



## H. Marvin Wilson

January 1, 1934 - September 20, 2014

WILSON- Hansel Marvin Wilson loved making things grow; after graduating from the University of Georgia in 1955 with a BS of Science in agriculture, he served in the U.S. Army for two years. For the next twenty years, Marvin worked in the agriculture industries in Alabama, Georgia and North Carolina. He also loved people, serving them and well as socializing and playing his trivia games. As a result of that love for the commitment to people, in 1972 he became a lay pastor with the United Methodist Church serving the Arabi charge for three years after being accepted as a missionary with the United Methodist Mission Board. At the same time, he attended the University of Florida in Gainesville earning a Master's of Science in Agriculture needed for the family's assignment to Monrovia, Liberia, West Africa. After serving two terms with the church, Marvin extended his agriculture outreach by becoming a consultant with several non-profits funded by USAID and continued working in Africa until 1987. In 1989, he began work with the State Department of Agriculture in Georgia from which he retired in 1999. Upon retirement from the Agriculture Department, Marvin began a new adventure becoming a "bagger" associate with Publix Supermarket in Loganville, GA where he worked for twelve years becoming known as "Mr. Publix." The other associates and his customers loved him and enjoyed his continuing trivia question; he "adopted" multiple customers' children buying them lunch boxes, school supplies, and other favors whenever they would come shopping with their parents. In 1993, after the sale of the family farm in Cherokee County and receiving his family's

inheritance, Marvin began a scholarship fund at Reinhardt College (later becoming Reinhardt University) in Waleska, GA with the aid of Publix's matching funds program in honor of this mother and father where he and several of his brothers attended, where his mother and father met, where his son, Thomas Westbrooks Wilson and his wife, Julie J. Wilson met, and where his granddaughter Abigail Elizabeth Wilson earned the Vera T. Wilson and Samuel R. Wilson Scholarship while attending Reinhardt before graduation in 2013. In addition, Marvin and his wife Dr. Barbara Brewer Wilson funded, again with Publix's matching funds a scholarship, Dr. Barbara B. Wilson Writing Award for Gifted Students at Central Gwinnett High School in Lawrenceville, GA in honor of identified gifted students. Presently, there has been six recipients of this award given directly to the student to aid them in paying those initial college expenses that other scholarships do not cover. Marvin died September 20, 2014 from cancer after struggling with the disease but not slowing down, working until August of 2013, for thirteen years. His service will be held at Tim Stewart Funeral Home, Lawrenceville, GA beginning with visitation on Sunday, September 21, 2014 from 5-8 PM and the funeral will be held at 11 AM, Monday, September 22, 2014 in the Lawrenceville Chapel of Tim Stewart Funeral Home with Rev. Scott Hearn and Rev. Bill Dupree officiating. Marvin has requested no flowers because he wished that friends and family would donate their gifts to the Reinhardt scholarship fund in honor of his parents. Special envelopes will be placed in his home church, Grayson United Methodist Church in Grayson, GA and in Tim Stewart Funeral Home at the visitation and before the funeral. He has also requested that funeral guest not wear black but wear the colors, purple and pink symbolizing cancer and cancer research to honor those whom the disease has taken. The colors are as Follows: Pink: Breast Cancer; Light Blue: Prostate Cancer; Teal: Ovarian/Uterine Cancer; Gold: Childhood Cancers; Gray: Brain Cancer; Green: Kidney Cancer: Dark Blue: Colon Cancer; Yellow: Liver Cancer; Purple: Pancreatic Cancer; Black: Melanoma (Skin Cancer); Orange: Leukemia; Periwinkle: Stomach Cancer; Lime Green:

Lymphoma; White: Lung Cancer; Lavender: General cancer awareness. Cremation will follow the funeral service, and Marvin's ashes will be placed with a foot marker at the foot of his mother's grave in Hickory Flat United Methodist Church Cemetery in Cherokee County, Ga. In a private ceremony for family only. In addition to his wife, Marvin is survived by two sons, Thomas Westbrooks Wilson and Marvin Jeffery Wilson, two daughters, Susanna Lyne Wilson and Mary Jennifer, and seven grandchildren, Jordan Thomas Wilson and wife, Carrie, Abigail Elizabeth Wilson, Lauren Amanda Wilson Wallace and husband, Andrew Wallace, Samuel Connor Wilson, and Martin Brewer Lapan. Arrangements handled by Tim Stewart Funeral Home, 300 Simonton Road, SW, Lawrenceville, Georgia 30046. 770-962-3100. Please sign the online guest registry at [www.stewartfh.com](http://www.stewartfh.com)

