



Ward Douglas Wilson

February 20, 1964 - August 28, 2023

Ward Douglas Wilson, 59, passed away on August 28, 2023, in Scottsdale, Arizona after a brief illness. Born on February 20, 1964, Ward's beloved wife, Mary, was by his side at the time of his passing.

Born and raised in Libertyville, Illinois, Ward was a gregarious and passionate individual who always had a warm smile and kind word for everyone. He was endlessly fascinated by airplanes and airlines, undoubtedly stemming from his father's career flying for Trans World Airlines. Whether as a young boy or grown man, Ward would gleefully stop to watch planes fly overhead whenever and wherever he heard them. He could identify airplanes by their profile as well as what role a particular plane served in commercial or military use. This interest complemented his broad knowledge of military history.

Ward was also an accomplished musician, playing bass trombone for the jazz band at the College of Lake County in Illinois for more than 20 years. He continued as a trombonist for the Scottsdale Philharmonic and South Mountain Community College Latin Jazz Band after moving to Arizona in 2015.

Above all, Ward's greatest love was his wife Mary (O'Toole) Wilson. Meeting in 2008, the pair married two years later at St. John's Northwestern Military Academy in Delafield, Wisconsin. Throughout their marriage, their

overwhelming love for each other was evident to everyone. Together they had a shared love of sports – especially college football, the Chicago Bears and the Chicago Cubs. They enjoyed travel, participating in marathons, attending plays and concerts, and spending time with family, friends and their dear puppies Gabby and Delafield (Dela).

A graduate of the University of Illinois, Ward was a proud member of the Marching Illini, performing during halftime of University of Illinois college football games among other events. After college, Ward marched on as a member of the Kilties Marching Band based in Racine, Wisconsin.

Naturally curious and always eager to learn, Ward received a degree in journalism and worked for the Herald Newspapers in suburban Chicago before later transitioning to a career in IT. He brought his skills and tremendous work ethic to every role he undertook, including his most recent as an Account Director for a large IT firm.

Ward is preceded in death by his parents, Joseph L. Wilson, Jr., and Evelyn “Gay” (Austin) Wilson. He is survived by his wife Mary, brothers H Wayne (Michele) Wilson, Lee (Marcie) Wilson, Richard (Laurie) Wilson, as well as nieces and nephews Erin, Kevin, Kristen and Bradley. Ward also leaves behind his cherished dog, Delafield, named for the town where he and Mary married in 2010. He will be dearly missed by his family, Mary’s family and their many friends.

Visitation and funeral services will be held Friday, September 8, 2023, at Burnett-Dane Funeral Home, 120 W. Park Ave., Libertyville, Illinois, (Rte. 176 one block west of Milwaukee Ave.) beginning at 10:00 a.m. until the service at 12:00 p.m. A private burial will follow.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. John’s Northwestern Military

Academy Noble Victory Memorial Chapel or to Arlington National Cemetery in honor of Sgt. Thomas Martin O'Toole, USMC.

For info: 847-362-3009 or share a memory at www.burnettdane.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 8. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Burnett-Dane Funeral Home
120 West Park Avenue
Libertyville, IL 60048
(847) 362-3009

Funeral Service

SEP 8. 12:00 PM (CT)

Burnett-Dane Funeral Home
120 West Park Avenue
Libertyville, IL 60048
(847) 362-3009

Tribute Wall

FD

“ I was very sorry to hear the news of Ward's passing. I first met Ward a few years ago in Scottsdale and recruited him to play bass trombone in the Scottsdale Philharmonic. I enjoyed playing with Ward and looked forward to seeing him every week at rehearsal. His wonderful trombone playing and his warm personality will be missed.

Frank Darmiento - September 20, 2023 at 06:55 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ward Douglas Wilson.



September 07, 2023 at 12:05 PM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ward Douglas Wilson.



September 07, 2023 at 10:50 AM

MA

“ Mikael A. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ward Douglas Wilson.

Mikael A. - September 07, 2023 at 10:37 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of *Ward Douglas Wilson*.



September 06, 2023 at 11:46 PM



“ *Arrive in Style* was purchased for the family of *Ward Douglas Wilson*.



September 06, 2023 at 02:26 PM



“ *Magnificent Life Spray* was purchased for the family of *Ward Douglas Wilson*.



September 06, 2023 at 09:50 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of *Ward Douglas Wilson*.

September 06, 2023 at 09:50 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Ward Douglas Wilson.



