



Conrad Wilson

October 15, 2012

Conrad Ray Wilson, 82, of Hot Springs passed away Monday, October 15, 2012. He was born August 30, 1930 to the late Barney & Pauline Wilson in Houston, Texas.

Conrad was born with a natural musical talent. He found a bugle when he was 11 years old. He was the only kid on the block who could make a sound on it and ever since has been entertaining audiences with his extraordinary talent and musical abilities. When his father bought him a trumpet he joined the junior high school band and later became proficient enough to join the high school band. His passion for jazz music often led him to sneak in or around clubs such as the Plantation Club in his home town of Houston. While hiding in the bushes to hear his heroes, he was too young to be allowed inside but his ears heard lessons he would later apply to his own performance. His opportunities opened up when he joined the Air Force and was stationed with the 541st Air Force band in Chandler, Arizona and played with the Arizona State College band. After the Air Force Conrad attended the University of Houston performing in the College band and the Houston Symphony. His talent was recognized by many of the traveling big bands and he was offered a position that led him to many cities across the country and performances with Patti Page, Bob Hope, Liberace, McGuire Sisters, Rosemary Clooney and many others. He was the lead player in the trumpet section of the Stardust Big Band as well as a performer with many of the combos in Arkansas.

Conrad was nominated to the Arkansas Jazz Heritage Foundation Hall of Fame, was a lifetime member of the ELKS Lodge and Owner & Operator of Crawford Pharmacy for 35 years. He was preceded in death by his parents; one daughter, Susan Wilson; one granddaughter, Susan Stough and one great grandson, Ben Fields.

Survivors include his wife of 56 years, Melanie Wilson; six daughters, Jan Whisenhunt (Jim), Mel Mika (Mike), Lyn Harrison (Barry), Gay King (Derek), Kay Roberts (Bob), Kim Dudley (David); one son, Ray Wilson (Vicki); seventeen grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Visitation will begin at 4:00 PM with a Rosary to follow at 6:00 PM Wednesday at St. John's Catholic Church. Services will be 11:00 AM Thursday at St. John's Catholic Church with Father Bill Elser officiating.

Pallbearers are his Grandsons, Adam Hunter, Jake Whisenhunt, Jon-David Dudley, Evan Button, Kyle Stough, Jeb Roberts and Will Dudley. Honorary Pallbearers are Paul Bosson, Tom Ross, Al Wells, Donnie Keck, Jack Keck, Eddie Wethington, Charlie Wilson, Woody Simmons, Dick Kelley and Members of the Stardust Jazz Band.

Special thanks to Dr Martin Koehn & Staff of Arkansas Hospice, Mercy Hospital Staff of 3rd floor West and Devin Williams.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to St. John's Catholic School.

Tribute Wall

RS

“ dear numpy,i am so sorry for your loss. i miss those "sounds" at the old house.my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.
with love, richard

richard smith - November 12, 2012 at 12:44 PM

ML

“ Oh my goodness, I am so sorry to hear of Mr. Wilson's passing. What wonderful memories I have of him and all of his girls and Mrs. Wilson! What a great family you all have. Please know that I have all of you in my prayers, may God be with and give you strength during this time. Much love, Melissa

Melissa McBride Livingston - October 22, 2012 at 03:57 PM

BW

“ I have enjoyed Conrad's company so many times. I feel like I've lost a best friend. I wish I had of known he was ill so I could of seen him one more time! I enjoyed Conrad many times at oaklawn, I was always welcome in his home, and even camped on islands with him! I considered him a great friend! I am so sad that I was unable to attend his funeral! If I can do anything at all for any of you please let me know, I feel that I owe a great deal of who I am to Conrad! I thank God I had the opportunity to call him my friend. Miss all of you!! Thank you for allowing me to know each of you!

Buzzy Williamson - October 18, 2012 at 04:01 PM

LM

“ Vicki, I am sorry for your loss. Although I did not know your father in law, from all that I have read, he was an amazing man and will be greatly missed. My thoughts will be with you and your family during this difficult time. Warm Regards, Laura

Laura Manley - October 18, 2012 at 03:37 PM

WA

“ Deepest sympathy to Mel, Lyn, and Wilson Family.—from your friend and class of '78 classmate

Wendy Arnold - October 18, 2012 at 09:16 AM

BP

“ Melanie, Cousin Mary, Ray, Mel, Jan, Kim, Lynn, Kay and Gay I am so sorry for your loss - a great loss for so many who loved Conrad so much! I have so many wonderful memories from playing alongside Conrad since 17 years old, some of them at your weddings and family get togethers. I was looking forward to more opportunities to make music with Conrad, but guess I'll have to wait a little longer now. God Bless You All, Buck Powell and Kimberley Huff

Buck Powell - October 17, 2012 at 02:25 PM

VW

“ Numpy, I am so sorry for your loss, my thoughts and prayers are with you and the family. Love, Vickie, Chris (buster) & Sheila Warwick

Vickie Warwick - October 17, 2012 at 01:39 PM

LH

“ I read somewhere once that "words are communications of the mind, music is communication of the soul". Conrad left a lot of people with a comforted soul. He was always a gentleman and nice man to be around. Numpy, let me know if I can ever be of any assistance. My best to the family.

Lindrel Hogaboom - October 17, 2012 at 12:22 PM

GW

“ I've known Conrad since my grandfather brought me to a performance of the Stardust dance-band. He was a great musician and a wonderful person. My prayers go out to the family, Mrs. Mel, Evan, Reagan, Rachel, and Rebecca.

Greg Wethingonton - October 17, 2012 at 09:21 AM

DA

Did Conrad ever play at the Centry Room in Dallas Texas. Adolphus Hotel

Deanna Anderson - October 26, 2017 at 11:43 PM