



Donald Lee Wilson

August 5, 1943 - March 6, 2023

Donald (Don) L. Wilson, 79, of Manassas, Virginia, passed away on March 6th, 2023.

Don was born on August 5th, 1943, in Anderson, Indiana. After high school, he spent four years in the Air Force and then attended and graduated from Ball State University in 1968 with a Bachelor's in history. Directly after, he attended and earned a Master's in Library Sciences from Indiana University in 1971. In late 1970 he took a job as reference librarian at the Oxon Hill Library in Prince George's County, Maryland. In September 1979, he accepted a position with Prince William County in Virginia and started working at the Central Library in Manassas.

Don spent the rest of his life devoted to local and family history in the Northern Virginia area while working on his own family's extensive genealogy, which he documented in spiral notebooks and cue cards written with small, but perfect penmanship.

Don was the hallmark of The Ruth E. Lloyd Information Center (RELIC), at Bull Run Library and later Central Library of the Prince William Public Libraries, where he was known as the "Tree Doctor" for his extensive knowledge, experience, and patience with helping visitors build their family trees. He was also instrumental in providing research on old houses,

cemeteries, events, roads, and local families. He was always up for a new and exciting research project that so many people benefited from.

Don was involved with or served on the board of several local historical groups, including the Manassas Museum Historic Resources Board; Historic Prince William (Historical Society); and the Prince William County Historic Commission. He also had a fondness for local theaters, including the Prince William Little Theatre, where he played roles in a number of their productions.

Don was preceded in death by both of his parents Cecil Lee Wilson, Jr. and Betty Eloise Wilson (Bailey) and a younger brother, Timothy Wayne Wilson. He is survived by his brothers, James Edward Wilson and Steven Ray Wilson; sisters, Susan Jane Sanderson, Patricia Ann Sexton, and Christine Diane Buckles; and several nieces and nephews.

Don touched the lives of many people, far and wide, but the residents of Prince William County had the honor of him calling this county home for over four decades while offering knowledge and friendship to all. There will never be another Don Wilson but we should all strive to be like him.

A viewing will be held for Don on March 22, 2023, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at Pierce Funeral Home (9609 Center Street, Manassas, Virginia 20110.) Funeral Services will take place at Pierce Funeral Home the following morning, March 23, 2023, at 10:30 am, followed by interment at The Manassas Cemetery (9317 Center St, Manassas, VA 20110.)

Cemetery Details

Manassas City Cemetery

9317 Center Street
Manassas, VA 20110
(703) 257-8372
<http://www.manassascity.org/181/Cemeteries>

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 22. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Pierce Funeral Home
9609 Center St.
Manassas, VA 20110
(703) 257-6028
pfh@piercefh.com
<https://www.piercefh.com>

Funeral Service

MAR 23. 10:30 AM (ET)

Pierce Funeral Home
9609 Center St.
Manassas, VA 20110
(703) 257-6028
pfh@piercefh.com
<https://www.piercefh.com>

Tribute Wall

PK

“ *A few pictures that the Beckett family has of Don.*



Peg Kruse - March 22, 2023 at 04:50 PM

PK

So sorry for your loss! May Don Rest in Peace.

Peg Kruse - March 22, 2023 at 04:50 PM



“ *Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Donald Lee Wilson.*



March 21, 2023 at 12:40 PM

MJ

“ *Don was legendary as a local historian and researcher. His help was invaluable to me and to many other people over many years. If he didn't have the answer to your historical question, he would always find it!*

Rest in Peace, Don. You will be missed.

Martin Jeter - March 18, 2023 at 09:33 AM

RM

“ *Ray Olszewski, Eagan, Minnesota purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Donald Lee Wilson.*



Ray Olszewski, Eagan, Minnesota - March 15, 2023 at 01:30 PM



“ *Rest in Peace, Don! Thank you for your many years of selfless dedication to history and research!*

Raymond Gill - March 14, 2023 at 09:25 PM

MB

“ *My memories of Don go back a couple of decades and most of my knowledge of PWC history probably started while doing research at RELIC. I was looking for a volunteer project and he had many boxes of photos that needed indexing - one project lead to another and I am still volunteering at RELIC. He then convinced me to take on the judging adjudication for WATCH (Washington Area Theatre Community Honors) group of several local Little Theatre Companies. He said it would only require receiving ballot by mail and compiling the voting results. Now 22 years later and 30 plus companies the whole process is conducted by e-mail.*

Don will be greatly missed by all the people whose lives he touched with his devotion to details and extensive knowledge from history to theatre.

