station in Abbeville. He was asked by many to sing at weddings and funerals. He was a servant of God as a lector, as well as an auctioneer, inventor, draftsman, master craftsman, visionary, and could fix anything with a coat hanger.

Mr. Willie graduated from Maurice High School and went on to earn a Master's in Mathematics from The University of Southwestern Louisiana (USL). He taught Mathematics and Industrial Arts for 30 years at Abbeville High, Maurice High and North Vermilion High. In the mid-60s, he served as the president of the Vermilion Parish Teachers Association. In addition to teaching, he coached high school baseball and basketball where he was instrumental in bringing high school baseball back to the Vermilion Parish area. Through his perseverance, he spearheaded the creation of the Maurice High School baseball team, which at the time, was the first and only team in the parish to participate in high school baseball. Subsequently, the surrounding schools followed suit in developing their own programs.

Mr. Willie was always interested in the development of the youth. When many kids were left out of the local youth baseball program, he created and coached the Maurice Volunteers Little League Team, which participated in the Bayou Boys Little League program, thus affording many local youths the opportunity to play baseball.

Before and after he retired from teaching, he served as administrator for the Village of Maurice where he promoted and oversaw many improvements to the village such as the municipal water and sewer system and the promotion/development of the Maurice Park.

Mr. Willie married Joyce Love Hebert in 1956 and they celebrated 54 years of marriage. He was very proud of his Cajun heritage and has passed that passion on to his seven children, 18 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

He is survived by his sisters, Alice Broussard Schroeder and Faye Broussard Prejean; his children, Gwendolyn "Gabby" Broussard, M. Garrett Broussard, Bryan Broussard (Twyla), Damian Broussard (Jennifer), Diana Broussard Eppard (Larry), Phyllis A. "Annie" Broussard Kananack (Tabatt Laven) and Rexie Broussard (Kathy); grandchildren, Brandt Broussard (Stacy), Heidi Broussard LeDoux (Mike), Callie Broussard Ford (Fred), Jordan Broussard, Chloe Broussard Hanson (Jeff), André Broussard, Gage Broussard, Rhece Broussard, Elizabeth Eppard Westling (Chad), Stephanie Eppard, Jack Eppard, Lily Eppard, Travis Kananack, Quinn Kananack, Dashiell Kananack, Chase Kananack, Austin Broussard and Morgan Broussard; and his great-grandchildren, Jacque, Jackson, Henry, Cade and Trevor.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 50 years, Joyce Love Hebert Broussard; his parents, Jean Camille and Ada Broussard; brothers, Edward, Lastie, Wallace, John and Walter Broussard; sisters, Doris Broussard Dartez and Gladys Broussard Trahan.

Whether Mr. Willie, aka Coach Willie or Willie B., was starting the wave at Dodgers Stadium, leading the crowd in song at the Kentucky Derby or teaching himself sign language to communicate with a new employee with the Village, he was always sharing his love for his fellow man and his overall Joie de vivre.

The family requests that visiting hours be observed at Delhomme Funeral Home on Thursday, June 25, 2020, from 4:00 PM to 9:00 PM. A Rosary will be recited at 7:00 PM on Thursday evening in the funeral home. Visiting hours will continue Friday, June 26, 2020 from 8:00 AM until the time of service.

Pallbearers will be Garrett Broussard, Bryan Broussard, Damian Broussard, Rex Broussard, Larry Eppard and Tab Laven.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11:00 AM on Friday, June 26, 2020, in St. Alphonsus Catholic Church for Willie André Broussard, 88, who passed away on June 22, 2020.

Fr. William Schambough, Pastor of St. Joseph Catholic Church, will serve as Celebrant of the Mass and will conduct the funeral services.

Burial will take place in St. Alphonsus Mausoleum.

Personal condolences may be sent to the Broussard family at [www.delhommefuneralhome.com](http://www.delhommefuneralhome.com).

Delhomme Funeral Home, 200 Chief H. Fred Road, Maurice, LA is in charge of funeral arrangements.

# Comments

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“ Uncle Willie was a "force". His sweet smile, sparkling eyes, and easy laugh made you feel warm and fuzzy inside. If I and my sibling were with Daddy on a Sunday, we would often go to Maurice. Once there we would swing by the home of which ever of his siblings was hosting the Sunday coffee. It seems like his and Aunt Joyce's house was often the spot. It was wonderful.....seeing so many of the aunts and uncles gathered and going in and out of speaking french with each other. Uncle Willie was one of those personalities that filled a room. I have missed him. Rest in peace, Uncle Willie.

Jeanne Marie Broussard Cauldwell

Jeanne Broussard Cauldwell - June 27 at 12:55 PM

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“ I will always remember cousin Willie. He was my Industrial Arts teacher at Abbeville High School. I will never forget what he told me in class one day. " Anything you can do by hand is always better than a machine". I still believe that today. Your teachings will remain with me the rest of my life. Thank you Willie. We will all miss you.  
John Dale Langlinais.

John Dale Langlinais - June 25 at 12:57 PM

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“ To Faye and Alice and the rest of Willie's family my husband Paul and I express our sincere condolences. My mother ( Heloise Picard Belsome)and Willie were 1st cousins and I have great memories of your family through my mother's conversations about her cousins. Willie also sang at our wedding which as of this August will be 59 years ago.May his soul Rest In Peace!

