



William Ray Wilson Sr.

April 15, 1942 - October 12, 2022

William Ray Wilson Sr. “Big Daddy” of Sudlersville, MD, passed away on October 12, 2022. He was 80 years old.

William Ray Wilson, Sr., was born April 15, 1942, in LaFollette, TN, the son of the late Mary Jones and stepfather Jack Jones. Ray was raised by his late grandparents, Charles and Jenny Hood. He graduated from Jacksboro, High School in 1960. He was married to the late Bernadette Wilson on January 4, 1964, and had three children together, raising them in Pasadena, MD.

Ray came to Baltimore, MD and held down two jobs working with Baltimore Gas & Electric and worked in a Radio Electronics store at night. In June of 1964, he got involved with Marine Radios and C.B. Radios, working at night and weekends. In July of 1973, he bought Glen Marine Products in Glen Burnie, MD, and this is where his life started to grow. In 1973, he took his business to the Eastern Shore in Cambridge, MD, where he opened another Glen Marine Products store. In 1974, he bought Big Daddy’s Quick Snack on Kent Island, and opened another Glen Marine Products next to the Quick Snack. In 1978, he purchased the first Big Daddy’s 301 Texaco Gas Station at Thompson Creek Rd. This was the first convenient store/gas station on Kent Island. He sold gas at this time at 58.9 cents per gallon. If he did not have what you wanted, he would get it for you. He also sold fishing equipment, guns, and ammunition. He sold the famous half smoke & polish sausage that

people would come from all over to get. When the gas shortage happened, he would turn the lights out at night to take care of the people needing to go to work.

On New Years Eve 1979, he bought the second Big Daddy's 301 Texaco Gas Station on Castle Marina Rd. He had a fleet of tow trucks to be able to tow for the Bay Bridge, State Police, Sheriff's Department, and so many locals on Kent Island. His dedication to helping so many people over 30 years has made him a legend on Kent Island.

In 2004, he retired to enjoy his pride and joy "Fools Gold" his fishing boat that he had built. He would take family and friends on fishing trips and truly enjoyed being on the water. He enjoyed spending time with his family and friends, especially eating crabs.

Ray was a member of the American Legion Post 278, Elks Lodge, Moose Lodge, and a member of the Mason's since April 15, 1969.

He leaves behind his three children, William Ray Wilson Jr. (Sharon), Alesia Dawn Morgan (Billy Showe), and Michele Wilson Kehs (James); grandchildren, Joey, Lauren, Courtney, Melissa, Colton, Caitlyn, Jarrett, Tiffany (Jake), Christopher, Lydia, Hailee (Austin), Jeremy, Jessica; Shawn (Todd), Greg (Heather), Bobby Jo, Dee Dee, Chris, and Scott; great-grandchildren, Isabell, Chelsea, Grayson, and Liam; brother, Gary (Dottie) Jones; sisters, Jackie Austin-Wiltsee, and Brenda (Dennis) Elliott; and the late MaryLou Austin, John Paul Jones, Donald Ernest Jones.

Ray had many friends, but two very dear friends whom were more like a son and daughter to him, Doby and Linda Millington.

A service will be held at Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home in

Chester, MD, on Monday, October 17, 2022 at 10am with a visitation to be held on Sunday, October 16, 2022 from 2pm-4pm and 6pm-8pm. The burial to follow the service on Monday will be held at Glen Haven Memorial Park. The service will be live-streamed for those who cannot attend. A link will be shared at the start of the service.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be sent to the American Legion Post 278, 800 Romancoke Rd, Stevensville, MD 21666.

