



## Stephen C. Wilson

October 20, 1952 - July 21, 2020

Stephen C. Wilson, 67, of Cape Girardeau, Missouri died Tuesday, July 21, 2020 at Southeast Hospital.

He was born October 20, 1952 in Kansas City, Kansas to Robert O. and Patsy Ruth Wheeler Wilson.

He and Jean Smith were married November 1976 at Jackson, Missouri.

He served in the Air Force in England for three years.

He practiced law for 38 years and was a member of the Missouri Bar.

He was a member of Fraternal Order of Eagles and Elks Lodge in Cape Girardeau. He loved fireworks on the 4th of July, skydiving, playing guitar and building model airplanes.

Survivors include his wife, Jean Wilson of Cape Girardeau; a daughter, Katie (Matt) Britt of Cape Girardeau; a son, Shawn (Sue) Nesler of Cape Girardeau; two sisters, Cheryl (Ken) Creasey of Lawrence, Kansas and Melissa (John) Baar of Port Angeles, Washington; and three grandchildren, Riley Britt, Ryder Nesler and Reese Nesler.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Visitation will be 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm on Friday, July 24, 2020 at Ford & Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel in Cape Girardeau.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be given to American Red Cross, whether it be blood or monetary donations.

Online condolences may be made at [www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com](http://www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com).

Ford & Sons Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL **24.** 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Ford & Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel  
1001 N. Mt. Auburn Rd.  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

# Tribute Wall

MV

“ I have worked in the legal field for over 40 years and in that time have had many dealings with Mr. Wilson. He was always kind, professional and knowledgeable. He was truly an asset to the legal profession and will certainly be missed.

Marethe VanGennip - July 29, 2020 at 01:50 PM



“ Steve, You will be sorely missed down here. You had an excellent run and now it is time for you to meet your new beginning. May God bless you and keep you in loving peace, always.

Jeannie Hinck - July 28, 2020 at 12:09 PM

LM

“ Steve, I am sorry that you lost your life on Earth! God has another Angel RIP! I am praying for your Family! You have been my Attorney since 1987 I shall miss you my friend! Fly High! Laurie Martin



laura a martin - July 27, 2020 at 04:21 PM

BB

“ Jeanie I am so sorry to hear about Steve. You both have been very good friends. You are in my prayers and my heart. He will sadly be missed.

Brenda Vanden Brook

Brenda Vanden Brook - July 25, 2020 at 04:06 PM

TL

“ Steve and I first met when he was a public defender and I was a private defense attorney. We were representing two young culprits in a burglary case. I was so impressed at how well we worked together that I introduced him to David Beason and we all decided that he should meet the rest of the partners and become a part of our law firm. Thus began a 38 year friendship. Even after he left our law firm it was a rare week that we did not talk. He was a constant source of good legal ideas. We watched our lives in the worst of times and enjoyed the best of times. We watched our kids grow up and away and back again. His greatest pride and credit was Katy and he loved telling me about her. Even this week already it was hard to look at my phone and know that I would never hear another of his good ideas; to know that I could never call him again with a problem or a story. I shall miss him a lot.

---

**Thomas A. Ludwig** - July 25, 2020 at 02:11 PM

PB

“ What a loss to the legal community in SE Missouri. I had the great fortune to work with Steve during his federal criminal defense work, which he attended to vigorously. As Judge Syler said, Steve never sought an advantage to which his client was not entitled, but when Steve objected to a federal presentence report, I knew he had a point, and I knew I better be ready. After I retired, I was able to again work with Steve at the Scott County PA's office, and then again, finally, with mutual clients, as a bail bond agent. I will miss our work together.

---

**Paul Howard Boyd** - July 24, 2020 at 09:18 PM

PV

“ Jeanie, I am so sorry for your loss. I was so saddened to hear about Steve he truly was a wonderful kind man. Prayers and hugs for you and your family. Pattie Schumacher Vines

---

**Pattie Schumacher Vines** - July 24, 2020 at 08:00 PM

SW

“ I was blessed to have worked with Steve and Char for many years at the Buerkle law firm. I have known Steve for 37 years and have considered him a true friend. He has been a great friend to Ludwig Law Office and hardly a week went by that we didn't talk to Steve on some matter. Steve was a friend, a great lawyer, and a great person. My heart aches for Char and Steve's family. May they find peace in knowing how much he was loved and respected by so many.

*Sheree Williamson*

---

**Sheree Williamson** - July 24, 2020 at 06:33 PM

WS

“ As I read the testimonials to Steve Wilson, two words keep popping up -- "gentleman" and "professional." Steve was truly one of the finest attorneys and finest people to ever walk into a courthouse. He was always prepared and played by all the rules. He never sought an advantage that his client was not entitled to but advocated for them fiercely. He was one of the deans of the bar in Southeast Missouri and a heck of a good guy. Gone too soon -- he will be missed.

