



William Wilcox

September 11, 1915 - August 24, 2010

Obituary of William Wilcox

WILLIAM W WILCOX

A star has been returned to Heaven with the passing of William W Wilcox, 94. Known to his friends as Bill, Brigadier General Wilcox, USAF, Retired, departs with a history of academic achievement, military accolades and personal success through service to his country and to his fellow Americans.

Born September 11, 1915 in the farming community of Oskaloosa, Iowa, Bill was academically proficient and athletically gifted contributing to his High School football and basketball teams. He entered the US Military Academy at West Point in 1936 after a short stint in the Iowa National Guard while an undergraduate student at William Penn College in Oskaloosa. Being graduated from West Point in 1940, Second Lieutenant Wilcox opted for flight school and the fledgling US Army Air Corps. His service in WWII included multiple Command positions with the 12th Bomb Group serving in Italy, Sicily, North Africa and the China, Burma India Theater. Returning stateside, now Lt. Colonel Wilcox filled various assignments including Professor of Mathematics at his alma mater, West Point, and an assignment at the Pentagon. Promoted to Colonel, he requested assignment to Strategic Air Command, where he

later flew and commanded Wings of B-47's, B-52's and U-2's. Garnering the star of a Brigadier General, he was assigned to Headquarters, Strategic Air Command as Chief of Operations and Training. He ultimately was National Commander of this nation's Civil Air Patrol.

General Wilcox flew 75 combat missions, was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross with three Oak Leaf Clusters, Distinguished Service Medal, Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, Presidential Unit Citation with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Outstanding Unit Citation, American Defense Service Medal, World War II Victory Medal and others. He was a Command Pilot with more than 4400 flying hours. On the occasion of his retirement, General Wilcox was praised for his "outstanding performance of duty" by his Commanding Officer, General of the Air Force, John P McConnell, Chief of Staff, USAF, 1968, as having "contributed significantly to the efficiency and effectiveness of our military establishment." General Wilcox's full military history is available through Google (William W Wilcox).

Following his Air Force retirement in November, 1968, General Wilcox moved to Newport Beach, CA, where he began a new career in the financial services industry and became an active member of the local Rotary Club. In 1986, he and his second wife, Ellen, founded Wilcox Financial Services in San Carlos, California. Mr. Wilcox remained self-employed as a Registered Principal with LPL Financial Services until his retirement in 1998, at age 83, when the Wilcox's moved to Lady Lake, Florida.

Fitness was always a part of Bill's day. Squash and tennis were his favorite ways to keep moving. He earned a second place finish in squash competition in the Strategic Air Command in 1959, and he continued playing tennis through his 90th year. Fishing was another of his passions, especially with a fly rod. Bill was an enthusiastic member of his Harbor Hills community helping to organize a major fund raiser which helped launch the HH Tennis

Association more than ten years ago. In the past four years, Bill could be found five days a week at The Villages Wellness Center where he contributed his always cheerful spirit while participating in structured fitness classes.

As a Rotarian in Newport Beach, CA, and later in San Carlos, CA, General Wilcox contributed many hours of service as a member of the Board of Directors, often chairing and organizing various charity events. He helped initiate a youth soccer program in Yugoslavia funded by his San Carlos Rotary Club. Both he and Mrs. Wilcox are Paul Harris Fellows.

General Wilcox is survived by his wife Ellen, his previous wife, Retha, their three children, four grandchildren and one great grandchild.

A Celebration of his Life will be held on the 95th anniversary of his birth, Saturday, September 11, 2010, from 2 to 4 PM at Savannah Center, 1545 Buena Vista Blvd., The Villages, FL 32162 (On the corner of El Camino Real and Buena Vista Blvd). Please join me in this festive event. It is exactly what Bill would want. I encourage you to share your own thoughts and stories at this time.

Questions may be addressed to Ellen@ellenwilcox.com In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions to Alliance Healthcare Foundation, Attn: Desiree Coleman-Cohrn, 1501 N Hwy 441, Building 1802, The Villages, FL, 32159.