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP **21.** 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Tim Stewart Funeral Home Lawrenceville  
300 Simonton Road SW  
Lawrenceville, GA 30046  
(770) 962-3100

## Service

SEP **22.** 11:00 AM (ET)

Chapel of Tim Stewart Funeral Home Lawrenceville  
300 Simonton Road, S.W.  
Lawrenceville, GA

# Tribute Wall



“ *H. Marvin Wilson*

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October 08, 2022 at 11:31 AM



“ *Wilson family,*

*I just wanted to share how much joy Mr. Marvin brought to my family while in Liberia. I remember him as funny, wise, and always smiling. I also recall once when he walked to town when our vehicle pooped out when we were upcountry, miles from anywhere. He brought back help, and I vividly recall sitting in the front seat of the money bus that night, singing with your dad. At a time when he could have been frustrated, angry, or just plain tired, he chose instead to sing. Joyfully.*

*With much love,  
Jean Temperly (nee Miller)*

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**Jean Temperly** - September 28, 2014 at 06:16 PM

JM

“ Dear Mr. Marvin's Family, when I saw this dear man's picture in the paper, I recognized him as my guardian angel at Publix. I shopped at Publix a few years back and discovered that I'd left my bank card home. Unable to pay my bill, I told the clerk to hold it and allow me to return shortly. Mr. Marvin was bagging my groceries. Despite my protests, he took \$40 out of his pocket and paid for my groceries. I happen to be an African-American woman but he didn't hesitate to help me. That was my first time ever meeting him.

I later returned to the store and left the money and a note for him. The next time I saw him, I asked if he had received the card and he said it meant so much to him. I knew he never cared if he ever saw the money again. This sweet man didn't judge me or think me a crook but met me at my point of need. I've shared this experience with many and thank him for leaving a lasting impression with me of what true compassion and generosity means. You and I were blessed that he touched our lives. The angels in heaven are rejoicing to have him join them.

God bless and keep you. Jackie McNair, Loganville

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**Jackie McNair** - September 24, 2014 at 10:01 PM

BW

Thanks for your kind words. My father left quite a legacy and seeing comments like yours makes me want to a better friend, father and husband to those around me. He loved the Lord and knew that we were all His children.

- Brooks Wilson

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**Brooks Wilson** - September 25, 2014 at 01:39 PM

VU

“ Sending heartfelt thoughts and prayers to Barbara and family from Walton County Senior Fitness. We so enjoyed knowing Marvin. He was so nice to everyone, and brought such a great spirit to our class, what a blessing he was. He will be missed...May the Lord hug you all tightly, Love, Valerie and the rest of your Senior Fitness Friends

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**Valerie Urmetz** - September 22, 2014 at 12:45 PM

BT

“ Dear Barbara,  
I am so sorry to hear of your loss. I will pray for you and all of your family. God Bless..  
BettyThompson-Boatwright

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**Betty Thompson-Boatwright** - September 22, 2014 at 11:59 AM

MB

“ Barbara, Marvin has fought a long and hard battle, and you have been right there with him. I know this is hard for you and the family. I am sorry I didn't get to speak to you at GCREA. Sending prayers and love.  
Marlene Ratledge Buchanan

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**marlene buchanan** - September 22, 2014 at 08:25 AM

BW

“ I so admired Marvin and appreciated his input on the Missions Committee at Grayson UMC. His experience and point of view were invaluable in helping to raise mission awareness at the church. He was always kind, always friendly, and always helpful. Barbara, you and your family are in my prayers.

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**Becky White** - September 21, 2014 at 06:09 PM

JR

“ My prayer partner and friend for many years, my yard is a blooming to Marvin and my mine packed with Marvin's trivia and many talks and visits and liking his Wendy's chocolate frosty was a treat for me. Barbara and family thank you for sharing Marvin with the world that he touched so many people that we will never his legacy.