*Wm. L. Syler*

---

**wm l syler** - July 24, 2020 at 01:20 PM

CF

“ Steve and I became friends a number of years ago when I worked at the Country Club. Since then on many occasions we have talked and remained friends. He was indeed one of the best, human beings I have ever met... He was also the best defense Attorney in this area, when someone would ask advise on a good Attorney, it was Steve I would recommend. He will truly be missed by many. I am totally saddened and shocked at hear of his passing. My prayers are with his family and Steve may you RIP

---

**Cathy Fowler** - July 24, 2020 at 01:05 PM

JH

“ 30 years or so ago Steve and I flew in my Cessna 150 over to Sparta Illinois and after an intensive 10 minute training exercise jumped out of a perfectly good airplane. He landed near the end of a runway and me at the edge of a lake. Safe landing my friend!

---

**John Heisserer** - July 24, 2020 at 11:24 AM

BG

“ I learned fairly quickly as a brand new prosecutor in Cape Girardeau County about 17 years ago that having a really good lawyer as your adversary on a case was a good thing for a number of reasons. There was none better than Steve.

He was at the top of his game as a litigator and he worked hard to stay as knowledgeable and well-informed as any lawyer I've known. More importantly, he was especially generous to share that knowledge. He was a first-rate gentleman, who happened also to be a first-rate lawyer.

I'm grateful that I got to know him as well as I did and I'm especially grateful for the help he generously gave me as I made my way through an abysmal second job into a much better career. What I wouldn't give to join him for another one of the memorable card games we used to have. May he Rest In Peace.

I pray that Jean and his family find comfort in the memory of his generous spirit. May God bless and be with them.

---

**Ben Gray** - July 24, 2020 at 10:31 AM



“ I am saddened to hear of Steve's passing. He was such a kind man and a wonderful attorney. Prayers for Steve's family.

---

**Renee Presley** - July 23, 2020 at 10:35 PM

JB

“ We are so sorry to hear about Steve. He was the most honest, kindest, person that we have known. Several times he helped us and we will never forget him. Joy and I remember the time he helped us move into our first house. He was always there when needed. We will miss him! Joe Bob and Joy Baker

---

**Joe Bob and Joy Baker** - July 23, 2020 at 09:49 PM

DK

“ I am so sorry to hear about Steve’s passing. He was a caring and kind man. One of Cape’s best lawyers. He will be greatly missed. I wish his family comfort and peace and the joys of special memories. May God hold you close until you meet again.

---

**Donna and Bob Komorech** - July 23, 2020 at 07:27 PM

R(

“ When I was a growing up, Uncle Steve was one of the greatest examples I had of what a good man is and what a good man does. Kind, patient, supportive, excited for the success of his family members and friends, and an advocate for fairness and justice. He was loved by so many people because -he- loved so many people. He put the work in. When I think about what a good man should be... Uncle Steve is the first person who comes to mind.

*There are so many memories to cherish... the mischievous looks he'd get on his face before doing or saying something silly, the fun my brother and I had down in Cape when we were kids, just hanging out and having fun with no other cares in the world. The time he made a special trip up to KC for my belated college graduation meant so much to me. He was so excited to see me graduate from UMKC. :)*

*Steve made this crazy world a better and easier place to be in, and will be sorely, sorely missed.*

---

**Rosanna Cohle (Niece)** - July 23, 2020 at 06:57 PM

TT

“ Jeanie, I am so sorry for your loss. I had not spoke with Steve in 8 years but I always thought he was such a nice guy. I have many fond memories of Steve from years ago and his never ending smile. We will all miss him. Terry Taylor.

---

**Terry Taylor** - July 23, 2020 at 05:23 PM

PB

“ Steve was an excellent attorney and always a gentleman. He will be missed by his clients and all of the members of the Missouri Bar. Prayers that God will grant his family peace and comfort at this time.

---

**Pete Burns** - July 23, 2020 at 02:15 PM

MB

*I had the pleasure of working with Steve on many occasions over the years and always enjoyed his company, appreciated his smile, and particularly appreciated his great legal ability and the respect he afforded everyone.*

---

**Mike Bullerdieck** - July 23, 2020 at 07:24 PM

RR

“ Steve taught me so much. He made me better. May we all carry on his example and be better to each other. I will miss him.

---

**Rebecca A. Reed** - July 23, 2020 at 11:33 AM

EG

“ There are no words for such a great loss of a very kind-hearted man. I had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Wilson as a kid playing and having sleepovers with his daughter, Katie... and as an adult when I would see him, he was always warm and welcoming...there are very few people in this world that are naturally kind and humble and Mr. Wilson was one of those people. My heart aches for Katie and her family in a time like this. Many many prayers for you.