Services

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Memorial Donations

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Tribute Wall



“ *William Wilcox*

October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *Hello Ellen, this is how I remember you and Bill. Wonderful photo of a gracious and elegant couple. I love the music and the flag. Can't wait to see you and celebrate Bill on September 11th. A Warm Embrace, Jeanne Stilwell, Seattle, WA*

Ellen - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *Ellen, I am so sorry for your loss. Although I never met Bill, I felt I knew him through my Dad's many reminiscences over the years about his experiences with his WWII commanding officer, and good friend of these many years since. I know he treasured his 67 year long friendship with Bill. You are in my prayers as you go through this difficult time. Warmly, Marcia Keeney*

Marcia Keeney - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *To the General: It is not trite to say you were among the acme of "The Greatest Generation" Because of your energy and intellect this country survived and prospered. So many people owe so much to you. Thank you General William "Bill" Wilcox.*

John Good - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

PL

“ We send our deepest sympathy Ellen. There is no doubt that Bill had a life well lived. In fact his picture is probably next to the pharse, "A Man for All Seasons." We will be out of town on the 11th, but please know that our thoughts will be with you, as Bill's many friends and family celebrate his extraordinary life.

Penny and Leesa - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MA

“ Ellen: A great man,a great leader and as such I would follow His direction any anytime with total confidence as we all did during WWII. In North Africa,Europe and South East Asia.God Speed Fly High We all Loved him.

mAURICE - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

LL

“ I am sorry to hear of your loss. Although we have never met, as an American and fellow aviator, I do feel a sense of sadness over the loss of a true hero. It is because of men like Bill that we have our most precious gift, freedom. Another angel of freedom has flown home. Leo

leo H. Leboeuf - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ What a great description of how Bill changed the world. Again, my thoughts and prayers are with you!

Jean Sumner - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CM

“ *Ellen and Family, Just a little note to let you know how truly sorry I am for your loss and how wonderful that you enjoyed so many wonderful years with each other. Bless you and yours*

Carole Majerus - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

IU

“ *Bill was a wonderful , friendly and decent human being. We thank God for his life which was exemplary to others. May his soul rest in perfect peace with the lord. Dr Eze and Ify Uche with the children.*

Ify Uche - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

PN

“ *Dear Ellen: My heart goes out to you as you mourn the passing of your wonderful, sweet husband that I only knew briefly but I could tell he was a "keeper". Bill joins Paul in heaven and they will continue to be the kind, decent men that we knew in life. God Bless you and your family. Love, Pat Nixon and Paul (in spirit).*

Patricia Nixon - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

EA

“ *Dear Ellen, I'm so sorry to learn of your loss. Although I never had the good fortune to meet Bill personally, I have warm feelings about the deep relationship the two of you shared and therefore send my deepest sympathy for your loss. May God bless you with peace and comfort at this time and in the future. Sincerest sympathy, Eleanor and Jim*

Eleanor "Skip" Adams - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ Ellen, You are in my thoughts and prayers. You had a wonderful life with Bill and I know how much you loved him. If there is anything I can do, please call. All my best, Judy Schell

Judy Schell - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MA

“ Dear Ellen, My prayers and thoughts are with you during this difficult time. I know that you and Bill had a wonderful and full life together and that is something that will be with you and console you in the days ahead. Love, Marge

marge armstrong - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

AM

“ Dear Ellen, we are so sorry to hear about your loss. Bill will be greatly missed. Please take care. Our deepest sympathy AJ and Karen

AJ and Karen Muns - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ Ellen I am so very sorry for your devastating loss. Bill was wonderful man and such a kind soul. There are simply no words that can stop your pain or adequately express the sadness in my heart for you at this time. Please know you are loved and in my thoughts and prayers. hugs sue

Suzanne Fuqua - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BP

“ Ellen: my deepest and sincerest sympathy on the passing of your husband and partner. May God be with you in this time of need. He was a true Patriot. God Bless you.

Bob Patterson - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

LN

“ I remember Bill as a man who lived his life with a big heart, a strong body and a love for his country that shown through his spirit of caring and helping others. His achievements are many and impressive and I for one am proud to say I new a man of his caliber. May you rest in peace dear Bill and may your lovely wife Ellen and family be filled with the the memories of your love. My deepest sorrow to you all for the loss of such a great personality.

Lari Nerli - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ Ellen: My heartfelt sympathy to you--It was my pleasure to have met Bill when working with you--such a kind sweet man--always had time to chit chat and always made you feel like you were someone special. It was my pleasure to have met such an outstanding gentleman--thank you for that opportunity Ellen. May God be with you--you will treasure all your memories--as I do of Al--and I thank God for those memories, they keep me going and make me know how blessed I was to have him in my life for 48 years Again--my condolences--it was a pleasure knowing Bill. Jean Custeau----Keep in touch!

Jean Custeau - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

US

“ It was an honor and privilege to share time and engage in conversation with this great American. He was a gentle giant who contributed to this great nation in so many ways, to the very end. Thank you Bill for all you gave of yourself, and may you rest in a peaceful haven of love and joy. We will miss you greatly.

