



Jerry McDonald Wilson

September 24, 1949 - May 25, 2012

Blessed with an extraordinarily creative mind, a wonderful memory, an appreciation of art and film, an insatiable desire to learn as much as he could to solve any problem or obstacle before him, a tenacity to complete any project he faced, compassion for the underdog and less fortunate, a sharp wit and wonderful sense of humor, a love for his family and his Lord, and an incredible way of calling fish to his lure, Jerry Wilson is at rest in Heaven after his courageous battle with pancreatic cancer.

Jerry was a man of many facets: award-winning director/cinematographer, fisherman, admirer of classic cars, volunteer, advocate for those in need, and no less important he was a loving husband, devoted father, doting Grandpa, loyal brother, caring uncle, and true friend.

He began his career as a high school student at WBTV/Jefferson Productions in Charlotte, N.C. where his tireless desire to learn more about the television and film industry drove him to advance from mail room clerk to cameraman and director. In 1980 he moved to Atlanta where his very first commercial spearheaded a drive to raise funds for the current High Museum. That work ultimately resulted in the first of many Addy awards, including several from the New York City, Atlanta, and Augusta Ad Clubs. He eventually managed his own production company, 4th Street Productions, beginning in 1990. His job title for decades was Director/Cinematographer, however his duties extended far beyond that title and he often also served as graphic designer, writer, editor, and producer. A consummate professional, he most loved working a project from start to finish, with a happy client the reward at the end. His work was highly regarded in his industry and community, and his clientele included all the major networks and cable outlets, and locally - Atlanta Falcons Daily, Atlanta Braves Weekly, Atlanta Plastic Surgeons Group, and International Indoor Soccer. He directed many celebrities of tv and film, sports figures, and politicians. Jerry gave many people a start in the business, nurturing and encouraging them to learn and grow.

He also devoted much of his time and skills to pro bono work in his local community. Out

of an expression of his love and gratitude to the coach of his oldest son's football program at Marietta Middle School, he created a "highlight tape" of the team and players. Set to music and documenting the team's accomplishments for all to see, the highlight tape was a huge hit and soon became a tradition that ultimately became the basis for a new show, TV High School Sports of the Week. When his children moved on to Marietta High School, he devoted so much of his time to documenting the accomplishments of the MHS football program that he was given the first ever "12th Man of the Year" award. Even after his children graduated and had gone to college, he continued to produce highlight tapes, much to the joy of many. Other schools and coaches around the nation sought his services. In addition, he produced individual highlight tapes to help scores of athletes receive college scholarships.

One of his last legacies was his work with Loving Arms Cancer Outreach, a charity supporting a cause very close to his heart: providing education, support, and tangible assistance to cancer patients in the local community. Jerry graciously served as the organization's first ever Director of Promotion, and worked tirelessly in his last year to advance their cause here in Marietta. He maintained and updated the website, photographed special events, and encouraged friends and family to volunteer and offer support as well.

Perhaps his greatest legacy was his love and devotion to his family. He leaves behind his wife Mary Madeline Falls Wilson, three sons - Brian and wife Kristen, Brandon and wife Mimi, Bradley and wife Cason, and one daughter - Mary Elizabeth and husband Drew Ellenburg, and seven grandchildren with another one on the way. He is also survived by one brother - Butch Wilson and wife Gay, and three sisters - Sarah Beard, Maxine Turner and husband Ronnie, and Alieen Pendleton, brother-in-law Roy Tompkins and sister-in-law Alice Wilson.

The family will receive friends at Mayes Ward-Dobbins Funeral Home in Marietta, Georgia from 5-7pm on Tuesday, May 29. Funeral services will be held 10am on Wednesday, May 30, at Mayes Ward-Dobbins with Pastor David Chauncey, Eastside Baptist Church, officiating.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be sent to Eastside Baptist Church in Marietta, Georgia (www.ebcfamily.org) or Loving Arms Cancer Outreach (www.lovingarmscanceroutreach.com).

Cemetery

Kennesaw Memorial Park Cemetery

1306 Whitlock Avenue NE
Marietta, GA, 30064

Events

MAY 29 Visitation 05:00PM - 07:00PM

Historic Marietta Chapel
180 Church Street NE, Marietta, GA, US,
30060

MAY 30 Service 10:00AM

Historic Marietta Chapel
180 Church Street NE, Marietta, GA, US,
30060

Comments



“ Jerry and I worked together on many jobs for ten plus years including his first job in Atlanta for the High Museum of Art. He was truly a great Cinematographer and Director. He used his talent and skills to produce TV Commercials and films for his clients that were over the top. Jerry was a fun guy to work with along with a great personality and wit tha I will never forget. He used his talents to help others learn the industry and expand their individual knowledge. He will be missed. My condolences to his family and all who had the opportunity to know him.

Doug Smith June 2, 2012

Douglass M Smith - June 02, 2012 at 02:36 PM



“ Rick Susan Russell lit a candle in memory of Jerry McDonald Wilson



Rick Susan Russell - May 31, 2012 at 12:34 PM



“ The Martinez Family lit a candle in memory of Jerry McDonald Wilson



The Martinez Family - May 29, 2012 at 11:03 PM



“ He is home. He is home now. Amen.

