



James Stephen Wilson Jr.

November 3, 1943 - February 10, 2024

James Stephen Wilson, Jr., age 80, of Snow Hill passed away peacefully on Saturday, February 10, 2024 at Wicomico Nursing Home in Salisbury surrounded by his loving family.

Jim was born on November 3, 1943 in Snow Hill, a son of the late James Stephen Wilson, Sr. and Alice M. (Wells) Taylor. Apart from a few short years, he lived his entire life there. He, his parents, and his brother were all members of Makemie Presbyterian Church.

He graduated from Snow Hill High School in 1961. While there, he played soccer, basketball, and baseball. There were 52 members in his graduating class. They stayed close after graduation and held numerous class reunions over the years, most recently in November 2023 to host the return of their Norwegian Exchange Student, Brit-Stomner Boehnsdalen.

A 1965 graduate of Salisbury State College, he earned his teaching degree and played baseball on the College's 1964 Inaugural Team during his junior year and again during his senior year. He was a very talented pitcher and even received an offer to pitch for the Pittsburgh Pirates following graduation.

A greater love for education would win him over though.

Jim worked as a Chemistry and Physics Teacher in Wicomico County for 33 years, starting at Wi-Hi in 1965 & then moving to Parkside High School upon its opening in 1976. During his early teaching days, he worked at Wallops Island during the Summers. He later earned his Master's Degree in Education. He coached Boys Soccer at Wi-Hi, Boys Golf at Parkside, & many Little

League Baseball Teams over the years. Some former notable students of Mr. Wilson's include Dr. Steve Hearne (Cardiologist), Meteorologist Mike Seidel (The Weather Channel), and Linda Hamilton (Television & Movie Actress). He had an early love for music and started playing mandolin at the age of 5 and then guitar soon after. He, on mandolin, and his father, on guitar, performed together on television for the WBOC TV Host "Little Georgie Hack" in the mid-1950's. During his early-teenage years and into High School, he was a member of "The Whirlwinds," one of the first Rock n' Roll Bands on The Shore, and just missed the chance of playing a few gigs as Elvis Presley's Backup Band in 1956 during Elvis' "Chicken Circuit" days. The release of Presley's "Heartbreak Hotel" only a few weeks before those upcoming gigs ended that opportunity. In a professional career spanning over 60 years, he played for many local bands, most notably "The Esquires," "Eddie Seward Trio," "Spectrum," & "The Velvetones." "The Esquires" was a trio with his 2 best friends, Dick Ramsay & Bill Cox. Dick and Jim continued to play at local events into the 2000's and their final gigs were playing at Whatcoat Church's Sunday Morning Services. Most of his former Physics students may fondly recall "The Sound Unit," where Mr. Wilson would treat them to some cool music played by none other than himself on one of his many guitars. Many of his other classes got to enjoy Christmas Carols in the same fashion. Jim also served as a Park Ranger at Milburn Landing State Park for a few Summers and loads of campers got to enjoy "Ranger Jim" play guitar (& sing) for them at nightly bonfires.

He was an exceptional painter. Aside from "Honey Do's" around the house & brightwork on the boats, he painted houses professionally for a few Summers for Developer Doyle Graybark during the expansion of Ocean Pines in the late 1970's. He also spent many summers on "The Paint Crew," helping to spruce up the various schools around Wicomico County for the upcoming school year.

During his time away from teaching and gigging, Jim enjoyed fishing and boating (maintaining & cruising). He spent a lot of his childhood fishing with

his Dad and boating with his family on the Pocomoke River. For most Summer months in the 1980's, 90's, and early 2000's, The Wilson Family cruised The Chesapeake Bay for weeks at a time. In Summer 1985, he & his brother Ronnie sailed across The Atlantic from Bermuda to Crisfield. In Summer 1987, he, his wife Ellen, son Chris, brother Ronnie, and faithful Chihuahua "Chico" made the round trip to The Bahamas, with a stop at Disney World on their way back Home.

Jim and wife Ellen even made it all the way to Greece in Summer 2011 to attend Chris and Maria's Wedding.

Jim was an avid fan of the Baltimore Orioles, Baltimore Colts, and Baltimore Ravens. In the Summer of 1958, he and his father and his brother got an invitation to attend a pre-season game for the Baltimore Colts, where they had the opportunity to "meet & greet" with many of their future Hall of Famers after the game. That experience left a lasting impression on him.

He loved flying and may have been a pilot in another life. He and good friend, Danny Hope, owned an Ultralight Airplane & flew the friendly skies together not so long ago.

Jim loved Corvettes and still drove his 1968 Convertible, a car he owned since 1972, until the end.