Ulrich and Karen Setz - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

GG

“ *My Dear Ellen, how sad I am hearing the news of Bills passing. He enjoyed each and every day just being with you. Thank you for letting me know. I will contact you by phone. Much love Grace Gavis*

Grace Gavis - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

LA

“ *Ellen, My deepest symphathy on your loss. I know you and Bill had a special relationship and he will be missed. My thoughts and prayers are with you.*

Lee Anne Acosta - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

PB

“ *We met Bill but a few times and we are privileged to know him and to have such fond memories. A true gentle ma, interested in others, and in life. He will truly be missed*

Paula and Bob - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

PG

“ *Dearest Ellen, We are deeply saddened at the passing of our dear friend Bill. We shall miss him tremendously and cannot help but rejoice in the fact that Bill is now at pease with with his creator & Lord Jesus. Please accept our most sincere condolences. We shall keep you in our prayers so God gives you comfort, strength and ease your pain & sorrow. All our love. Please let us know if you need help. We are always here for you Ellen. Prem & Carolina*

Prem & Carolina Gulati - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

LE

“ He was a kind and wonderful person...we loved him and his suport for our tennis program. He will be truly missed. Ellen you are loved and know God will be with you; He will neither fail you nor abandon you. May God guide your steps and comfort you and your family.

Lita and Gary Edwards - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

TB

“ General Wilcox is among the last of a generation that we will never see again and it makes me sad. I am happy that I got to meet and dine with both of you. I am happy that you got to spend so many good years with him.

tom brooks` - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

EB

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you. May he rest in peace.

Elba & Bob Burns - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

SC

“ So sorry for your loss! My thoughts and prayers are with you. Lots of love to you

Sabrina Ciceri - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

HS

“ Ellen, We are saddened to lose Bill from among us. His stories and memories are precious and we hope they have been recorded. Ron, especially enjoyed talking with Bill about Ron's research and writing project involving early flight and pilots. Our heart and prayers go to you Ellen at this time of loss. With our love and prayers, Hiroko and Ron Snare

Hiroko and Ron Snare - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BB

“ *In this world of paper doll heroes, The General was the real deal. To say it was an honor to have known him does not quite express the depth and reach of those words. We, as Americans, owe our way of life to him... and, as a friend, this gentle man gave grand dimension to our lives. Watching Bill's eyes glow across a dinner table at his adored Ellen was always the best show in town. For everything... Thank you, General. We will truly miss you. To Ellen we hope that your wonderful memories will someday be able to fill the void in your heart.*

Barbara & Larry Bell - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

SB

“ *Ellen, I didn't realize that Bill was born on 9/11. It most have been a horrible birthday THAT day. Please let me know if there is anything I can do for you. I look forward to seeing you soon. Sharon*

Sharon S. Brown - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ *Dear Ellen, Acquaintances are not hard to find but true friends are a rare commodity. We have been blessed in having you both as our friends for so many years. Saddened as we are at the passing of Bill, we shall always remember what a sweet and gentle man he was and give thanks for having known him. The records will always show that he was an American hero but the records cannot convey the fact that he was the most unassuming and modest hero one could ever meet. The World is a sadder place without him.*

June and Milton Gilbert - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

LT

“ Ellen: I am so grateful to have known Bill and shared time with him at parties, lunches, and doggie ice cream visits . I know he was a truly powerful and accomplished man, but I loved him most for his strong attachment to dogs, and especially my dogs. He loved watching them eat ice cream and they loved watching him watch them with those adoring eyes and that lovely smile. We will never forget this wonderful man. L.

Linda. Roxie & Billy Trahan - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DC

“ Ellen David and I want to wish you our heartfelt condolences at this time of great sorrow. Bill was such a great man. He will surely be missed. David and Kathy

David and Kathy Chavez - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ Ellen - my deepest condolences to you and your family. Bill and I had some nice conversations about Oskaloosa Iowa, since my family came from there as well. Dave McFall

Dave McFall - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

SE

“ The next couple of days will permit you to share your grief with many friends, Even more important you will also share the the joy and memories of the many wonderful times you had together, I only met Bill a couple of times but he was gracious and an elegant gentleman. I would have loved to hear his war stories. See you soon.

Sandy Enos - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BJ

“ I have been thinking of you all day. Bill was a special person in my life and in the lives of my girls. I am so happy that Jim got to meet him. You did a beautiful job of writing his history. Our love and hugs are with you. Barb

Barbara & Jim - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JJ

“ We will forever cherish our friendship with Bill. He was an American hero, a true gentleman, a warm and loving human being and one of the dearest friends we've ever known. We love and will miss you, Bill, . . fly high.....

Jim and Jan - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM