



Leonard DeWitt Wilson

May 4, 1928 - December 19, 2019

Our cute, happy, gentle, prolific, and slyly humorous husband, father, and grandfather, passed away peacefully at home in Lehi, Utah, on December 19, 2019. He and his wife DeAnn shared twenty-six years of marriage, and during that time they served a mission in Okinawa, Japan.

His delightful way of thinking and expressing himself, and his calm, kind, and patient style, won the hearts of family, friends, and all those who knew him. We will dearly miss him.

SEP

Leonard DeWitt Wilson, known as “Daddy-Dear,” “Cutie Pie,” or “Len,” was born ninety-one years ago, on May 4, 1928 in Hyrum, Utah, to his parents Ezra John “E.J.” Wilson and Margaret “Isabelle” Wilson. He graduated from South Cache High School in Hyrum and attended Utah State University in Logan.

Following his marriage to Faye Elvira Davis in June 1948, they raised a family of four daughters, Pamela Vandemaker, American Fork, Utah, Susan Ackerman (Jim), South Jordan, Utah, Janet Leishman, (Chad), North Ogden, Utah, and Cindy Chittester (Keenan), Phoenix, Arizona.

Len was a great provider, working as a contract negotiator in procurement at Hill Air Force Base, and retired young, at age fifty-five. He enjoyed RV travel, nature and the outdoors, golfing, tennis, hunting, and fishing. He was a member of the Round Valley hunting lodge near Bear Lake, where he spent many joyful vacations and hunting trips with family and friends. He had a great love for his pet Yorkies, animals, and birds, and was loved in turn by a peacock named Charlie, who nested just outside his window in his former home in Kaysville, Utah, where he and DeAnn lived until moving to Lehi.

He served as a high priest and a temple worker in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and was an example to us all.

Len is survived by his wife, DeAnn, his four daughters, and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Len was known for carrying in his shirt pocket, his life, lists, and loved ones. This included the birthdays of all his grandchildren. He never failed to send a card and cash, always signing with his unique words and signature drawing, a cartoon he referred to as "The Shadow." During encounters with family and friends he would often offer his trademark wrapped mints and Werther sugar free caramels.

He was preceded in death by his parents, three brothers, his wife, Faye, one grandson, and one granddaughter.

Funeral Services will be held Thursday, December 26th, at 10:00 am, at the Jordan Willows 2nd Ward (Snow Springs Building), 1801 West 700 South, Lehi, Utah, where greetings of friends and family begin at 9:00 am. Interment at 2:00 pm at the Logan City Cemetery, 1000 North 1200 East.

The family wishes to extend our deepest thanks to the attending doctors, nurses, and caregivers who so lovingly attended our husband and father over the past couple of months.

Cemetery

Logan City Cemetery
1000 North 1200 East
Logan, UT, 84321

Events

DEC 26 Visitation 09:00AM - 09:45AM

Jordan Willows 2nd Ward (Snow Springs Building)
1801 West 700 South, Lehi, UT, US

DEC 26 Funeral Service 10:00AM

Jordan Willows 2nd Ward (Snow Springs Building)
1801 West 700 South, Lehi, UT, US

Comments



“ Grandpa- you helped me catch my first fish in Star Valley, Wyoming. You showed me how to turn a willow into a whistle. I felt loved and never judged around you. You brought a smile and patience to every situation and always made me laugh.

My most striking memory was 13 when grandma Faye passed away - and still remember what you whispered to her when I watched you kiss her cheek before they closed her casket.

You have often been described by me as "the World's best Grandpa". I will miss you Grandpa. I will miss your funny jokes and teaching me things like how to make "Hyrum Lemonade" (ordering ice water and Lemons at the diner, and then adding a bunch of sugar packets), or vasoline on your golf clubs.

Thank you so much for being my grandpa!

Jake Ackerman - December 25, 2019 at 10:35 PM



“ I knew Leonard through his daughter. I am grateful for the example he was; he showed patients, love and acceptance for all those who came into contact with him. He had the ability to take situations that were grim and turn them into laughter. He was a joy and a delight to be around. Leonard will be missed; for he truly was an example of who Christ would like us to become.

mkcraynor@yahoo.com - December 25, 2019 at 10:33 AM



“ Spending time at the Wilson home during my high school years was always so much fun! After graduation, Leonard's daughter, Cindy, went south to attend Dixie College. Cindy's parents, Leonard and Faye, invited me to drive down with them to St George in the spring for a visit. I don't remember what was said on that long journey, but I do remember being totally amused at their lively conversation and loving being with them as they were very kind and wanted to make sure I was comfortable and well fed.

Love to the Wilson daughters, sons-in-law and grandchildren. You have been blessed with wonderful memories of a good and great man.

