



## Paul Wesley "Sleepy" Wright

October 8, 1927 - January 16, 2024

Paul Wesley "Sleepy" Wright, a retired Electrical Engineer, went home to be with Jesus and his loving wife Donna on Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2024, at his daughter's home in Springville, AL. He and his wife Donna Slater Wright had lived in Tallahassee, Florida from 1992-2017. He was 96 years old.

Paul was born in Hayland, Nebraska, in the Union Pacific Railroad Station (their home) on October 8, 1927, the son of Pearl L. and Raymond A. Wright (the U.P. Depot Agent). The Village of Hayland is no longer on the map. He grew up during the depression, living in small towns along the railroad as his father was a telegrapher for the railroad. He remembered not being able to buy candy because "the bank was broke", having to put rags over their mouths during the May Day dust storm, and transporting goats to their new home in the '29 Whippet. He attended High School from 1941 to 1945 in Genoa, Nebraska, which he considered his hometown. All the guys in Genoa had nicknames and he was affectionately known as "Sleepy". He played on the football team, ran the movies at the movie theater, and delivered the milk.

As soon as he turned 18, in October of 1945, he joined the U.S. Navy, where he served from 1945 to 1948. He is officially a World War II and Atomic Veteran. He went to movie operator school and ran the movies for the Navy

too! In 1946 he participated in Operation Crossroads, the two atomic bomb tests at Bikini Atoll in the Marshall Islands. The ionizing radiation present at Bikini caused cancer to develop in his minor salivary glands, which was first detected in 1985. No amount of ionizing radiation is safe.

He attended Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech) in Atlanta, GA, and received a Bachelor of Electrical Engineering (BEE) degree in 1953. He retired from Sperry Gyroscope/Unisys in December 1986. While with Sperry he worked with equipment for U.S. Air Force bombers, U.S. Navy submarines and surface ships, and NOAA data buoys. He was a member of Faith Presbyterian Church in Tallahassee. He was also a member of The National Association of Atomic Veterans (NAAV) and the American Legion.

Survivors include his two sons, Paul Douglas Wright (Kath) of Richmond, VA and Daniel Wright (Pat) of Charlottesville, VA; four daughters, Deborah Wright of Charlottesville, VA, Deana Desjardins of Waynesboro, VA, Paula Suzanne Thompson (Joel) of Springville, Alabama and Christina Wright (Courtney) of Curacao; two sisters, Charlotte Wood (age 100) of Walla Walla, WA and Ruth Wilcox (age 98) of Fort Worth, TX; 12 grandchildren, Tim Wright (Greta), Mary Mason Boaz (Matt), and Nancy Wright; Taylor Wright and Samuel Wright (Alexis); Tariq Bokhari (Krista), Corey Desjardins (Colleen), Jaid Desjardins; Ashley Thompson and Ella Thompson; Tanya Baugher (Kenney) and Tara Morris (Roger); 16 great-grandchildren, and six great-great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 52 years, Donna Slater Wright; his parents Pearl & Raymond Wright; his brother, Raymond A. Wright Jr.; his sisters Mary Greene, Martha Wright, and Naomi Moody; and two grandchildren, Caroline Wright and Logan Desjardins.

The family will receive friends at Bevis Funeral Home, 200 John Knox Road in Tallahassee, FL at 10:00 a.m. on January 25, 2024, and the service will follow at 11:00 a.m. Burial will be at the Tallahassee National Cemetery at 1:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Faith Presbyterian Church, 2200 N. Meridian Road, Tallahassee, FL 32303 or to the Genoa U.S. Indian School Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 382, Genoa, NE 68640-0382.

Kelly Barber of Bevis Funeral Home (850-385-2193 or [www.bevisfh.com](http://www.bevisfh.com)) is assisting the Wright family with their arrangements.

# Cemetery Details

## Tallahassee National Cemetery

5015 Apalachee Parkway  
Tallahassee, FL 32311

# Previous Events

## The Family Will Receive Friends

JAN 25. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Bevis Funeral Home & Crematory  
200 John Knox Rd  
Tallahassee, FL 32303  
(850) 385-2193

## Funeral Service

JAN 25. 11:00 AM (ET)

Bevis Funeral Home & Crematory  
200 John Knox Rd  
Tallahassee, FL 32303  
(850) 385-2193

# Tribute Wall

RS

“ Sleepy was a close friend of my brother, R. Dean Maurer. They were in high school together. A few years back when Sleepy and Donna were visiting Genoa we had a wonderful afternoon visiting and remembering the “big fire,” of Hop Peterson’s theatre where Sleepy ran the projector. He rescued the film from the fire. The theatre burned to the ground leaving Genoa without a picture show until our new theater managed by Tom Kenyon came from Omaha to open our new beautiful theatre! I graduated with Martha Wright, Paul’s sister.  
Roberta Maurer Sohrweid

Roberta Maurer Sohrweid - February 11, 2024 at 09:44 PM

AT

“ Paul & Donna were our neighbors in Tallahassee. Loved these too. Al would call him and say is this Mr wright or Mr wrong, he would get a chuckle out of it. Our thoughts and prayers are with all the family. Al & Sharon Teskey.

Al & Sharon Teskey - January 25, 2024 at 09:49 AM

SU

“ 17 files added to the album Paul



Suzanne - January 24, 2024 at 09:25 PM

GS

“ Gary , Beth, Jessica Slater purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Paul Wesley "Sleepy" Wright.



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**Gary , Beth, Jessica Slater** - January 24, 2024 at 09:40 AM

SU

“ 3 files added to the album Paul



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**Suzanne** - January 23, 2024 at 07:38 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Paul Wesley "Sleepy" Wright.



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January 23, 2024 at 02:32 PM

TF

“ The Williams Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Paul Wesley "Sleepy" Wright.

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**The Williams Family** - January 23, 2024 at 02:32 PM

SU

“ 79 files added to the album Paul



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Suzanne - January 21, 2024 at 04:32 AM

SU

“ 30 files added to the album Paul



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Suzanne - January 20, 2024 at 07:09 PM

TC

“ Deana and family - I am so sorry for the loss of your father, he sounds like an amazing man - I loved reading about his life, being born in the railroad station and those fascinating snippets of his life. Please know you're in my heart as you mourn your dad.

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Tina Cook - January 19, 2024 at 11:06 PM