Marilyn Long - June 24 at 01:54 PM

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“ I knew cousin Willie when he was a bachelor in the 1950s and I as a pre-teen alter boy at St Alphonsus Catholic Church in Maurice. Willie had a cool 1954 Ford Skyliner. It had a glass roof. One morning at 5:30 riding my bicycle on my way to serve mass (I was an alter boy) I saw Willie's car parked at Otto Comeaux's garage with the lights on. I figured he had forgotten to turn them off when he got home late the night before. I crossed the street to go turn his lights off before the battery went dead. Low and behold, Willie was still in the car and sleeping. I opened the door and turned the car lights off. Willie never heard a thing and I never said a word to him about the incident.



“ Bountiful European Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Willie André Broussard.



June 23 at 10:10 PM

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“ European Sympathy Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Willie André Broussard.



June 23 at 08:29 PM

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“ White Standing Spray was purchased for the family of Willie André Broussard.



June 23 at 08:09 PM

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“ Peaceful Wishes was purchased for the family of Willie André Broussard.



June 23 at 07:08 PM

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“ To my dear, sweet cousins. My heart breaks for your loss. Too many great memories to share, but hold them very dear to my heart! Prayers of comfort, love and hugs to you all!

**Juliette (Prejean) Hearn and family** - June 23 at 06:28 PM

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“ Uncle Willie was my Godfather! He was always so kind to all of us nieces and nephews. I loved spending the night at his house and playing outside with my cousins. There was always laughter and love in that house; and good food in the kitchen! Our family still sings his Christmas songs every year !! I will cherish his memory always!

Aimee Broussard Seicshnaydre

**Aimee Broussard Seicshnaydre** - June 23 at 05:28 PM

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“ My deepest condolences to Willie's children. I have very many fond memories of growing up with Whillie. I will miss him, but I know he is in a good place He was a good husband and a good father and a great brother. May his soul rest in peace

**Faye Broussard Prejean** - June 23 at 06:21 PM

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“ Willy told me that he recorded a Cajun song in 1945. It was called Brasse Donc le Couch Couch. He told me he didn't record it until 1955. He just barely made enough money off the sale of the record to pay for the making of that vinyl 45 rpm record. He laughed about that. I bought the record and still have it. I last saw cousin Willy (his mother was my dad's sister) was about three years ago. He didn't say a word. I don't think he recognized me. Sad.

**Richard L Hebert** - June 23 at 05:06 PM

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“ Applied Technical Services, Inc. purchased the Lavender & White Standing Spray for the family of Willie André Broussard.



**Applied Technical Services, Inc.** - June 23 at 01:38 PM

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“ Uncle Willie's geometry class inspired my thought to become an engineer that has now sustained my livelihood and support of my family. Your service to the Village of Maurice as the City's Administrator, while long ago, is not forgotten, nor is your coaching of the Maurice Volunteers little league team. You legacy will be remembered. Rest in Peace

**Todd Broussard** - June 23 at 01:17 PM

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“ Stir the coush coush! I am going to heaven! Uncle Willie had many talents. His Cajun recordings Bras Don Coush Coush, Put Christ Back Into Christmas, Santa Clause Was Seen One Night In Bayouland are simply beautiful. He was a terrific high school math teacher and an excellent woodworker. His big cheeky smile and twinkling eyes is what I will remember most. May perpetual light now shine upon his soul and may Our Lord comfort my seven wonderful cousins.

**cheryl broussard perret** - June 23 at 12:52 PM



“ What a wonderful life he lived! Sending prayers to family members. My condolences

**Jackie. Lebeouf** - June 23 at 04:18 PM



“ Thanks for your service to the Maurice Volunteer Fire Department! you were one of the guys who had a vision to start the Maurice Vol. Fire Dept. Because of you and others in the community your foresight has made Maurice a safe place to live and raise our kids.

THANKS

Chief Matthew Trahan

Maurice Volunteer Fire Department

**Matthew** - June 23 at 06:15 PM



“ My childhood is filled with memories of Uncle Willie. He put significant thought into everything he did.....and he went out of his way to teach and pass on that thought. He was a great teacher. He was tough & strict....but who didn't appreciate his methods later on in life. I was proud to call him my uncle.

Gerald Dartez

**Gerald Dartez** - June 23 at 06:30 PM



“ Willie Broussard was my eighth grade math teacher and eighth grade basketball coach. Brasse Donc Le Couche Couche, written and sung by him is a classic. It has been covered by many, including The Magnolia Sisters, Jim Olivier, Leroy Broussard, and Steve Riley and the Mamou Playboys.

He shared with me the third verse that nobody knows and nobody sings. It starts "J sus partis a ce matin a Beaumont, Il y a un gros job qui m'espere sur moment."

**LESTER GAUTHIER** - June 23 at 07:48 PM



“ i forgot to mention that he and his brother Wallace were inducted into the Acadian Museum Order of Living Legends on January 25, 2014.

**LESTER GAUTHIER** - June 23 at 09:04 PM



“ My condolences to Mr. Willie's family. In light of the current pandemic, in deference to the family, I will not attend the services. However, I cannot let this pass without comment. Mr. Willie was a dynamic person within the Maurice community. As noted in his obituary, he successfully filled several roles within the community. It was as a teacher, however, that he most influenced my generation. He taught me, and many others, Algebra I and II, and Advanced Math. He was definitely in the Hall of Fame of teachers in our time. He had a knack for making mathematics relevant in daily life, as opposed to a numerical, theoretical, abstract subject.

May all of his children relish his legacy!!!

Richard C. Landry

**Richard C. Landry** - June 23 at 10:43 PM



“ Our condolences to Mr. Willie and family .We will keep him and family in our Prayers. Sheldon and Dolores Andrus...

**Sheldon and Dolores Andrus** - June 24 at 05:36 PM