The Martinez Family - May 29, 2012 at 11:05 PM



“ I worked with Jerry at Jefferson Productions in Charlotte beginning in 1979. I am sorry to learn of his passing -- we have lost another creative mind and kindred soul too young. Rest well, my friend.

Ted Hogan - Nashville, Tennessee - May 29, 2012 at 03:45 PM



“ I will always think of Jerry as the best client and above all, a friend. He had a great creative spirit that allowed him to accomplish any goal he wanted to achieve. He'd come to my lake and fish for hours. He'll be truly missed.
Jim Leonard

Jim Leonard - May 29, 2012 at 02:50 PM



“ Jerry was an incredible film maker/producer, but more importantly one of the nicest people that I have ever worked with. He was one of the most caring and always talked about his family that he loved. My deepest condolences to his family and close friends--
Gary Walker

Gary D Walker - May 29, 2012 at 01:56 PM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Jerry McDonald Wilson.



May 29, 2012 at 12:03 PM



“ Shirley W. Murphy lit a candle in memory of Jerry McDonald Wilson



Shirley W. Murphy - May 29, 2012 at 10:37 AM



“ We knew Jerry for many years as a neighbor in Forest of Arden and through the long friendship of our sons, Danny and Brian. May you rest in peace in the arms of God.

Love, Fred and Inez Bennett

Inez Bennett - May 29, 2012 at 08:17 AM



“ Jerry McDonald Wilson became my friend during the greatest challenge of his life. His love for his "bride" and his children & grandchildren were the greatest stories ever told. He was always encouraging to those around him, witty & funny, compassionate & he listened with his heart. He encouraged me to begin Loving Arms Cancer Outreach-wisdom beyond earthly means. His spirit was always focused on others while he was fighting for his own life. He created our amazing website & always had his laptop out showing us pictures of the wonderful family he had. After one great weekend at the lake he said, " I feel like Jimmy Stewart in It's A Wonderful Life." He loved his Brother & Sisters & told very funny stories about growing up. He has served on our Board of Directors since beginning & never missed a Board Meeting-Always teaching & sharing to the point , at the end of the meeting, everyone would hug him & say " you are amazing Jerry Wilson." So as I say good-bye to this earthly body, I cannot wait till we meet again and I hear my favorite words from my dear friend, "IT'S NOT ABOUT US, KIDDO"!! I Love You, Jerry Wilson.

Diana Hurst - May 28, 2012 at 08:29 PM



“ It was my pleasure to serve on the board of directors for Loving Arms Cancer Outreach with Jerry. He will be missed. ~ Lee Ann Sanderson ~

Lee Ann Sanderson - May 28, 2012 at 08:27 PM



“ Missi Tillman lit a candle in memory of Jerry McDonald Wilson



Missi Tillman - May 28, 2012 at 04:30 PM



“ Billie Ann Yandle Henderson lit a candle in memory of Jerry McDonald Wilson



Billie Ann Yandle Henderson - May 28, 2012 at 02:33 PM



“ Tammy Els lit a candle in memory of Jerry McDonald Wilson



Tammy Els - May 28, 2012 at 02:24 PM



“ Jerry was a dear friend. He and I worked together when I was just starting out in the TV business. We had a lot of fun working HS Football, Basketball, Wrestling...you name it...we did it. Even though he knew SO much more about TV production than I did, he always listened to my ideas. He was always calm, never quick to anger, even when I was on that talkback button. I'm sure the Lord is already got him working on a production right now. May God comfort his wonderful family with "the peace that surpasses all understanding" in this time of sadness. Matt Stewart

Matt Stewart - May 28, 2012 at 01:45 PM



“ Jerry and I were driving together to Charlotte for a shoot. I was driving and we were pulled over because 2 people recently stole the exact color and make of my car. The officer told us they were looking for 2 Hispanic people in their 20's. So it seemed like we were off he hook, but he asked to see our ID's. That's when we realized we had the same birthday. The officer took a double-take, but let us go on. We had a good laugh and a great trip.

Rob Rogers - May 28, 2012 at 11:56 AM



“ Jerry was always willing to try something new and give people a chance. He was a great guy and always positive.

Kevin Kyle

Kevin Kyle - May 28, 2012 at 12:27 PM



“ Gordon Green lit a candle in memory of Jerry McDonald Wilson



Gordon Green - May 28, 2012 at 09:54 AM



“ Jerry Wilson was my ..Mentor..Idea man, Video Production guru and Traveling companion..we traveled all around the world together..
But most of all he was my FRIEND..
I will miss his knowledge ..his wit, his comedy, and the love and hope he gave me whenever we were together..
My heart is sad today...but my soul is glad he was a part of my life..I was and am truly blessed he was part of my life..
May God Grant his entire family and all who knew him comfort..

Gordon Green - May 28, 2012 at 09:53 AM



“ Kim Kerr lit a candle in memory of Jerry McDonald Wilson



Kim Kerr - May 27, 2012 at 07:23 PM



“ "I can do all things through Christ, which strengthens me."

Kim Kerr - May 27, 2012 at 08:10 PM