



Wilson Walker Wright

January 26, 1930 - September 2, 2021

Wilson Walker Wright, 91, died peacefully in his sleep on Thursday, September 2, 2021 at his home in Tallahassee. Wilson was born in Washington, D.C. on Sunday, January 26, 1930 to Laura Gertrude “June” Wright and Chester Maynard Wright.

He attended Sidwell-Friends School in Spring and Fall in Washington and Morningside Elementary in Miami in Winter, and was graduated from Miami Edison High School in 1948 where he played the trumpet in the Red Raiders Marching Band and was on the school newspaper and yearbook staffs. His first job was with the Miami Herald where he “threw” newspapers all through Junior and Senior High School. Wilson attended THE University of Florida was a member of the Pride of the Sunshine State University of Florida Marching Band (simply to attend Gator Football games!) wrote for the Seminole Yearbook and was Business Manager for the Florida Alligator Newspaper, active in numerous Clubs and Service Organizations, a member of the USAir Force ROTC and an Honorary Member of Florida Blue Key. He transferred to the University of Miami, where he was initiated in Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity, and was graduated from the University Law School in 1954. Upon graduation, he was assigned to the Judge Advocate General’s Office as a First Lieutenant at Lowry Air Force Base in Denver CO where he served his entire commitment and attained the rank of Captain in the Air Force Reserve. It was during his years at UF when he met the love of his life Patricia charging her \$2 for a ride in his first convertible from Miami to Gainesville to visit her

(then) boyfriend. He and Pat married on May 14, 1955 while serving in Denver. After his honorable discharge from the Air Force, they intended to return to Miami to practice law. Instead, he came to Tallahassee for a brief assignment in the Attorney General's office under Attorney General Richard Ervin. He and Pat came to love Tallahassee and made it their permanent residence. Wilson served 13 years in the AG's Office and left to become Partners with William J. Roberts. He lobbied for many groups; the Florida Dental Hygienists, the State Association of Supervisors of Elections, and over 20 years for the Florida Tobacco and Candy Association. He and Pat enjoyed the many years of attending and chairing numerous events and conventions for the associations and became famous for their "lobster dinners" for legislators at their home on Lake Jackson.

Wilson was a member of the Florida Bar and numerous Regional and National Bar Associations for 67 years held court admissions to all state and federal courts from trial court to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Wilson never missed an opportunity to join service organizations He was a Jaycee and helped start the annual Fourth of July Festivities at Lake Ella and engaged Cypress Gardens to bring boats and water skiers to the event. Jaycees became Kiwanians and Wilson served many offices including State President, he had a perfect attendance record; attending Kiwanis Club meetings on vacations to protect his record. After 45 plus years, when his club began meeting at 7:30AM, Wilson joined Rotary Club International to keep attending noontime meetings. As President for Florida Young Democrats, during one national convention he had the privilege of stepping onto an elevator with John F. Kennedy and of course had a photograph taken and sent it to the White House for autographing. Wilson was also an active member of the Florida Economic Club, Tiger Bay, Friends of Lake Jackson, many others. The true passion of Wilson's life was boats: any boat! His first date with Pat was on a sailboat while "working" to sail in the infield of the Hialeah Race Track. As a child he spent summers in Laconia, New Hampshire, again "working" on a large farm, and fell in love with Chris Craft wooden boats. He

was a member of the Chris Craft Antique Boat Club and became Executive Director of the group, wrote, edited and published their quarterly publication, The Brass Bell, for over 25 years. He and Pat enjoyed attending Classic Boat Shows across the country for years. His favorite shows were held at Lake Tahoe, Lake Rabun and dear to his heart is the annual show in Mt. Dora. Wilson is also known for his red 1970 Cutlass-Oldsmobile Convertible which he could easily be recognized driving with the top down from 1971 until it was stolen at a Rotary Club Luncheon at FSU's Alumni Center in 2019. This truly broke his heart and he was re-born when it was found and returned to him just in time for his 90th birthday in 2020.

Wilson never met a stranger and kept in touch in person and through letters and a Christmas Card Mailing List of almost 500 names.

Wilson is a man of deep faith and became a member of the Episcopal Church of the Advent in 1962. He served many positions and served twice as Senior Warden of the church. He and Pat regularly attended The Episcopal Church of the Ascension in Carrabelle, where both Wrights served on the Mission Board, called themselves the AA (Advent & Ascension) Episcopalians.

Primary in his life was Pat and their large family. He adored Christmas; hung a light on every leaf, branch, doorway and window and even put a lighted Christmas tree on their dock in Lake Jackson. He made certain everyone received every gift on their list. One year he dressed as Santa and rode around the lake in his antique Chris Craft Boat!

Wilson is survived by his wife of 66 years, Pat; his eldest daughter, June Wright and her husband Jack Richardson; and his "baby" Lee Anne Wright. He was a proud, doting grandfather to Wilson, Michael and James Richardson and Cory and Alex Walker; sister-in-Law, Beverly Ivester, a step-niece, Susan Handy Blasco, many nieces, nephews, more friends than can be counted and a very special caregiver, Denise Phillips. He was preceded in death by his parents and a half sister, Elaine Wright Handy, and a half-brother, Donald Wright.

Funeral Services will be held Friday, September 10, 2021 at 2:00pm at the Episcopal Church of the Advent on Piedmont Drive in Tallahassee with the inurnment immediately following at Roselawn Cemetery. For those who are unable to attend the service, it will be livestreamed at www.facebook.com/advchurchtallahassee A reception will follow in the Church Parish Hall.

Masking and social distancing are suggested and heartily endorsed.

