



James Early Wilson

August 27, 1948 - October 13, 2020

Son, brother, uncle, father, friend.

To many, he was James Early Wilson.

To family and those who loved him most, he was Joe.

Born in Brighton, Tenn., to Leander and Freddie Maude (Burton) Wilson, Joe, and his siblings were raised in St. Louis from a young age. As kids, they spent summers “down in Tennessee,” always making mischief with Joe as the ringleader. He graduated from Beaumont High School, started college at the University of Missouri-St. Louis and transferred to complete his degree at Howard University in Washington, D.C. He earned a Master of Business Administration from Harvard. His career as a self-employed certified public accountant led to countless clients in St. Louis and beyond.

The house he made a home holds memories of his hard work of renovations, his marriage to Lorraine (Hunt), raising their sons, Leander Joseph and James Jr., being a place of welcome for relatives and friends, celebrations, and family reunions.

To his sons, he was Dad who coached their sports teams, took them to ShowBiz Pizza Place, let them ride bikes and tricycles in the basement, and dedicated an entire room to indulge their interest in G.I. Joe and Star Wars toys, and lots of Legos.

Joe had an affinity for classic cars, especially Cadillacs and his prized Pontiac GTO convertible. He enjoyed tennis, horseback riding, listening to baseball games on TV, and making trips to Brighton and Covington, Tenn., to see his father and visit his mother's gravesite.

Calm, measured, and always ready with an explanation from his perspective, Joe seemed stoic, yet he cared wholeheartedly, showing his care in ways big and small.

Those left to hold Joe's memory include his children, Ande and Jamie and his wife, Raea; his grandchildren, EVon and Andrew; his siblings Cleo (Eddie) Merriweather, Mary Kathryn (John) Wilson and Lee Wilson; a host of nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, aunts, uncles, and friends.

Cemetery Details

Valhalla

7600 St. Charles Rock Rd
St. Louis, MO 63133

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **23**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Eddie Randle & Sons Funeral Home
4600 Natural Bridge Ave,
St. Louis, MO 63115
(314) 381-2400
<https://www.randlefuneralhome.com>

Service

OCT **23**. 12:00 PM (CT)

Eddie Randle & Sons Funeral Home
4600 Natural Bridge Ave,
St. Louis, MO 63115
(314) 381-2400
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Tribute Wall



“ *Eddie Randle & Sons Funeral Home Inc. created a In Loving Memory of James Early Wilson 10/23/2020 in memory of James Early Wilson*



Eddie Randle & Sons Funeral Home Inc. - October 23, 2020 at 12:44 AM

LW

“ My Father. James Early Wilson

*Born in Tennessee moved to the Lou up in the show me
Might have kicked it with him but that don't mean you were his
homie
Super intellect, intimidated if you phony
After knowledge from my father they'd act like they didn't know me!*

*No anxiety, mild mannered disposition
A postal worker just to pay his college tuition
As a basketball coach he had some strong intuition Middle school
taught me and my brother inside position*

*Didn't party much, studied in his dormitory
Knowing one day he'd receive all the glory
Slippin in through the cracks Affirmative Action discriminatory
Always respected women never used words derogatory*

*Call him bench warmer cause my father don't play
Made some custom stained glass windows for you any day
Lou Brock didn't want him as an agent that's ok
CPA self-made millionaire what you gotta say?*

*Nicest lawn on the block we rock stating a fact
Dukes of Hazzard Cadillac Boss Hog in the back
Next to the Pontiac GTO it ain't whack
Saturday's the Chinamen a beef broccoli maniac*

*Tennis Dwight Davis had all the ladies
Basketball coach brought the Fro back from the eighties
Travelled around the world, learned how to barter
So Justify His Thug like his name was Sean Carter*

*Always had my back when people tried to use me no doubt
Ladies try to pull a fast one he'd put them all out.*

*People running game then take me on a roundabout
Yes my father and my friend you deserve a shout out*

*I'm proud of you Dad, your intellect I did admire
A passionate man even after you retire
It was your time to go, your body had to expire
Love you with all my heart you really did inspire*

-Leander Wilson

Leander Wilson - February 25, 2021 at 01:53 PM

RG

“ *It is with a heavy heart to learn of James' passing. I have fond memories of James, Lorraine, Andy, and Jamie. My first accounting job out of college was with Early Wilson, CPA. I learned so much working for James and his various clients in the St. Louis metropolitan area. I also used to babysit Ande and Jamie as toddlers.*

Andy and Jamie, may God's perfect love, peace, and protection be with you. May you find comfort in your many special memories, and in the thoughts of all the happy years, you shared.