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**jim reavis** - September 21, 2014 at 04:02 PM

 Deborah Wiggins

“ You don't know me, nor did Mr. Wilson. However, I knew him from shopping at Publix and I am heartbroken to hear of his passing. If he happened to bag my groceries at checkout he always had a clever bit of trivia for me or quizzed me on something. Most times I did not know the answer! Please accept my deepest sympathy. You just never know how many people one life can touch.

*Deborah Wiggins, Loganville*

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**Deborah Wiggins** - September 21, 2014 at 12:53 PM

LG

“ Marvin was truly a saint among the living. He gave so much of his time and resources to help anyone that he could. Marvin did so much for Grayson UMC over the years. It was an honor and a privilege to serve with Marvin on the Missions Committee. Marvin also worked at my Publix and I would always look for him every time we shopped there. Thank you for all you have done to enrich this earth. Thank you, Barbara and family, for sharing Marvin with all of us. May God continue to bless your family and bring you peace.  
*Linda Guldenschuh*

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**Linda Guldenschuh** - September 21, 2014 at 11:40 AM

JH

“ There are too many memories to share, too many years of friendship, too many years apart while you folks roamed South Georgia, South Africa, South Publix! Our connection, stretched through the years, but was never broken. I am so glad I got to massage his feet Tuesday! Ah, Barbara, kids, we are so very sorry-- and so very glad that it is over. This dear, sweet, smart, silly, funny man will leave a hole in so many lives. Someone, I have forgotten whom, once said that we should so live that where we once were a hole will always be. Marvin so lived. Hugs, kisses, more of both. See soon. Jinx and Bob Haley

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**jinx haley** - September 20, 2014 at 02:45 PM

SG

“ Dear Barbara and family, I just discovered this information on Facebook this morning. I am so, so sorry for your loss. Marvin was a wonderful person. He always had a smile and a good thought to share. My prayers are with you today and the days to come. Sending hugs and hopes of comfort to you and your children and the rest of your family. Love, Sheila Graeser

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**Sheila Graeser** - September 20, 2014 at 12:26 PM

TB

“ Such a sweet man. As Susanna's friend, I had the pleasure of enjoying his company in Seattle in the 90s. I loved his unique wit and intelligence, and his playful delight in the uniqueness of people. Haven't seen him in over 15 years I think, but his passing still brings a tear to my eye, so that means something! -Tommy Beyer

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**Tom Beyer** - September 20, 2014 at 11:55 AM

Lauren  
Wallace

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Lauren Wallace - September 20, 2014 at 11:31 AM

MW

“ To the Dear Wilson family: our Christian sympathies go out to you all. As a distant cousin, we have had many times of contact - growing up in the same church, visiting in each other's homes, family and church gatherings. And after my marriage, you were close by in Americus and we visited more then - before and after your missionary journey. Marvin was always happy. It was a joy to be around him. May your memories be joyful ones, too. May God continue to guide you. My love. Wilson's, too.

Mary Jane Haley Weathersby and Wilson We - September 20, 2014 at 11:06 AM

KM

“ Such a dear, generous, intelligent man. I will never forget the pot of Johnny-Jump-Ups he gave me. He had such a green thumb; the flowers seemed to love him. My heart goes out to Barbara and to all your children and grandchildren. It is a privilege to have known such a fine man as Marvin. Yours, Kim Mallett

Kim Mallett - September 20, 2014 at 11:06 AM

JL

A kind, dear and funny man who was good with both plants and people. A study in living in the moment. I've missed you Marvin, and will miss you more.

Jim Lapan - September 20, 2014 at 07:03 PM

SB

*Dearest Marvin, You are one of the most special people I have ever met. I am so glad you are out of pain. You are loved and treasured by so many people. You will be missed by the countless lives you have touched. My prayers and thoughts are with you and you're endearing family. Love, Susan A. Brown*

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**Susan Brown** - September 22, 2014 at 07:37 AM

AB

*I worked with Marvin for 8 years at Publix..I will miss his smile and positive attitude he always had. I couldn't wait to hear some story or trivia for the day.My prayers go out to Barbara and their family today. He will be truly missed and always loved and not forgotten...I love you Marvin...Alesa Barrettt*

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**Alesa Barrett** - September 22, 2014 at 08:35 AM