Good bye dear friend, Margaret Binning

Margaret Binning - March 14, 2023 at 07:10 PM

PS

“ Prince William Public Library Staff purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of Donald Lee Wilson.



Prince William Public Library Staff - March 14, 2023 at 12:55 PM

CB

“ I have had the privilege of receiving help from Mr. Don Wilson on many occasions. He was always so kind and helpful, and a wealth of information. I am sure he will be missed not only by patrons, but by all working in the PWC Library System. RIP dear man.

Cindy Burke - March 14, 2023 at 12:45 PM

DB

“ I first met Don when he was at the Central Library. He was always most helpful to both my children and me. For the past few years, I have had the honor of working with him on the Historic Resources Board. Additionally, whenever anyone would ask me a question about Manassas City or the surrounding area, I would refer them to Don. I would tell them that if he didn't know the answer or couldn't find the answer, then it didn't happen. All of us who knew him will miss him greatly. He was a treasure to the area. He can never be replaced.

Dave Button - March 14, 2023 at 08:48 AM

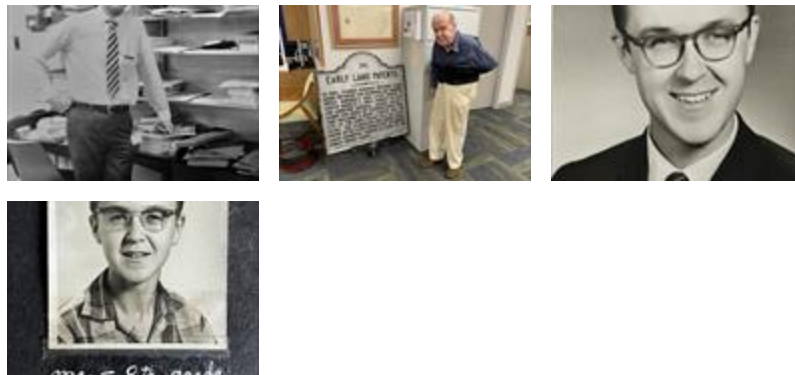
DP

“ I met Don for the first time, many years ago, when he was at Central Library on Mathis Avenue. He was extremely helpful to me, on many occasions, to locate sources for what I was researching. This help would continue after his move to Bull Run Library too. Years later I would have the pleasure of his company, as we worked many Sundays together, when he volunteered his time at the Manassas Museum. His knowledge base continued to help me for many, many years.
One of the nicest Gentleman I've ever known.

Dave Purschwitz - March 13, 2023 at 11:23 PM

DA

“ 4 files added to the album Photos of Don



David - March 13, 2023 at 10:41 PM

NU

“ I met Don Wilson for the first time many years ago (I won't say how many!) He was legendary in his knowledge of the local families of the region and the history of the geographical area. More recently, one of my younger cousin-researchers called on him to help dig deeper into our family. He has always been known for his willingness to help those who came to him for assistance and went far beyond the call of duty for such requests. RIP, Don. You will be greatly missed. - N. Upshaw

Nancy Upshaw - March 13, 2023 at 09:58 PM

KB

“ Kim Brace purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Donald Lee Wilson.



Kim Brace - March 13, 2023 at 12:51 PM

RM

“ Worked with Don at the Manassas Museum a number of times. A real gentleman and a font of Knowledge. RIP, Don.

Rolland L. May

Rolland May - March 13, 2023 at 12:40 PM

DH

“ I came to work at the Manassas Museum in 1982 and met Don Wilson. He and I worked together on so many projects until I moved to Richmond in 1996. Don volunteered his time as a Board member and was THE researcher for Manassas and Prince William County history for decades. Don was instrumental in verifying the route that Thomas Jefferson used to travel to the Capital when elected President. This route passed through Prince William and was used by President Clinton's bus convoy for his inaugural.

*Don Wilson also volunteered with the Archaeological Society of Virginia at what is now Mayfield Fort Park, documenting this early home and last Confederate earthwork in the City. His efforts helped preserve this site as well as the Cannon Branch Union fort, the Jennie Dean Site, Liberia, the Southern Railway Station, Candy Factory, and more. As you enjoy those places today, think of this quiet, dedicated, and long serving gent who helped make it all possible. Rest in peace my old friend,
Douglas Harvey
Lynchburg, VA*

douglas kent harvey - March 13, 2023 at 11:53 AM