



Wayne J. Wirz

April 12, 1933 - October 15, 2023

Wayne J. Wirz, age 90 of Highland, IL, died Sunday, October 15, 2023, at his residence in Highland, IL.

He was born on Wednesday, April 12, 1933, in Highland, IL, the son of Melvin and Esther (nee Hess) Wirz.

He was a member of St. Paul Catholic Church, Highland, IL; American Legion Lee Iten Post #439, Highland, IL; and V.F.W. Post #5694, Highland, IL.

Wayne was born in Highland, IL. He grew up in Highland and graduated from Highland High School in 1951. Then he attended SIU-C, entered the US Army after one year; spent 2 years in Korea; and then attended Washington University. He worked at Tri City Groceries, May Department Stores in the Corporate Office with retiring in the early 1990's. He started the American Legion baseball team in Highland in 1965, and were League Champions 1973 - 1974. Not only managed but lead fund raiser efforts for the team. He instilled sportsmanship and discipline with the players on his teams. He also chaired St. Patrick's Day Fund raisers at Michael's. He was General Manager of the ball team at the time of his death.

Survivors include:

Ex-Wife - Donna Marie Wirz, nee Marlo, Highland, IL

Ex-Wife - Janet Oberbeck Flamm Jenny, Highland, IL

Daughter - Allison Marie Wirz, Highland, IL

Daughter - Nancy B. (Dennis) Ramsey, Alhambra, IL

Grandchild - Brett (Special Friend Amy Tappy) Mallard, Highland, IL

Great Grandchild - Clayton Mallard, Alhambra, IL

He was preceded in death by:

Father - Melvin Leo Wirz - Died Jan. 1985

Mother - Esther Gertrude Wirz, nee Hess - Died 10/01/1970

Son - Christopher A. Wirz - Died 3/05/1979

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

Funeral Mass will be at 10:00 AM on Friday, October 20, 2023, at St. Paul Catholic Church in Highland, IL, with Rev. Fr. Pat G. Jakel, pastor, St. Paul Catholic Church, officiating.

Interment will be at Highland City Cemetery in Highland, IL.

Memorial contributions may be made to American Legion Lee Iten Post #439.

Cemetery Details

Highland City Cemetery

12301 Koepfli Lane
Highland, IL 62249

Previous Events

Funeral Mass

OCT **20**. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Paul Catholic Church
1412 9th St
Highland, IL 62249
(618) 654-2339

Tribute Wall



“ Roger and I worked with Wayne in a lot of American Legion Activities. He did everything for kids he was great

Roger Mickelson - October 19, 2023 at 05:51 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Wayne J. Wirz.



October 18, 2023 at 08:30 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Wayne J. Wirz.

October 18, 2023 at 08:30 PM



“ Wayne was a person that gave of himself. A servant of the community. Highland legion baseball and highland lost a true patriot. Rest in peace Wayne. Thanks for everything.

Dennis Rakers
Aviston legion post 1239

dennis rakers - October 18, 2023 at 02:22 PM

SK

“ You have my deepest sympathy. I remember him through my husband Bill Kohlbrecher.



Sandra K Kohlbrecher - October 18, 2023 at 08:34 AM

SB

“ A personal thank you and gratitude to Wayne for everything that he's done for all of us who got the opportunity to play American Legion Baseball through the years. He has much to be proud of in the program and people that he's touched.

Steven D Brendel - October 17, 2023 at 05:26 PM

HP

I worked for Wayne as a coach for 14 years. Had day to day interactions during the season w Wayne, those I will cherish. I have a sincere and deep respect for Wayne as he provided cost free baseball to the youth in the area for nearly 60 years. One can only describe him as a legend! He's touched literally 1000s of people involved w HIS baseball program. Wayne will be missed! May he Rest in Peace!

Harry Painter - October 20, 2023 at 10:18 AM