

# TOWN OF ATLANTIC BEACH



## Atlantic Beach Honors Capt. Jim's Legacy

Funeral services for James Newman Willis III, "Capt. Jim", will be held on Thursday, January 11, 2018, at 11 AM at Munden Funeral Home in Morehead City. Immediately following the service, a public reception for the family and friends will be held in the Town of Atlantic Beach Boardroom located directly behind Town Hall. At the reception, a memory book will be provided for the public to write recollections and thoughts about Capt. Jim, which will be presented to his family. As a tribute to his legacy, the Town flag will be flown at half-mast in front of the Fire Department that same day.

Capt. Jim was honored by the Town of Atlantic Beach and the State of North Carolina in July of 2017, whereby Mayor Cooper presented the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, the highest civilian award issued by the state, to Capt. Jim on behalf of Governor Roy Cooper's office. Upon presentation of the award, Mayor Cooper stated, "Captain Jim Willis has been part of Atlantic Beach, literally, since the town was founded. I can think of no one more deserving of the honor of being inducted into the Order of the Long Leaf Pine."

Capt. Jim's parents were the first permanent residents of Atlantic Beach with his father serving as the Town's first Mayor. Upon his birth in 1934, Capt. Jim became the first person to call Atlantic Beach home. Capt. Jim received two degrees from UNC-Chapel Hill and worked at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration lab until he retired in 1990. Capt. Jim is known for being an instrumental part of beach nourishment in Carteret County and to this day because of his work and diligence as a private citizen our town receives "free sand" from the dredging operations of the channel leading to the NC State Port in Morehead City.



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