Rochelle (Mitchell) Griffin

Rochelle Griffin - November 20, 2020 at 01:05 PM

EH

“ My heart goes out to Andy and the Wilson Family over the loss of their father, my friend James. While the last few years were difficult as he struggled with his health issues, I will always treasure our time together over dinners or on the tennis court. His calm intellectual curiosity made for interesting conversations. I will think fondly of him and his family often -- especially as I pass his house often on walks (which is how we first met, walking my dogs). May your special memories of James bring you peace and comfort at this difficult time.

Elizabeth Howze - October 23, 2020 at 02:03 PM

TB

“ James was my good friend from our days at Beaumont High School. We met when I was a freshman and he was a junior. We met on the track team. We remained friends throughout my high school years and beyond. I was saddened to hear of his illness and subsequent death. My condolences go out to the family. I shall always cherish our memories.

Terresina Rankin Brown - October 23, 2020 at 11:40 AM

CT

“ To the Wilson Family you have my deepest condolences! My thoughts and prayers are with you and family! Carol, Marlene and Booker Terry



CAROL J. THOMAS - October 23, 2020 at 11:06 AM

EF

“ Ernestine Leverette and family purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of James Early Wilson.



Ernestine Leverette and family - October 22, 2020 at 04:55 PM

AW

“ So sad to hear about my friend, James Wilson! He will be truly missed! 💕💕 Loved his genuine and witty personality! Aretha Welch

Aretha M Welch - October 21, 2020 at 02:25 PM

SP

“ I give my deepest sympathies for your loss. My prayers are with you. May God lift you up and comfort you. Sandra Palmer

Sandra Palmer - October 19, 2020 at 05:33 PM

CD

“ Praying for the family and all whom loved my first Cousin 🙏🙏🙏... Rest in peace Joe 💕!!!

Connie and Marion Drennon 💕💕
of
Murfreesboro, Tennessee 37130



Connie and Marion Drennon - October 19, 2020 at 05:22 PM

EB

“ *Praying for the family
James and Estella Butler*



Estella Butler - October 19, 2020 at 04:47 PM

LS

“ *My condolences to the family. My memory of Joe is his dry sense of humor. He often didn't understand your jokes and we often didn't understand his. I remember first meeting Joe before He married Lorraine. They came to our house and fit right in. I remember babysitting Andy and playing with Jamie. Joe never changed. He was always the same. I felt that he had a sincere love and respect for my mother (Bessie) and the care we gave to his father after she died. God bless you during this difficult time.*

Linda F Stevens - October 19, 2020 at 11:15 AM

DW

“ *Sorry for your loss. I will be praying for Andy, Jamie and the rest of the family. Rest on my step-brother.*

Deborah White - October 18, 2020 at 06:06 PM

PF

“ *To the Wilson Family: My heart and prayers are with all of you during this most difficult time. Joe, (as we call him) was a remarkable man. He is now resting where there are no hospitals, no sickness, and no pain. He has a brand new body and is surrounded by all of his loved ones. Rest in paradise, Joe. We miss you.*

Pearlene Foster and Family 🙏

Pearlene Foster - October 18, 2020 at 12:15 PM

SM

“ *A very good friend, and an excellent Father, and an extremely intelligent Man. He was My Brother! Rest In Power James! Stanley H. Mitchell*

Stanley Mitchell - October 18, 2020 at 05:39 AM

WM

My condolences to the family. Wilma and Willie Martin and the Henderson family

Wilma Martin - October 22, 2020 at 05:02 PM

SM

EARLY was a dear friend who was like a brother to me I miss him so much to his family I am always a phone call away

Sharon McMurray - October 24, 2020 at 04:06 AM

SM

To the family be strong

Sharon McMurray - October 24, 2020 at 04:08 AM