



## Richard A. "Rick" Wilson

July 9, 1945 - June 23, 2023

Richard A. "Rick" Wilson, age 77 of Highland, IL, died Friday, June 23, 2023, at Barnes-Jewish Hospital (BJC) in Saint Louis, MO.

He was born on Monday, July 9, 1945, in Indianapolis, IN, the son of Benjamin and Imogene (nee Patrick) Wilson.

On Saturday, June 24, 1978, he married Elaine A. Wilson (nee Vasilovich) of Eastlake, Ohio, who survives.

Rick grew up and graduated high school from Danville, IN, west of Indianapolis. He was very active in sports activities and has maintained close relationships with his classmates through the years. He enlisted with the US Army in 1966 and was honorably discharged in 1969. Rick was on active duty during the Vietnam War with the 199th Light Infantry Brigade (REDCATCHER) during the Tet Offensive. After returning from Vietnam, Rick graduated from Purdue University in West Lafayette, IN with a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Management. He worked at Parker Hannifin Corporation after graduation and went on to work for other manufacturing companies during his career. In 1981, he began working for B-Line Manufacturing, Highland, IL and consulted for a B-Line division, Cooper Lighting, until he eventually retired. After retirement, he joined First Student and drove a school bus for the Highland Community Unit School District #5 for several years. Rick enjoyed

watching sports, preserving his Ford Mustangs and working on do-it-yourself projects at his home. He owned a 1965 Mustang convertible purchased from his father and a 1969 Mach 1 Mustang which he and his wife took to several Mustang Club of America car shows across the country to win many awards for his work on the car. Rick could fix anything around the house and made many improvements himself, including a new garage, sunroom, and a master bedroom addition to his home. Rick supported Elaine's volunteer work with animal-related causes, and helped foster several dogs from Come Bye Border Collie Rescue. When his children were younger, he helped coach and provide instruction with their sports activities. He also enjoyed watching his grandchildren play sports.

He was a lifetime member of the Highland Veterans of Foreign Wars - Post #5694.

Survivors include:

Wife - Elaine A. Wilson, Highland, IL

Son - Richard "Andrew" (Michelle) Wilson, Greenville, SC

Daughter - Sandra L. (Christopher) Depping, Charlotte, NC

Son - Patrick A. Wilson, Highland, IL

Grandchild - Ava Wilson, Greenville, SC

Grandchild - Asher Wilson, Greenville, SC

Grandchild - Isaac Wilson, Greenville, SC

Brother - Donald L. (Peggy) Wilson, Surprise, AZ

Sister in Law - Sarah A. Vasilovich, Eastlake, OH

Sister in Law - Susan C. (William) Flick, Vestavia Hills, AL

Several nieces and nephews

He was preceded in death by:

Father - Benjamin E. Wilson

Mother - Imogene F. Wilson (nee Patrick)

Brother - Byron L. Wilson

Arrangements are being handled by Spengel-Boulanger Funeral Home in Highland, IL.

Visitation will be from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM, Central Standard Time, Monday, July 31, 2023 at Spengel-Boulanger Funeral Home, Highland, IL.

Graveside Service will be at 12:30 PM, Central Standard Time, Monday, July 31, 2023 at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery, St. Louis, MO.

Interment will be at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery, St. Louis, MO.

The family wishes to thank the doctors, nurses and personnel at St. Joseph's Hospital in Highland, IL; St. Louis VA Medical Centers at John Cochran and Jefferson Barracks; and Barnes Hospital, Siteman Cancer Center, Washington University for his leukemia treatments and care.

Memorial contributions may be made to DAV (Disabled American Veterans) <<https://www.ihelpveterans.org/>> ; Siteman Cancer Center <<https://siteman.wustl.edu/>> ; or Come Bye Border Collie Rescue <<https://www.comebyebordercollie.org/>>.

# Tribute Wall

JW

“ Will always have fond memories of Rick & his family when we all lived in Shadywoods.....of Saturdays when Rick would come up the street on his lawn mower with his cooler. And Saturdays when all the neighbors burned leaves together. And the good times with the Optimist Club. After my family relocated Rick and I continued to text whenever Purdue basketball/football was on TV.....never met a more devout fan. Will never forget Rick, but I know that he's in a better place now with no pain. Will keep the family in my prayers.

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**JC Watson** - July 25, 2023 at 01:27 PM

MR

“ We met Rick through CBBCR and Elaine. It was easy to see he was a very fine person. I was an honor to have met him and listen to his stories at the Christmas border collie gathering. He will be missed at the table.

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**Mitch and ROsemary** - June 30, 2023 at 05:59 PM

EW

Thank you, Mitch and Rosemary, he really enjoyed our visits!

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**Elaine Wilson** - July 13, 2023 at 05:21 PM

DP

“ Dagan Philippe lit a candle in memory of Richard Wilson



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**Dagan Philippe** - June 29, 2023 at 03:03 PM

EW

*Thank you, Dagan.*

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**Elaine Wilson** - July 13, 2023 at 05:22 PM

JM

“ *I grew up next door to the Wilson family in Danville. I have fond memories of the brothers, mom, dad and the cool cars including Bennie's Ford Mustang. Sending sympathy to Elaine and family.*

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**John McNabb** - June 27, 2023 at 06:24 PM

EW

*The Wilsons love their Mustangs! Thanks for the memory.*

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**Elaine Wilson** - July 13, 2023 at 05:23 PM