Erica Giancesin - July 23, 2020 at 10:03 AM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Stephen C. Wilson.



July 23, 2020 at 09:24 AM

BH

“ We just lost the best defense attorney this area ever had. Always a gentleman before the court as well as in life. I know there is a great golf course waiting for Steve and his family in heaven .R I P

*Bob Hershey*

Bob Hershey - July 23, 2020 at 05:52 AM

 David Roth

“ May his memory be eternal.

David Roth - July 22, 2020 at 09:32 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Stephen C. Wilson.*



---

July 22, 2020 at 08:11 PM



“ *So sad and sorry to hear of Steve's passing. Will be sending thoughts and prayers to the family.*



---

**Susan O'Connell** - July 22, 2020 at 07:34 PM



“ *I have known Steve for 22 years, and I cherished his friendship and just as importantly, I cherished being a colleague with Steve in the practice of law in SE Missouri. We would often discuss case strategies and developments in the law on a regular basis. His friendship and legal knowledge will leave a void with me. In recent times, he would begin to talk about an eventual retirement, and he mentioned Tucson quite a bit. I look forward to a trip there someday where I can imagine having a drink next to my friend in the Arizona sun.....*

---

**Bryan Greaser** - July 22, 2020 at 06:19 PM



*Steve was a great person, friend and attorney. He was a caring person worked hard to get the best results for his clients. We were friends for many years. Rest In Peace Brother.*

---

**Boyce Church** - July 22, 2020 at 07:22 PM

MM

“ *What a loss to the legal community! A great lawyer, and wonderful example of following the golden rule. His friendship will be missed.*  
*Malcolm Montgomery*

---

**malcolm Montgomery** - July 22, 2020 at 06:09 PM

MP

“ *I am so saddened to hear of Stephen's passing. He was a great attorney and a wonderful human being. Prayers for the family.*

---

**Marsha Palleja** - July 22, 2020 at 05:41 PM

SJ

“ *Steve was the finest criminal defense lawyer in all of southeast Missouri. He was a consummate professional and a mentor and role model for all others in the practice of law. His passing is a tragedy not only to his dear family and his many friends, but also to the local legal community. Prayers for Jean and Katie and family.*  
*Steve Limbaugh*

---

**Stephen N Limbaugh Jr.** - July 22, 2020 at 05:28 PM

KM

*Steve was a good friend and a great legal colleague and true adversary in the courtroom. He was an effective adept criminal trial lawyer who loved what he did. He will be sorely missed by all of us who practiced with him, admired him, and embraced the quest for criminal justice. Prayers for Steve, his wife, family and loved ones. Godspeed, my friend, as you make the passage from this life to eternity with Our Lord and Savior. Rest In Peace, Steve.*  
*Ken McManaman*

---

**Ken McManaman** - July 22, 2020 at 06:28 PM

LF

*A good man, an excellent lawyer, and a great friend. I have many memories of cases Steve and I shared over all the years. We started practicing law at about the same time and I tried the last jury trial of my career with him. Always the advocate but ever the gentleman. He practiced with honesty and integrity. My condolences to the Wilson family. May God bless and comfort you in the days ahead*

---

**Larry Ferrell** - July 22, 2020 at 11:12 PM

BS

“*Love you Jeannie, Katie, & Shawn and families. I am so sorry for your loss. I have nothing but fond memories of Steve.*

*Brandi*

---

**Brandi Schumacher** - July 22, 2020 at 05:25 PM

MB

“ I worked with Steve and Char for over 14 years at the Buerkle Law Firm in Jackson and remained close when they ventured out on their own.

Steve was a fair and honorable man. His mission was to ensure that everyone had their day in court. I remember one time asking him "do you really think this guy is innocent?" His response was "it is not about innocence or guilt, it is making sure that he gets a fair trial". He worked hard on his cases and was always professional and friendly with the staff he interacted with - whether in his office, at the courthouse, at other law firms or just in public. You could tell that everywhere he went, people liked him, thought well of him and wanted to be around him.

We shared many laughs and conversations over the years and I knew he would have my back for anything if needed. We had some long-standing jokes that I will never forget. You will be missed Chief. May your family and friends find comfort in knowing you have gone on to bigger and better things.

Marla Barber

---

**Marla Barber** - July 22, 2020 at 04:57 PM

VM

“ To Steve Wilson Family,

*I worked with Steve for over 30 years at the courthouse in Jackson, Mo. He was one of the nicest persons I have ever met. He was a gentlemen. He loaned golf bag to my husband, Mark, when he was going on a trip to Arizona. He was so proud of his family and talked alot of you guys. He also talked about cooking too. He shared a few receipes with me and said, "Mark will like this recipe"!!!. I am so very sorry for you loss and prayers for comfort for you all. Mark and Vickie Mungle*

---

**vickie mungle** - July 22, 2020 at 03:42 PM