Michelle Morrise Bassett - December 23, 2019 at 11:35 AM



“ Brother Wilson lived down the street from us and I loved going down to their house to hang out with Cindy Jo! We always had a great time! I remember he was soft spoken and pretty humorous. He was always very nice to me. He and Sister Wilson dressed up for holidays and were fun to be around. They invited me to go raspberry picking up at Bear Lake, Idaho one year. Sorry Brother Wilson for running down the rows with the bottle of raspberries in my hands. He didn't want them jammed just yet I guess. One day at their house, I asked what the smell was and then Brother Wilson came out of the bathroom with a big smile on his face and said, "Welcome to Windy City!" I was mortified but they all had a good laugh! I admire all his talented, beautiful daughters! I wish I could be there and see all of you Thursday. I will be thinking of you as I make memories with my own children and grandchildren in Arizona. Sending lots of prayers and love.

Deann Budge Best - December 22, 2019 at 12:32 PM



“ I love my Daddy Dear and will miss him so. I'm grateful for having Dad be my hero, defender, duck whisperer, dance and singing mate, owl rehabilitator, peacock house, leaf raker imagineer and Bearlake fisherman. He provided my sisters, friends, grandchildren, relatives and me many fun and joyful experiences: leaf raking, jumping, and creating, water skiing at Bearlake in Uncle Don's boat and cousin time connecting, berry picker, snow skiing, trips with aunts, uncles, cousins, grandparents and friends, huts and tree houses, camping, caves, rock hunting, fence jumping, car chasing, and so much more. I have learned his patience, silliness and 'keeping my nose clean' as he counseled making good choices, along with choosing to be happy and many hours of laughter. He remains forever young from swimming in Hyrum Dam. He is an animal lover and nature appreciator. I like to imagine him dancing and giving a little hee hee hee and ho ho ho on the other side reuniting with those who have gone on before. Thank you Dad. I love you so.

Cindy - December 21, 2019 at 11:43 PM



“ Mr. Wilson, that's what I called him. Cindy and I were best buddies in elementary school. Mr. Wilson never seemed to get angry at mine and Cindy's shenanigans, we climbed these big trees in Cindy's back yard, we bilt a tree house, put a swing in the tree and had great times. It's a wonder we didn't break our necks! The ducks! Always having fun with the ducks, Allen & Coleen. I remember sleep overs and delicious food. I am very grateful to the Wilson family as a major part of my childhood.

Jody Macdonald - December 21, 2019 at 10:21 PM



“ Leonard Wilson: by Kaleb Leishman (Grandson)

My Grandpa Leonard passed away in his home on December 19th, 2019 at the age of 91...far too early, considering he would tell us that he was going to live to be 100. Those that knew him, knew he was quite the character; a man with a wide-ranging sense of humor, who was soft spoken, detailed oriented.

I remember playing in the backyard of the Roy house as a child, with toy muskets and deer antlers, and raking leaves into enormous piles & mazes. Trips up to the Elk Lodge with shoulder rub competitions and arm wrestling contests. I remember RV Trips with him and Faye and so many funny birthday cards each with his funny little drawing at the bottom of the card...you know which one I mean! Even as he got older and shakier, the effort he took with each was appreciated and always made me smile.

This last summer I had the opportunity and pleasure to go and visit with him and Deann. We made eggs & toast, and visited about life and furniture, and I was gifted a pair of VHS Storage Cabinets and a multitude of VHS Tapes from Leonard. After getting home with this load I got to spend a good deal of time going through these tapes and laughing at and appreciating their selections and the meticulous way that he cataloged each tape with the movies he had recorded onto them, how long the movie was, at what time stamp the next movie was , and in many cases how much remaining free space was left on the tape. I loved it and was so glad to have the opportunity for this insight.

My Grandpa Leonard was a simple and kind man, I will miss him greatly. But will remember him always.

THE SHADOW - by Kaleb Leishman

Soft spoken words behind his kind eyes and smirking smile...as a battalion of grandchildren play in fallen leaf mazes and piles...

We hid under stacks of antlers behind the red shed...to mount the barrage of crabapples the neighbor kids dread. We laughed when they realized our numbers win out....at one point we were 20, but that's not to tout.

Years of funny birthday cards all made with love, inside a surprise, were more words of love. The surprise was the best part, it was different every year, a corny joke or saying from The Shadow we'd hear.

He was always there watching from the bottom edge of the page, and brought smiles to faces as if he were a mage.

The Shadow is clever with a sharp funny wit, we listened to stories and his laughter a bit...he will be remembered through all of our thoughts, and thrivee retelling of his stories to all of our tots.

His hands became shaky, though he tried all the same, to keep The Shadow on our cards, always there in the frame. Long did he live, all the way to 91...just 9 years short of what he told everyone.

So now he is gone, and we grieve for the loss, but The Shadow remains to remind us, all is not lost. So smile when you see The Shadow around...he will on in our memories so joy can be found.

-Love you Grandpa Leonard-



Kaleb Leishman - December 21, 2019 at 08:53 PM