



Howard Ramon Wills

JAN 19, 1932 - APR 15, 2012



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Howard 'Bud' Wills Howard 'Bud' Wills died Sunday, April 15, 2012 @ 4:15 a.m. with his children by his side. He was a resident of Homestead Memory & Alzheimer's Assisted Living of Owasso since January 2011. Bud was born to Opal Lawerence Wills and Russell Wills January 19, 1932. He met and married the love of his life, Sylvia Benefield in 1953 in St. Louis, Mo. He served 27 ½ years in the USN as an ATC instructor and air traffic controller before retiring in 1976 in Millington, Tn. He served 2 tours aboard the USS Enterprise in Vietnam. Bud was a member of the Masonic Lodge of Broken Arrow. Besides the many hours of service to the Masons he was as a tour guide at the Gillcrease Indian Museum. He volunteered countless hours teaching guest the in and outs of the history of flight. Bud's pastime was football, NASCAR, and spending time with his kids and grandkids. His family and friends looked at him as a hero and a wonderful inspiration to all. He is preceded in death by his soul mate, Sylvia Benefield Wills, his parents, and twin brothers who died in birth. He is survived by his adoring children, Debby Wills Wheeler and husband Bob of Ridgecrest, Ca.; Jimmy Wills and wife Lisa of Clovis, Ca., Chuck Wills and Toni of Tulsa, Ok. and Howard 'Chip' Wills of Long Beach, Ca. Five grandkids, Tiffany Schumacher and husband Aaron of Tulsa, Tina and husband Joey of Tulsa, Jessica Wills of Clovis, Ca., Samantha and Matthew Wills of Tulsa. Five Great Grandkids, Lexi and Zac Schumacher, Isaiah, Hayden, Chase Cantu. Sister in law, Laura Stoll of Grand Ledge, MI., and brother, Si Burris and wife Joyce of Carrollton, Ohio. We will never forget you daddy, we love, respect and adore you always. Thank you for your life lessons that made us the productive and respectful people we are today. We will love and honor you for the rest of our lives.



Tribute Wall

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SB

Sue Bennett posted:

I worked with Bud for several years at the Tulsa Air and Space Museum. He was one of my favorite docents. I loved his dignity, his servant attitude and his caring about our guests. I was saddened by his having to quit volunteering due to his health and even more saddened to learn of his passing. He volunteered over 1,000 hours at TASM and therefore was awarded a Lifetime membership. I have and will miss him, but I loved his NAVY stories, being the child of a NAVY man myself. RIP, Master Sergeant Wills!.

April 26 at 2:11 PM

DL

Del Collins / Willeta Lingle posted:

I just heard today and Willeta and I want to extend our sympathy to the family. We knew Bud from the Religious Science Church in Tulsa. He and I stayed friends over the years. He was a good guy. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

April 19 at 9:26 AM

KB

Karen Bolster posted:

I worked at Homestead and got the pleasure of meeting and visiting with Bud on several occasions. Just wanted his family to know I thought he was a very special man and am sorry for your loss. God Bless.

April 18 at 4:30 PM

FB

Francis J. Burke posted:

I would like to express my sympathy to the family for their loss of Howard Ramon Wills. I am a volunteer at the Tulsa Air and Space Museum and worked with Bud who was also a volunteer. I sure missed him when he was not able to continue volunteering at the museum. I did pay him a visit while at the the nursing home in Owasso and regret not visiting him more.I only knew him as Bud Wills and found him to have some interesting stories about his military experiences.A wonderful man and I will miss him.Sincerely, Francis

April 18 at 7:45 AM



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Barbara Shirey posted:

Hello, I was fortunate to team up with Bud doing some school slides for Gilcrease. He was a hard worker and I enjoyed the opportunity. I appreciate his and the family's sacrifice while he was in the Navy. God bless and we will remember Bud.

April 18 at 6:42 AM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Howard by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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