He is survived by his wife of almost 50 years, Ellen; sons, James S. Wilson, III and wife Victoria of Allen, and Christopher S. Wilson and wife Maria of Annapolis; grandchildren, Natalia, Olivia, Christianna, and Forrest Wilson; and great grandchildren, Mason and Greyson Wilson.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother, Ronald M. Wilson.

A Celebration of His Life will be held on March 16th at 2pm at Whatcoat Church in Snow Hill. A visitation with the family will be held one hour prior. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be sent to Whatcoat Church, (101 N. Washington Street, Snow Hill, MD 21863), Coastal Hospice (P.O. Box 1733, Salisbury, MD 21802), &/or Wicomico Nursing Home's "Activities Department"

(900 Booth Street, Salisbury, MD 21801).

Arrangements are in the care of Short Funeral Home in Delmar. Online condolences may be sent to the family by visiting www.shortfh.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 16. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Whatcoat Church
Snow Hill, MD 21863

Celebration of Life

MAR 16. 2:00 PM (ET)

Whatcoat Church
Snow Hill, MD 21863

Tribute Wall



“ Short Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of James Stephen Wilson Jr.



Short Funeral Home - March 14, 2024 at 01:58 PM



“ 268 files added to the album LifeTributes



Short Funeral Home - March 12, 2024 at 02:55 PM

MI

I was lucky enough to have Mr. Wilson as my teacher for earth science at Parkside in 1984 and 1985. He was a gifted teacher as well as a great person. May he rest in eternal peace.

Michelle - May 12, 2024 at 12:15 AM

LD

“ *Mr. Wilson was my chemistry teacher at WiHi in 1965. My sisters had had gone to school with him in Snow Hill.
My condolences to his family and friends. May you find comfort in Jesus Christ
Lucy Dobson*

Lucy Dobson - February 26, 2024 at 09:07 PM

TB

“ *I didn't have Mr. Wilson as a Teacher at Wi-Hi but I did work with him on the Paint Crew during the summer. He was a great person and the vet was pretty cool as well.
Tom Berry class of 76*

Tom Berry - February 24, 2024 at 10:52 PM

DA

“ *I had the privilege of working at Parkside High School while Mr. Wilson was a teacher there. He was a soft spoken gentleman for whom I had a great respect & fondness. My deepest sympathy to his family.*

Donna Altvater - February 23, 2024 at 06:06 PM

JF

My sincere condolence's and prayers for the family. Jim was a great guy and I enjoyed getting to know him through the [surveying] help he provided his brother Ron. RIP Jim...

Joe Fehrer - February 28, 2024 at 07:14 AM

OJ

“ Jim was the pitcher for the Willards baseball team that I played with
Jim was a great friend on and off the baseball team
A super gentleman
RIP Jim

Olen "Chubby " jones - February 18, 2024 at 06:13 PM

TG

“ Mr. Wilson was my coworker at Parkside High school- teaching
science and designing lessons- and thinking of him today brings
back great memories - he will be missed- but as a teacher his
legacy will continue forever through the students he taught.

Tony Goodyear - February 17, 2024 at 04:55 PM

DH

“ My lifelong friend. I treasure playing as children, and as old guys,
the countless hours spent together on our planes and motorcycles.

Dan Hope - February 17, 2024 at 11:13 AM

DC

“ So sorry to hear of Mr. Wilson's passing. He was a very kind man
and a great teacher. He was my teacher at Parkside in 1984. Big
hugs to Mr. Wilson's family during this difficult time.

danny cantwell - February 17, 2024 at 09:38 AM

TS

I was very saddened to hear about the loss of Jim. He was a member
of the original faculty that helped me open Parkside High School back
in 1975 when I was the principal. He was always very professional and
someone I could always rely upon. It was truly my honor to know him.
Tony Sarbanes

Tony Sarbanes - February 23, 2024 at 08:27 AM

MS

I had Mr. Wilson during my junior year at Wi-Hi ('73-'74) and not only did he make physics fun to learn his classroom atmosphere was one of a kind! I always made it a point to drop by and see him at Parkside until he retired and he was also very welcoming to this former student. RIP Mr. Wilson as your memory lives on through thousands of your students.

Mike Seidel - 2 seconds ago

Mike Seidel - February 24, 2024 at 01:21 PM

GF

Mr. Wilson was my chemistry and physics teacher at WiHi in the early 70's. He had a knack for explaining and demonstrating complex topics in fun and understandable ways. I always looked forward to his classes. One of the best, if not the best, teachers I ever had. My condolences to his family on their loss.

Greg Farmer - March 23, 2024 at 12:05 PM