“Big Daddy the Working Man’s Friend”

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 16. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Fellows, Helfenbein, & Newnam Funeral Home, P.A.
106 Shamrock Road
Chester, MD 21619

Visitation

OCT 16. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Fellows, Helfenbein, & Newnam Funeral Home, P.A.
106 Shamrock Road
Chester, MD 21619

Funeral Service

OCT 17. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Fellows, Helfenbein, & Newnam Funeral Home, P.A.
106 Shamrock Road
Chester, MD 21619

Tribute Wall



“ *Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of William Ray Wilson Sr.* ”



Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - October 17, 2022 at 09:54 AM



“ *Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of William Ray Wilson Sr.* ”



Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - October 14, 2022 at 12:03 PM



“ *William Ray Wilson Sr.* ”

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *William Ray Wilson Sr.* ”

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *William Ray Wilson Sr.*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ *Laura Sadowski lit a candle in memory of William Ray Wilson Sr.*



Laura Sadowski - October 19, 2022 at 12:51 PM



“ *Vickie And Buddy Orem lit a candle in memory of William Ray Wilson Sr.*



Vickie and Buddy Orem - October 17, 2022 at 06:28 PM



“ *Sean & Jenny Hunt lit a candle in memory of William Ray Wilson Sr.*



Sean & Jenny Hunt - October 17, 2022 at 11:30 AM

KL

“ *KT Lloyd purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of William Ray Wilson Sr..*



KT Lloyd - October 17, 2022 at 07:06 AM

JW

“ *I was starting my business and I had a old step van with a 12 gallon tank, I had to get gas every day. Ray said don't worry you will get your gas , at this time you got gas every other day by your tag. Then he said you come in every week or two and pay your bill. About 4 or 5 years later I found a building and my equipment was to heavy for any truck I had , I asked Ray if he would have time to move it, we loaded up and it took 2 runs to Queenstown. Ray wouldn't take a dime no matter what I said. God will bless him, he has gone home but he will not be forgotten by the Warner family and I'm sure many others.*

Jim Warner - October 16, 2022 at 10:19 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of William Ray Wilson Sr..*



October 15, 2022 at 11:18 PM

MA

“ A memory for the family and friends—the most delicious “half smokes” I’ve ever had... ever!! He was awesome and a Kent Island legend. Prayers and love, Mary Anderson



Mary Anderson - October 15, 2022 at 08:36 PM

RC

“ I and my brother Bobby grew up with Ray, Lisa and Michele we are family. Mrs Bernadette and Mr Ray were like second parents to us. That's the way it was on DuPont Ave., all the parents looked out for each others kids. All the houses were always open to us as was my parents house to them. Mr Ray was known for giving me a hard time about the length of my hair. LOL, (it was real long back in the day). At some point I worked for Mr.Ray at Big Daddy's 301 Texaco on Castle Marina Rd. I think that's when we learned to really respect each others work ethic. Before that he could be a little grumpy when I was around. LOL, I loved the old man. There are just to many family memories to list them all. At this time our sympathies and prayers are with the Wilson family.

Ryan Zepp and Terri Cook - October 15, 2022 at 03:28 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of William Ray Wilson Sr..



October 15, 2022 at 08:30 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of William Ray Wilson Sr..*



October 15, 2022 at 08:15 AM



“ *Thanks for the great memories ! The captains fishing trips were the best and will be forever held dear . I will especially miss our spring fish finder tune up where we would catch up . Kathy and I are deeply saddened by the loss of another awesome “islander “ . Rest In Peace Captain..... Chet n Kathy Clough*

Chet n Kathy - October 15, 2022 at 07:12 AM



“ *Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of William Ray Wilson Sr..*



October 14, 2022 at 05:31 PM



“ *Jim And Jennifer Tribull lit a candle in memory of William Ray Wilson Sr.*



Jim and Jennifer Tribull - October 14, 2022 at 05:08 PM

LH

“ Lynn Hirschauer lit a candle in memory of William Ray Wilson Sr.



Lynn Hirschauer - October 14, 2022 at 03:38 PM

DK

“ Dave And Claire Kelley lit a candle in memory of William Ray Wilson Sr.



Dave and Claire Kelley - October 14, 2022 at 02:15 PM

GS

“ Greg And Isabel Starkey lit a candle in memory of William Ray Wilson Sr.



Greg and Isabel Starkey - October 14, 2022 at 01:00 PM

DT

“ Debbie Thomas lit a candle in memory of William Ray Wilson Sr.



Debbie Thomas - October 14, 2022 at 10:10 AM

JA

“ I have lost another piece of my heart with the loss of my brother. Ray was always there to listen to laugh and most of all to love each of his brothers and sisters. I will forever remember and love my brother.