September 05, 2023 at 07:18 PM



“ Wes Curry purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Ward Douglas Wilson.



Wes Curry - September 05, 2023 at 10:58 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Ward Douglas Wilson.



September 05, 2023 at 09:19 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Ward Douglas Wilson.

September 05, 2023 at 09:19 AM

KF

“ Karen F. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ward Douglas Wilson.

Karen F. - September 04, 2023 at 11:29 AM

TW

“ We only met Ward a short time ago, but loved spending time with him and Mary. We are so deeply saddened by his passing and for the loss of all of the good times and memories we had yet to share with him. We send our deepest heart-felt condolences to his family and most of all his wife, Mary. He will be missed. May his memory be a blessing.

Terry Neuman and Don White

Terry Neuman and Don White - September 03, 2023 at 12:45 PM

LD

“ Leo La Rocca Colin Hensley Ernest Daumas purchased the Joyful Memory for the family of Ward Douglas Wilson.



Leo La Rocca Colin Hensley Ernest Daumas - August 31, 2023 at 04:35 PM

LD

“ Leo La Rocca Colin Hensley Ernest Daumas planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ward Douglas Wilson.

Leo La Rocca Colin Hensley Ernest Daumas - August 31, 2023 at 04:35 PM

BH

“ Admittedly, my memories consist mainly of the times spent with the incredible Wilson family as a child. Earliest recollections are of the family "nest" in Chicago Heights.

Then, something big happened. The Wilson's invited the Hannover clan to come to Libertyville, to see their new house there being built. It was in that house that the family grew to include four boys, who my sister Nancy and I always looked forward to going to see, as these guys had way more toys and neat stuff than we did.

Their father, Joe, once took us aboard a TWA aircraft at Midway airport , into the cockpit, where there was an exterior door that was next to the flight engineer's control station. Mr. Wilson, after asking me if I knew what that door was for, told me "It's where I can spit my gum out when flying this plane." I believed him.

However, I am having a hard time believing that Ward has flown away, perhaps to join his Dad, at that gum spitting door "up there ".

Five years ago, the "clan" rallied for my Mom's 100th birthday party. Thanks, guys (and Gals).

Condolences to the whole Wilson Enterprise.

Bruce Hannover - August 31, 2023 at 09:10 AM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Ward Douglas Wilson.



August 31, 2023 at 08:40 AM

AH

“ Andrew H. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ward Douglas Wilson.

Andrew H. - August 31, 2023 at 01:29 AM

SA

“ I’m so very sorry to hear of Ward’s passing. He was such a great man, coworker, manager, leader, and friend. He was always positive, smiling and pleasant. I really enjoyed having him on my team, and then to work with him as he grew in his career. He will be deeply missed. My heart goes out to his family. I’m so sorry for your loss. God bless you during this difficult time.
Samantha Antenen

Samantha Antenen - August 30, 2023 at 09:52 PM

MH

“ I had the honor of being Ward's manager at JLL for a short period of time and was deeply moved to hear of his passing. We bonded over sports, music and humor. He was a positive influence to those around him, yearned to partner for the success of the team, and always willing to take time to get to know others at a personal level.

His professionalism was unparalleled and I am certain his impact on me was much greater than mine was on him. I pray for peace for his sweet wife Mary and family. He will be missed.

Mike Hutchins - August 30, 2023 at 07:18 PM

LW

“ My dear sweet brother is gone now, to be with our mom, dad, grandparents and all our family pets. He is in a much better place now, but he made this world a better place through his life, enthusiasm, passion and love for everything and everyone he met. His joy of aviation and music we shared. My favorite memory is of our weekend training and flying (as passengers) on the B17 based in Oshkosh WI. What a weekend! I can still see and feel his happiness and joy as we had first-hand experience with this workhorse aircraft. I will miss him so very much. Love you, Ward!
Lee

Lee Wilson - August 30, 2023 at 03:10 PM

KN

Much love to you and glad to spend those last days with you.

Karen Nystrom - August 30, 2023 at 11:06 PM

BH

We send our sympathies to you and your family. Were so glad to facilitate a spring training baseball event for the brothers.

Beth Ruyle Hullinger - August 31, 2023 at 09:30 AM

KF

My condolences to the entire Wilson family. It seems that all of my childhood, high-school and some college memories include Ward. They were some of the best ones.

Karen Fato - September 01, 2023 at 04:39 PM