Memorial Contributions may be made to the Episcopal Church of the Advent or Episcopal Church of the Ascension or a favorite charity of your choice.

Rocky Bevis of Bevis Funeral Home (850-385-2193 or www.bevisfh.com) is assisting the Wright family with their arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Roselawn Cemetery

815 West Piedmont Drive
Tallahassee, FL 32308

Previous Events

Funeral Service

SEP **10**. 2:00 PM (ET)

Episcopal Church Of The Advent
815 Piedmont Drive
Tallahassee, FL 32312

Tribute Wall

TB

“ *Lee Anne- So sorry to learn of your dad's passing. I know how close you all were. What a wonderful life that will live on in his girls and his grandchildren. Much love and sympathy to you all.*
Toby

Toby Byrd - September 12, 2021 at 09:23 AM

EW

“ *While in law school at the FSU College of Law, during 1969 and 1970, I was privileged to clerk for Wilson Wright when he was an assistant attorney general in the Office of the Florida Attorney General. He handled the office's responses to inquiries from local officials throughout Florida, authoring formal and informal opinions of the attorney general. He was the embodiment of the guiding principle of the office, to "find a way" to resolve local officials' thorny legal issues with legal advice they could rely on. The expression heard in the office in those days was: "Bring us the answer you believe is required and we'll write the question." That was when elected officials did their best to resolve their constituents' problems, and didn't engage in propagandizing them to build a voter base as is the case today.*
Wilson was always an inspiration to me and is likely the major early influence upon me to work for the state throughout my legal career.
Enoch J. Whitney

Enoch J. Whitney - September 10, 2021 at 06:23 AM

FP

“ *To the Wilson Family,
I was saddened to hear of Wilson's passing. Wilson and Pat are two of the kindest people you will ever know. When I moved to Florida in 1990 they welcomed my wife Ann and I like we were life long friends. Wilson was the consummate professional. We have many fond memories of being with them. God bless you family and may he carry you through this difficult time.*

Fred and Ann Paternostro

Fred Paternostro - September 09, 2021 at 01:56 PM

CP

“ *Today we have lost a portion of our past. But people like Wilson Wright are a reason our passion for Chris-Craft Commanders thrives today. Another chapter of history closes today as the boating world has lost a great friend and pioneer. It saddens all of us at the Chris-Craft Commander Club to learn of his passing. The boating world lost a great one whose impact will live on. I hope your best memories keep you strong as you celebrate a great life of such a great man.*

Together we will remember his contributions and the legacy to our passion and love of all things Chris Craft.

He is enjoying some much calmer seas in the great beyond. We wish him well.

We bid you, "Hail and Farewell!" shipmate, until we drop anchor beside you at the Last Great Rendezvous.

Charlene Pike

Chris-Craft Commander Club

Charlene Pike - September 09, 2021 at 10:12 AM

PD

“ A second dad to me, always had a smile and a helping hand. Taught me to water ski on Lake Jackson in 1973. Many camping trips and car trips with LeeAnne and June - "how many more meowls Mr Wright?"
Wilson Wright was a true gentleman - all men should strive to be like him.
He will be missed.


Peggy Sue Dye - September 09, 2021 at 10:10 AM

JS

“ Mr. Wright taught me everything I ever needed to know about Chris-Crafts. He also taught me about the value of a hand-written letter and just picking up the phone to talk to people. I cherished our relationship. He was like another father to me while I lived in Tallahassee. He believed in me and encouraged me to try new things. He had a funny way about him - he could be ornery and short-tempered, and still make you feel that you were important to him. He had such a funny, dry, and sarcastic sense of humor. He was old-fashioned and so cute when speaking of Pat. He adored her and I always wanted to have a relationship like that. He was not overt in his affections, but I knew how much he cared about me in his kind, silent way. And his stories! Oh he had the best stories! He truly lived a colorful and rich lifetime and I am so sad by his passing. My life has been better because I knew him. Thank you, Wilson, for letting me a small part in your huge life.

Jenny Stokes - September 08, 2021 at 03:34 PM

JS

“ Wilson was as fine a friend as I could have ever asked for. He was also godfather to my Ruby girl. I will always have a fond place in my heart for his friendship. RIP, kind sir... 

Jimmy Smith - September 08, 2021 at 02:56 PM

BR

“ Dear June and family,
June, I know you had a very special relationship with your Dad and can only imagine what a difficult time this is for you. Please find comfort in all the wonderful memories of this incredible man. My sincerest prayers, condolences and sympathies go out to you, Jack, your Mom and all the family. God bless.

Bob Richardson

Bob Richardson - September 08, 2021 at 01:21 PM

RB

“ Was Wilsons next door neighbor on Lake Jackson and we shared an interest in old cars and boats.....families grew up together and the kids learned to water ski back in the seventies/ eighty's. He was a good neighbor, a gentleman, and a professional in business relationships.....we will miss him. May he rest in peace after having lived a good life.....Richard and Joan Boutin

Richard & Joan Boutin - September 08, 2021 at 10:46 AM

VF

“ I will always have fond memories of sharing good times with Wilson when we invited him (and Al Benson) to ride with us cruising up the river from Jacksonville to Sanford in the spring St John's River Cruise. Having known Wilson as a member of the Chris Craft Antique Boat Club and receiving the CCABC publication which he edited and published for many years you really don't get to know someone until you can spend time on a boat with them. Wilson was a true gentleman and gave respect to the profession of being a lawyer. My deepest regrets and condolences to Pat and family and may God's grace give you peace and comfort for your loss.

Victor Fabricius - September 07, 2021 at 11:40 PM