Jackie Austin-Wiltsee - October 14, 2022 at 09:40 AM

Jackie Benton

“ Jackie Benton lit a candle in memory of William Ray Wilson Sr.



Jackie Benton - October 14, 2022 at 09:32 AM

KP

“ Keith Parkerson lit a candle in memory of William Ray Wilson Sr.



Keith Parkerson - October 14, 2022 at 08:41 AM

AF

“ Audra Turner And Family lit a candle in memory of William Ray Wilson Sr.



Audra Turner and family - October 14, 2022 at 05:49 AM

DL

“ Denise Legg-Emory lit a candle in memory of William Ray Wilson Sr.



Denise Legg-Emory - October 14, 2022 at 12:54 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of William Ray Wilson Sr..



October 13, 2022 at 08:28 PM

BT

“ Bruce & Patti Tarr lit a candle in memory of William Ray Wilson Sr.



Bruce & Patti Tarr - October 13, 2022 at 07:37 PM

TA

“ Tim & Esther Blackiston, Foxxtown Apts. lit a candle in memory of William Ray Wilson Sr.



Tim & Esther Blackiston, Foxxtown Apts. - October 13, 2022 at 07:30 PM

TS

“ I am sorry to hear that we have lost another great man. Big Daddy was always a hard worker, a little grumpy at times (LOL) but would do anything that he could to help you. He would tell you what he thought, whether you liked it or not, but would give you the shirt off of his back. He was a big supporter of the Kent Island VFD which was always much appreciated. We would work with him at all hours of the day and night at accident scenes when he would respond in his tow trucks to haul away the cars involved. Your job here is done, and we will miss you lots. You have left many many stories for us to remember you by so now it is time to rest and fish on. RIP BIG DADDY!

Tracy Schulz - October 13, 2022 at 12:19 PM

BB

“ Beverly Baxter lit a candle in memory of William Ray Wilson Sr.



Beverly Baxter - October 13, 2022 at 11:55 AM

JD

“ My condolences to the family of Big Daddy. He will truly be missed by all his friends. I am so glad to have the memories of celebrating his 80th birthday.



JoAnne Danchik - October 13, 2022 at 11:02 AM

SS

“ You are larger than life, you will be missed and you left so many memories with us! Rest in Peace our First Responder Friend!

Sheriff Gary Hofmann and Staff - October 13, 2022 at 10:00 AM

TD

“ Tracy & Vince DePasquale purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of William Ray Wilson Sr..



Tracy & Vince DePasquale - October 13, 2022 at 09:52 AM

S2

“ Squadron # 278 purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of William Ray Wilson Sr..



Squadron # 278 - October 13, 2022 at 09:21 AM

SL

“ Staff & Members K.I. American Legion purchased the Enduring Grace for the family of William Ray Wilson Sr..



Staff & Members K.I. American Legion - October 13, 2022 at 09:14 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of William Ray Wilson Sr..*



October 13, 2022 at 09:08 AM



“ *Love, George & Karen Tunnicliff purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of William Ray Wilson Sr..*



Love, George & Karen Tunnicliff - October 13, 2022 at 08:15 AM



“ *Jeff Morris lit a candle in memory of William Ray Wilson Sr.*



Jeff Morris - October 13, 2022 at 06:17 AM



“ *Thad & Cheri Gerardi lit a candle in memory of William Ray Wilson Sr.*



Thad & Cheri Gerardi - October 12, 2022 at 11:52 PM

TG

So sad to hear of your passing...you we're always so kind to our family!! You were a "business" neighbor for so long on Kent Island to my dad...Smiling Jack...you are Heavenly neighbors again. Rest in Peace Big Daddy!! You'll be missed!! 🙏💔

Thad & Cheri Gerardi - October 13, 2022 at 12:00 AM

DL

“ *Doby & Linda lit a candle in memory of William Ray Wilson Sr.*



Doby & Linda - October 12, 2022 at 02:36 PM

DJ

Yous were blessed to have him jesus has him now from aunt denise

Denise jones - October 14, 2022 at 09:31 AM