



## Roger Dale Wilson MD

March 18, 1944 - March 4, 2015

Roger Dale Wilson, M.D. was born March 18, 1944, and passed from this earth on Wednesday, March 4, 2015. He is survived by the love of his life, his wife of 51 years, Valerie Harless Wilson, his mother Bernadene Wilson, and the apples of his eye, son Greg & wife Marcy Wilson, daughter Wendi & husband Ted Ward, and grandchildren Ethan Wilson, Theo and Naomi Ward, Zack and Addie Powers, sisters Judy Harnden, Janis & husband Neal Bhow, brother Crist & wife Cherie Wilson, all of Tulsa; as well as numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins. His passion was his family, grandchildren, outdoors, and studying. He was an aficionado of knowledge, whether it was medicine, aquariums, computers, old movies, music, or making old things new. Friends and family would immediately think of Roger when putting together a trivia team or when confronted with a bizarre and perplexing problem that even Google drew a blank on. The second child born to Woodrow and Bernadene Wilson, he was the oldest of four...because he was a boy. That is how he told it when goading his big sister, Judy. Roger's sense of humor and loving way of teasing will be a treasured memory for all those close to him. A pair of practical jokesters, Roger and his mom kept each other on their toes with long-running symbols of their affection to one other. No one will forget the decades-long repeat-appearance of a corn cob bearing one perfect row of uneaten kernels. (Roger innocently declined to finish eating that last row of kernels, much to his mother's consternation, and Bernie, being equal to the task, saved the corn cob for future laughs.) His high school friends will always remember how he placed "the great pumpkin" on "the great spirit" at Central High School. After attending Oklahoma State University, he served in the Army Reserve from 1966-72 and began a rewarding 25 year career with his father, Woodrow Wilson, at Wilson Fire Protection. At age 46, Roger decided to change careers, returned to college and got his B.S. in the premed program at the University of Tulsa. At age 52 he became the oldest person to graduate from the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine, then began his practice at age 55 after a residency in Internal Medicine. Dr. Wilson was a most compassionate and caring physician, as well as an outstanding diagnostician. Roger enjoyed the labor and patience associated with doing things well, whether it was creating a beautiful outdoor landscape, replacing a wheel bearing on his tractor, or organizing a weekend camp and carnival for his grandkids. Once he finished his

task, friends and family were in awe of the detail, aesthetics, and skill that he applied. His family was fortunate and thankful to enjoy some recent and really special moments: his golden anniversary with his wife; ballroom dancing with his daughter; and a trip for his 70th birthday to London with his son. To honor his memory, a memorial service will be held for Dr. Roger Wilson on Friday, April 10, at 2:00 pm at Centenary United Methodist Church, 631 North Denver in Tulsa. A reception will follow at Tulsa Country Club, 701 North Union. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to one of Roger's favorite organizations: OU College of Medicine, OETA or the University of Tulsa.

# Comments

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“ My Sweetheart, How can it be that you are not by my side? We share a lifetime of love together and forever. You always made everything better. You eased our problems, took on our burdens, and lifted our spirits with love and laughter. "May the road rise up to meet you, the wind be always at your back, may the sun shine warm upon your face, the rains fall soft upon your fields, and until we meet again, May God hold you in the palm of his hand." Songs like "Happy Trails to you", "Til we meet again", "As time goes by", "When I'm 64", always brought tears to your eyes, you ole softie. What do we do now? You are forever in our hearts, loved beyond words, and missed beyond measure. Lost without you, doesn't even begin to describe my heartache. I'm incredibly thankful for our wonderful 52 years together, our blessed children and grandchildren. Your love continues to fill our hearts and thoughts. We're always talking to you, and waiting to hear and feel your wisdom. You always put other's first, loyal, honest and caring – My Knight in Shining Armor, a great doctor, and "The Most Interesting Man in the World"...I love you Rog. Val

**Valerie** - May 17, 2016 at 10:56 AM

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“ Dear Valerie and Family,Beta Gamma Chapter of Epsilon Sigma Alpha, Tulsa, OK extends it's deepest sympathy at your loss. We loved Roger and we love you. We're so sorry.Sincerely, Beta Gamma Chapter Chaplain Peggy Hughes

**Peggy Hughes** - March 26, 2015 at 11:06 PM

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“ We will miss our Great Pumpkin boy.The Central Class of 62

**Vicki Bryant** - March 15, 2015 at 06:23 PM

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“ Valerie, both of you are very special in our catalogue of memories. We loved to see your beautiful home & spacious, sculpted grounds. It all spoke of the special attention you gave for family, friends, and especially the grand children. A place for all to relax and enjoy Roger's handiwork. We especially enjoyed the fun family reunion we had when we all gathered there for the outdoor cook out. We could have stayed for days and never got caught up on all the conversations with everyone gathered there. Every flower was a work of art set in the most beautiful areas of your yard and wrap around deck. I will never forget the kind and personal attention Roger gave when a one on one conversation took place. His eyes never left me and I felt like such a "special Auntie". You will be forever missed. Much love & prayers to you, Valerie, Greg, & Wendi. We will keep in touch. Auntie Pat & Darrell

**Darrell & Pat Parker** - March 14, 2015 at 06:08 PM

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“ It is a poorer, sadder world without Roger. It hurts more even than I knew it would because, as you say, he brought joy and happiness wherever he went. Fortunate were his family, patients, friends, and all who knew him ... as were we at that TJC Spanish for Beginners where we met. In a place of honor in our house bar, there is the famed "Ball Bat" he manufactured himself to immortalize his classic oral presentation about baseball in which he translated "ball bat" into "the bat [i.e., the nocturnal bird] of the ball." The entire class got a huge kick out of that. The "sculpture" he created is an official baseball with the head, the wings, and the legs of a rubber bird bat strategically located; the ensemble perched on a pedestal. It has presided our bar in Tulsa, Saudi Arabia, Houston, and now Fayetteville ... and no one who has a drink with us fails to ask about it. Which means that Dr. Roger Wilson is often mentioned in our home and will continue to be. Roger was An Original. Of his numerous shining qualities, perhaps kindness was the jewel of the crown. Also, he had the good sense of marrying you Valery, the ideal complement to his "golden boy" persona. At one of those parties we used to have when we were young, another friend of mine observed: "Roger and Valerie are the handsomest couple I've ever seen; they are both perfect!!!" She meant it in the physical sense, but it went well beyond that. I won't worry because you are strong and you have your supportive children and their families. But the void he leaves in all our lives .... well, we have the memories. All my love. — Dolores Proubasta

**Greg Wilson** - March 12, 2015 at 10:33 PM

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“ Valerie this is cathy Calhoun anna liddys daughter our parents sur had some good new years eve parties we all attended and swim parties for esa at your home I remember betty june always said how busy roger was. may god bless your family the Calhoun jrs

**cathy calhoun** - March 10, 2015 at 09:28 PM